



**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 6:30 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, 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, Jen Police, Karen Guillemette

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

Meredith Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

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 and review Central Office job descriptions. Regular Open Session to resume at approximately 6:45 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Meredith Henderson: aye; Brad Schiff: 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 7:23 PM.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- i. January 15, 2026

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

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

None

E. Reports and Discussions

- i. Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence

Each year, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award for Academic Excellence honors a Monomoy Regional High School senior who exemplifies outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement. For 2026, Thomas Chase was selected for this honor. Ranked first in his class and a potential valedictorian, Thomas is recognized not only for his exceptional academics but also for his character, humility, and kindness.

A dedicated leader, Thomas is deeply involved in engineering, robotics, and Project Lead the Way, even stepping in to teach and support classes during a teacher's absence and mentoring middle school students through a robotics program he helped create. He serves as Class President, captain of the golf and robotics teams, a Student Council officer, and an Eagle Scout. His accomplishments include numerous academic honors, leadership programs, international STEM experiences, and extensive community service.

Beyond school, Thomas has gained significant hands-on experience working as an electrical apprentice alongside his father. Above all, he is admired for his maturity, respect for others, and strong character, making him a deserving recipient of the Award for Academic Excellence and a student poised to make a positive impact on the world.

- ii. Vote on the Superintendent's Contract

VOTE REQUIRED

After a successful Superintendent search, the contract was negotiated and agreed upon in executive session at the January 15, 2026 meeting. In tonight's executive session, the final contract was reviewed and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Brad Schiff motioned to approve the contract for Dr. Robin Millen as the Superintendent of the Monomoy Regional School District, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iii. MRHS Track Field Trip to Pennsylvania for Penn Relays

MRSD Athletic Director Karen Guillemette and Track Coach Adam Syty presented the information to the committee regarding the proposed MRHS field trip to the Penn Relays.

- 58 student athletes participated in indoor track this season.
- The trip will include boys and girls 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams.
- Coach City shared his personal experience at the Penn Relays.
 - Emphasized the competitive environment and encouragement from the crowd.
 - Highlighted the growth opportunities for athletes participating in a high-caliber event.
- Participants will not miss school as the trip is scheduled during April break.
- Positive feedback from board members on the expansion of the track program.
 - Recognition of untapped talent within the district.
 - Encouragement for athletes to continue advocating for themselves and future athletes.

The vote for the trip proposal will be at the next school committee meeting, February 12, 2026.

iv. Digital Accessibility

Overview of Accessibility Needs

- Joy Jordan, the Monomoy Community Engagement Coordinator, emphasized the importance of accessibility in digital spaces.
- New legal requirements from the Department of Justice mandate compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).
 - Deadlines: April 2026 for larger entities, April 2027 for smaller ones.
 - Applies to all governmental entities, including schools, libraries, and recreation departments.

Key Changes and Implementation Strategies

- Accessibility changes will benefit all users and include tools for those with disabilities.
 - Examples of changes: closed captioning, alt text for images, and proper document structure for navigation.
 - Focus on universal design principles to enhance overall user experience.
- Current digital platforms are well-prepared, but ongoing adjustments will be necessary.
 - Need to ensure all procurement processes validate vendor compliance with accessibility standards.

Questions and Concerns Raised

- Discussion on compliance for existing curriculum and potential costs for new resources.
- Queries about workflow changes for school committee materials to ensure accessibility.
 - Need to transition from PDF documents to web-friendly formats for agendas and supporting documents.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Continual learning and adaptation to new guidelines as they are clarified.
- Future meetings to focus on specific implementation challenges and solution strategies.

Change of Legal Counsel Firm

- Marc Terry is shifting from Merrick to Stoneham, Chandler & Miller as the school district's general counsel.
- The school committee needs to vote to maintain continuity in legal representation.
 - The billing rates will remain unchanged.
 - This is primarily a procedural vote acknowledging the change of firms.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to continue to use Attorney Marc Terry for its legal services as he moves to the firm of Stoneman, Chandler & Miller effective February 1, 2026, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

- vi. Second Reading Policy Files: File BDA: School Committee Organization, File BDB: School Committee Officers

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. FY26 Q2 Financial Report

Monomoy Business Manager, Michael Macmillan, presented the FY26 Q2 report to the committee.

FY26 Quarter 2 Financial Report

- **Current Budget Status:** About 3.4% of the budget remains unspent, with a prediction of reaching 4.3% after moving certain salaries to grants.
- **Trends in Spending:** Spending is tighter than previous years, with increased costs in utilities and special education impacting budget requests for FY27.
- **Financial Monitoring:** Charts presented show expenditure trends, indicating potential adherence to budget forecasts for the year.

Ongoing Projects and Initiatives

- **Middle School Construction:** Project plans are being finalized for a phased construction starting in April to minimize disruption during the school year.
- **Facilities Update:** New Facilities Director, Matt Kolva, has started and is managing immediate challenges like snow response and ongoing construction planning.
- **Food Service Feedback:** Survey has been conducted to gather feedback on cafeteria services, with plans to implement improvements based on responses.

- viii. FY27 Draft Budget Update

Monomoy Business Manager, Michael Macmillan, updated the committee on the FY27 draft budget.

State Budget Overview

- The state's budget was released, showing a **\$40,000 decrease** in Chapter 70 funding compared to budget expectations.
- Minimum local contributions shifted slightly, favoring **Harwich** due to enrollment trends.
 - Further analysis of foundation enrollment numbers is ongoing.
 - Charter tuition and school choice figures are still pending finalization.

Health Insurance Cost Projections

- Current projections indicate potential **cost increases of 10% to 17%** for health insurance based on GLP-1 drug coverage.
 - Consensus from the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group suggests **no coverage** for these drugs, likely resulting in a 10% increase.
 - Discussion around utilizing the group's fund balance to mitigate costs may help lower the increase to between **8% and 10%**.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Finalize analysis on charter tuition and school choice numbers in the coming days.
- Monitor the health insurance vote and discussions over the next few weeks to confirm cost projections.

F. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

G. Superintendent's Report

i. Recognitions

Many thanks to our custodians and town DPW teams for their hard work earlier this week during the winter storm. This was a long-lasting storm, which made cleanup even more challenging, and they did a great job stepping up to the task. I also want to thank our staff, students, and families for their flexibility -- we recognize that decisions to close or delay can impact our families in a number of ways, and we are always trying to balance safety with those needs.

Next week is National School Counseling Week, so it's a great time to acknowledge the important work our counselors do, from supporting students and families to guiding academic and career planning, they are an integral part of our school community.

The College Board has announced that Monomoy Regional High School has been named to the 2025 Advanced Placement Program School Honor Roll, earning Gold distinction. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening participation, and is based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness. For the Monomoy Regional High School 2025 graduating class, 72% of seniors took at least one AP Exam during high school, 43% of seniors scored a 3 or higher, and 29% of seniors took 5 or more AP exams during high school. You can read more about this honor on our website.

H. Action Items -Vote Required

i. Vote on the Superintendent's Contract

MOTION: Brad Schiff motioned to approve the contract for Dr. Robin Millen as the Superintendent of the Monomoy Regional School District, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

ii. Change of Firms for the School District's Counsel

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to continue to use Attorney Marc Terry for its legal services as he moves to the firm of Stoneman, Chandler & Miller effective February 1, 2026, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iii. Second Reading Policy Files: File BDA: School Committee Organization, File BDB: School Committee Officers

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

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

I. Presentation of the Warrants

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

J. Adjournment

MOTION: Betty Gray moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stephen Davol.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Simmons
Recording Secretary