



**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 12, 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 Henderson, Brad Schiff, Stephen Davol, Ryan Clarke, Betty Gray, Ryan Edwards, Brett Fortin

Members not present: Jacki Zibrat-Long

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

AGENDA

Call to Order

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

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 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Meredith Henderson: aye; Brad Schiff: aye; Stephen Davol: aye; Ryan Clarke: aye; Betty Gray: aye; Ryan Edwards: aye; Brett Fortin: aye. **UNANIMOUS**, the meeting adjourns to Executive Session.

The meeting resumed at 7:03 PM

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- i. February 26, 2026 Regular Business Meeting

MOTION: Betty Gray motioned to approve the February 26, 2026 Regular Business Meeting minutes, seconded by Brett Fortin.

The motion passes with 5 ayes, Ryan Clarke abstaining from the vote.

MRHS Student Representative

MRHS student Maggie Powers highlighted the happenings at the high school since her last report:

- Winter Sports celebrated successful seasons for various teams:
 - Girls basketball and boys basketball reached the preliminary rounds.
 - Girls hockey reached the round of 16; boys hockey made it to the elite eight.
 - Cheerleaders finished fourth in Division IV and will compete in the New England Regional Competition.
 - Boys indoor track finished fourth at the Division 5 state meet; girls finished 10th.
 - Eight indoor track athletes heading to Nike Nationals.
- Student Trip: Students traveled to Greece and Italy, with more trips being discussed.
- Fundraisers: Hosted the Empty Bowl Full of Hearts fundraiser.
- Theater Productions: Currently showcasing *The Adams Family*, with positive reviews from attendees.
 - Upcoming performances include chorus concerts and senior artist night.
- Keep an eye out for updates on spring sports.
- Encourage participation in upcoming events and fundraisers.

Public Comment: Speakers are limited to three minutes; additional time is at the discretion of the Chairperson
None.

Reports and Discussions

- ii. First Reading: 2026-2027 School Calendar, 2 Options

MRSD Assistant Superintendent, Robin Millen, reviewed the two draft calendar options for the 2026-2027 school year. Calendar A starts on September 1 for students, allowing an earlier start before Labor Day. Calendar B starts later, on September 8 for students, following Labor Day.

- Labor Day Considerations:
 - Late Labor Day may affect start and end dates of the school year.
 - Current year's blizzard has delayed the construction project, impacting school closure schedules.
- MOU with Union:
 - An agreement allows for earlier student start before Labor Day if Calendar A is chosen.
- Revisions Proposed:
 - Student representative Dan Morgan suggested swapping December 23, currently a full school day, with the Friday before Labor Day to potentially increase student participation.
 - Discussion on the implications of having a long weekend for the start of the school year.
- Clarifications Needed:
 - Confirmation on highlighted days in Calendar A as half days for parent understanding.
- Further information from the construction company working on the middle school project will be gathered and the final draft of the calendar will be presented for vote in a later meeting this spring.

iii. MRHS Discovery Program at Marine Biological Laboratories

MRHS students Catilyn Celani, Aubrey Pillsbury, Riley Vath, Isabella Cruz and Alexis Goode gave an overview of their experience at the Marine Biological Laboratories:

- Students from Monomoy Regional High School shared their experiences from a three-day research trip at the Marine Biological Laboratories (MBL) in Woods Hole.
- The trip provided hands-on experiences in biology, including lab work and outdoor environmental studies.
- Students participated in lectures and lab activities led by real scientists, enhancing their understanding of complex biological concepts.
 - Activities included DNA extraction and studying extremophiles.
 - Students expressed that this exposure has motivated them to explore potential careers in science.
- The trip involved practical experiments, like gel electrophoresis, which allowed students to apply their classroom knowledge in a real-world setting.
 - Students explored local marine environments, collecting samples for analysis.

MRHS teacher, Dominique Gummow, said the program is anticipated to run again next year, funded by grants, providing future students with similar opportunities. Participants emphasized the importance of such experiences for personal growth and academic enrichment. They believe that exploring beyond the classroom can inspire younger students interested in STEM fields.

iv. MRHS Trip to Italy Recap and 2026-2027 Trip Request

MRHS teacher, Sara Peters, provided a recap of the recent trip to Italy over February break.

- The recent trip included 13 high school students and one chaperone.
- Destinations visited: Athens, Sorrento, Pompeii, Naples, and Rome.
- Partnership with another school provided a valuable experience with new perspectives.
- Students had an immersive experience with cultural activities and food.
- Excellent behavior and enthusiasm from students, with requests for future trips.
- Highlights included celebrating a student's birthday in Naples with a pizza party.

Ms. Peters is making a request for another trip in April 2027, with the same itinerary and company. The School Committee will vote on the approval for the trip at the next meeting.

v. MRHS Donation to Animal Victory

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Betty Gray motioned to approve the donation of \$60 from the Monomoy Regional High School Animal Welfare Club Account to Animal Victory, seconded by Brett Fortin.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

vi. Updated School Committee Meeting Schedule

The School Committee meeting schedule has a revised date in May. Ryan Edwards shared that the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee is asking for the date change to allow for the final evaluation to be presented and voted on before the town elections. Dr. Carpenter added that he was not available for the original meeting date so the change allows him to be present for his last evaluation. The Committee members agreed to the date change.

vii. Student Services Budget Report

MRSD Director of Student Services and Special Education, Melissa Maguire, presented the Student Services Budget Report. The Student Services Office oversees various programs including special education, preschool, nursing, counseling, and compliance with state and federal standards. Special education eligibility is assessed through a three-pronged evaluation focusing on disability, progress in general education, and the impact of the disability. Current enrollment for special education services fluctuates; as of January, there were 281 students receiving services.

