



**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Monomoy Regional High School Library, 75 Oak Street, Harwich, MA 02645**

This meeting will be broadcast to Channel 22 as well as live-streamed/recorded to the [MRSC YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

Members present: Meredith Hendersson, Brad Schiff (arrived at 6:10), Stephen Davol, Ryan Clarke, Jackie Zibrat-Long, Ryan Edwards, Betty Gray

Members not present:

Administrators present: Dr. Scott Carpenter, Robin Millen, Michael MacMillan, Joy Jordan

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

Meredith Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

B. Adjourn to Executive Session: Roll Call Vote to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(2) to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Regular Open Session to resume at approximately 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Meredith Henderson: aye; Stephen Davol: aye; Ryan Clarke: aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long: aye; Ryan Edwards: aye; Betty Gray: aye. UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns to Executive Session.

The meeting resumed at 6:38 PM.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

i. December 11, 2025

MOTION: Ryan Edwards motioned to approve the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

ii. December 17, 2025

MOTION: Ryan Edwards motioned to approve the December 17, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iii. December 22, 2025

MOTION: Ryan Edwards motioned to approve the December 22, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

D. MRHS Student Representative

Maggie Powers, MRHS student representative, updated the committee on recent events:

- The Outsiders play was a success and well-received by attendees.
- Anticipation for the upcoming performance of The Addams Family in the spring.
- Recent successful winter and alumni concerts highlighted the music department's initiatives.
- AP Gov field trip to D.C. included visits to museums and a meeting with Senator Markey.
 - Engaging activities included a tour of the Capitol and attending a live House session.
 - Educational experience with a lecture at the IMF.
- Fall sports have concluded, and winter sports are currently in progress.
- Excitement for the upcoming midterms next week with half days scheduled.
- Recent field trips for various classes, including a science trip to Woods Hole and Mandarin classes visiting Chinatown.

E. Public Comment: Speakers are limited to three minutes; additional time is at the discretion of the Chairperson

Community member Charles Gruska shared his concerns about the FY27 draft budget being presented tonight.

- Monomoy District Assessment: Proposed FY27 assessment is approximately \$33.8 million, an 8.47% increase from FY26.
- Harwich Town Budget Comparison: The town's draft budget reflects a lower assessment of \$32.6 million, a 4.7% increase.
 - This discrepancy indicates the school committee may need to reduce its budget by over \$1.5 million to align with the town's assessment.
 - Such a reduction would be significantly higher than prior adjustments made in FY26.
- Impacts on Education: The school committee faces potential cuts that could hinder educational quality for district students.
- Need for Timely Information: It's crucial for the committee to stay well-informed about the town budget implications to avoid unnecessary reductions, especially regarding funding for essentials such as equipment and training.
- Regional Agreement Issues: The Harwich Select Board is addressing concerns about the sustainability of the funding formula with Chatham.
 - An in-depth data report accompanying their letter highlights significant disparities in tax contributions versus educational services.
- Recommendations for Committee Members: Members should familiarize themselves with the funding documents to understand the implications of potential changes in the funding formula for both towns.

F. Reports and Discussions

- i. MRHS Donation to Red Rover from The Animal Welfare and Young Women's Club **VOTE REQUIRED**

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the donation of \$1600 from the Monomoy Regional High School Animal Welfare Club and Young Women's Club Account to the Red Rover Purple Leash Project, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

- ii. MRHS Donation to Direct Relief on behalf of the Diversity Club **VOTE REQUIRED**

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the donation of \$776.99 from the Monomoy Regional High School Diversity Club to Direct Relief, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

- iii. School Committee Subcommittee Assignments

School Committee Chair, Meredith Henderson, shared with the committee members that since there is a vacancy on the School Committee, the subcommittee meeting can only have three members participate in any scheduled subcommittee meeting until the vacancy is filled.

- iv. Harwich School Committee Member Vacancy

School Committee Chair, Meredith Henderson, spoke about the current vacancy on the School Committee.

- Applications are being accepted for the Harwich seat.
- Interviews scheduled for February 2nd with the Harwich Select Board.
 - Candidates will be interviewed jointly by the three Harwich School Committee members and Select Board.
 - Interviews will be held in the upstairs meeting room.
- Voting will require a majority from both the School Committee and the Select Board.
- Clarification was provided that both groups must agree on the candidate.

- v. First Reading Policy Files: File BDA: School Committee Organization, File BDB: School Committee Officers

Ryan Edwards reviewed the policies with no changes being recommended but noting a typo in policy BDA that will need to be fixed. The policies will move forward for a second reading at the next meeting.