Program Diversity and Growth

- Multiple specialized programs exist across schools, such as inclusion classes, academic support, and modified classrooms to cater to various needs.
 - Programs like SEAL, SURF, and TIDE provide targeted support for students with diverse challenges.
 - Transition programs prepare older students for independence and community engagement.
- Related services include speech therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling to support students' overall development.

Financial Overview and Budget Management

- Funding sources include Chapter 70, Circuit Breaker, IDA grants, and Medicaid reimbursements.
- Significant cost savings of approximately \$3 million are achieved by maintaining in-district programs rather than relying on out-of-district placements.
- Budget adjustments are made to optimize resources, ensuring adequate support for students' needs without additional funding requests.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Continue to monitor and evaluate student needs for appropriate service allocation.
- Gather feedback from families regarding the IEP process to enhance satisfaction.
- Regularly review and report on the financial implications of special education services and programs.

viii. FY27 Budget

VOTE REQUIRED

MRSD Business Manager, Michael MacMillan, presented updated information on the FY27 Budget.

- Awaiting feedback from Harwich due to the arrival of a new town administrator.
 - Meeting scheduled with the new administrator on Monday, March 16th, for budget feedback.
 - Chatham was supportive but deferred voting until potential changes are reviewed.
- Suggestion to re-vote on the same budget draft for approval.
- Planned subsequent meetings:
 - Finance subcommittee review next week.
 - Harwich Select Board meeting on the 23rd, final school committee vote on the 26th.

- Harwich requires a final budget number by March 30th for warrant closure on April 1st.
- Approve the draft fiscal year 27 budget as presented.
- Monitor and incorporate any feedback from the upcoming meetings.

MOTION: Brad Schiff motioned To approve the draft FY27 Budget and Assessments as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Brett Fortin.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

ix. Finance Subcommittee

Meredith Henderson shared that the Finance Subcommittee meeting held earlier in March went over the same information that was presented tonight for the FY27 Budget.

x. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee

The date change on the School Committee meeting schedule was discussed earlier in the evening. More information on the timeline will be forthcoming after our next Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Carpenter first wanted to update the Committee on the MRMS Building Subcommittee meeting that was held the previous evening that focused on the current window and siding project at the middle school and the upcoming vote for the roof project.

- Construction fences will be erected soon, particularly near the fifth-grade wing.
- The contractor will begin work on the backside of the building, focusing on high-access areas such as the cupola.
- Initial construction period is condensed to nine weeks due to snow days, raising concerns about unexpected delays.

Roofing Project

- A roofing project costing \$11.8 million will be presented at town meetings, with a state reimbursement of 37% expected.
- New information reveals that a section of the roof will not be reimbursed due to its age, affecting cost projections.
 - Overall state reimbursement could drop to 33%, leading to a \$7.9 million loan for the school district split between towns.
- Importance of passing the project at town meeting highlighted to secure funding.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Monitor construction progress and address any issues as they arise.
- Prepare for the upcoming town meeting to ensure roof project approval.

xi. Recognitions

Kindergarten Registration is now open for Chatham Elementary School and Harwich Elementary School. All children living in Chatham or Harwich who will be age 5 before September 1, 2026, are eligible to enroll for the 2026-2027 school year. Find a list of the required information as well as access to the registration portal at monomoy.edu/kindergarten.

The high school Robotics Team competed at states last weekend, where they had a great time and learned a lot! Their robots performed well, and they ended up just below the cutoff for the finals.

With the high school winter sports season coming to a close, congrats to all of our incredible teams. Our girls and boys ice hockey teams and girls and boys basketball teams all made it to the playoffs this year. Our Cheerleading team finished 4th in the D4 State Championships and will be competing at the New England Regional Competition on March 21. Some members of our indoor track team are competing at Nationals in New York and Boston this weekend as well.

Daniel Morgan, our School Committee rep, has been elected as a delegate to the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention. This is an enormous accomplishment, requiring him to speak before the town caucus members about why he is motivated to participate politically. He'll be one of the youngest, if not THE youngest member at the convention this May to vote to determine which candidates for statewide office will qualify for the primary ballot. He is also an intern for State Rep Hadley Luddy's office. Congrats, Dan!

Kudos to our high school theater program for putting on a fantastic performance of The Addams Family! You can still catch the show Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and at a Saturday 2 p.m. matinee.

Action Items -Vote Required

xii. MRHS Donation to Animal Victory

MOTION: Betty Gray motioned to approve the donation of \$60 from the Monomoy Regional High School Animal Welfare Club Account to Animal Victory, seconded by Brett Fortin.

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xiii. FY27 Budget

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UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

Presentation of the Warrants

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

Adjournment

MOTION: Betty Gray moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brett Fortin.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Simmons
Recording Secretary