- vi. Second Reading Policy Files: File CBD - Superintendent's Contract, File CE - Administrative Councils, Cabinets, and Committees, File CF - School Building Administration, File CH/CHA/CHC - Policy Implementation and Development of Procedures, File BGD- School Committee Review of Procedures, File CHD - Administration in Policy Absence **VOTE REQUIRED**

MOTION: Ryan Edwards motioned to approve the policy files as presented in the packet, seconded by Betty Gray

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

- vii. FY27 Draft Budget

VOTE REQUIRED

Business Manager, Michael MacMillan, shared an overview of the draft FY27 budget with the School Committee. The proposed draft budget and assessments are as follows:

FY27 Draft Budget \$52,708,097

FY27 Draft Assessment to the Town of Harwich \$33,780,157

FY27 Draft Assessment to the Town of Chatham \$11,979,723

	December Draft	Change	Updated Draft for Vote
Budget	\$52,375,554	\$332,543	\$52,708,097
Budget Change from previous year	\$3,133,982		\$3,466,525
Budget % Change	6.36%		7.04%

Budget Overview

- Draft budget is presented for initial voting, aimed at publicizing before the hearing.
- Key factors affecting the budget include health insurance costs and state funding.
- The budget reflects a 7.04% increase

Staffing and Services

- The budget maintains a level service approach despite reductions in staffing due to lower enrollment (projected drop of 50 students).
- Total net staffing reductions of 4.5 FTEs are planned, with specifics to be confirmed after budget decisions.
- Proposed enhancements include new positions contingent on grant funding, ensuring net zero impact on the budget.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Finalize health insurance rates by early February, impacting overall budget.
- Communication with town select boards is scheduled to discuss the budget and its implications.
- Upcoming meetings include Finance Committee presentations on February 12th and a public hearing for the budget.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the draft FY27 Budget and Assessments as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

G. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

No reports were shared.

H. Superintendent's Report

i. Recognitions

January is National School Board Appreciation Month, so I want to take a moment to thank the members of our School Committee for the time, care, and thought they put into the important work of supporting our students, staff, schools, and communities.

MRHS Parent Sharon Mabile has been working to solicit donations to purchase new headsets for the high school theater program. Many thanks to Sharon for spearheading this endeavor, and to the following people who have donated to date: Peter & Katherine Wildman, Charles Clute, Sharon Mabile, Tony Guthrie, Paul Grover, and Dawn Boynton.

We wanted to give special thanks to Andy Odell of the Lower Cape Outreach Council for going above and beyond to help one of our families when their home's heat and hot water system failed over the holidays. He worked with the Lower Cape Outreach board to fully fund the replacement of the system, and the family again has heat and hot water.

Our district-wide Staff Shoutout for December was Wyatt Sullivan, a Grade 7 ELA teacher in our middle school. Wyatt was nominated by a number of students, and here are some of their submissions:

"He never judged where I came from or who I was, he focused on guiding me toward who I wanted to become."

"He made us look at things in a different way and taught us so many things we will carry with us throughout life. He is an inspiration to all and he deserves all the recognition in this world."

We encourage our school community to keep sending in these great submissions to recognize our fantastic teachers and staff.

We want to thank Children's Cove for once again partnering with us to bring Richard Guerry of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cellphone Communication to Monomoy. He presented to students in grades 3-7 as well as to families during an evening event. The topics discussed included how to be smart and safe when gaming, using social media, and communicating online, and how to be good digital citizens. A video link to his presentation will be available on our website soon.

Dr. Carpenter also shared some brief remarks regarding the FY27 draft budget.

- Discussion on the draft budget from Harwich showed a 4.7% placeholder for Monomoy, significantly lower than presented by Michael.
- A gap of approximately \$1.3 million is anticipated due to required borrowing costs for the middle school project.
- Plans for multiple upcoming meetings to explore Plan B options to close the budget gap.
- Emphasis on identifying essential capital and IT projects, particularly those related to safety.
- Acknowledgment of the need to avoid creating a fiscal cliff by deferring too many projects.
- Discussions will include ideas for reorganization to meet budgetary needs while preserving educational quality.

H. Action Items -Vote Required

i. MRHS Donation to Red Rover from The Animal Welfare and Young Women's Club

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MOTION: Ryan Edwards motioned to approve the policy files as presented in the packet, seconded by Betty Gray

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- iv. FY27 Draft Budget

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I. **Presentation of the Warrants**

Presentation of the Warrants Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants were presented for MRSC member signatures.

J. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ryan Edwards.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Simmons
Recording Secretary