



**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, August 13, 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: Brad Schiff, Stephen Davol, Katie Cutter, Brett Fortin, Heather Morgan, Lucia Quinn

Members not present: Ryan Edwards, Rich Roy

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

Student Representative Present: Dan Morgan

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

Brad Schiff called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- i. July 15, 2026 Regular Business Meeting

MOTION: Stephen Davol motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the July 15, 2026 Regular Business Meeting, seconded by Brett Fortin.

The motion passes with 5 ayes and 1 abstain.

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

D. Reports and Discussions

- i. Student Handbooks - Updates for the 2026-2027 School Year

VOTE REQUIRED

Joy Jordan, Community Engagement Coordinator, provided an overview of updates to the district's online student handbooks. The handbooks were moved online several years ago to improve accessibility and user-friendliness. Global updates across all four schools included new, consistent bus transportation procedures; revisions to health services language to align with state requirements; a districtwide opt-out option for social-emotional learning surveys; added links to the public safety MOU and student/parent tutoring responsibilities; updated references from "guidance counselors" to "school counselors"; and updated links to School Committee policies following improvements to the district's website policy format and searchability.

- **Chatham Elementary School:** Updated staff information, room numbers, and extensions, and welcomed new staff members.
- **Harwich Elementary School:** Updated staff information, room numbers, and extensions, and welcomed several new staff members.
- **Middle School:** Updated the unified arts rotation, including reducing fifth-grade library time and adding Spanish; also updated trimester dates and staff information.
- **Grades 8–9:** Clarified eligibility requirements for dually enrolled student-athletes, requiring them to take and pass four courses; added smelling salts to chemical health violations; addressed wearable technology such as Meta glasses when used without others' knowledge; clarified the loss-of-credit process and inclusion of relevant stakeholders in attendance meetings; and refined midterm/final exam and exemption language. The changes clarify that exam exemptions generally apply to qualifying seniors and certain AP/PLTW courses, rather than grades 8–11 broadly.

The Committee discussed and clarified the new provisions regarding wearable technology and smelling salts.

MOTION: Lucia Quinn motioned to approve the student handbook changes as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Brett Fortin.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

ii. MRHS Field Trip to Washington DC

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Stephen Davol motioned to approve the MRHS Field Trip to Washington DC, seconded by Katie Cutter.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iii. Subcommittee Assignments

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Heather Morgan motioned to approve the Subcommittee Assignments as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Brett Fortin.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iv. Regional Agreement Working Group - Student Members

v. Regional Agreement Working Group Members

The Committee discussed the formation of a Regional Working Group involving representatives from Chatham and Harwich, including two non-voting student representatives, Dan Morgan and Nico Silvester. The group will also include town representation from Chatham and Harwich as well as two School Committee representatives, Brad Schiff and Ryan Edwards, along with two additional non-voting town members, Melissa Bohannon and Charles Gruszka. The first public meeting will be held Thursday, August 20, 2026 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex in Chatham and will also be available virtually. The initial meeting will focus on procedures, norms, and how the group will proceed. The group will also begin the five-year review of the regional agreement.

vi. Prior Year Encumbrances

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Brett Fortin motioned to approve the payment of six thousand, four hundred and seventy dollars and twenty six cents in FY26 general fund invoices not previously encumbered, as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Stephen Davol.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

vii. FY26 End of Year Report and Budget Transfers

VOTE REQUIRED

The Committee received a FY26 year-end budget update. The district ended the year with approximately 0.5% of the budget unencumbered and unspent. School Choice funds were fully covered by revenues received, allowing the district to preserve its existing balance, while additional Circuit Breaker reimbursements helped offset special education costs. Excess and Deficiency is estimated at \$1.6 million, approximately \$500,000 less than FY25, which may affect the amount available to offset future town assessments. Key budget pressures included special education/out-of-district tuition, athletics, utilities, benefits, and retiree health insurance, while additional grants and reimbursements helped offset costs. Regional transportation reimbursement was lower than budgeted.

The Committee also reviewed FY26 Quarter 4 budget transfers to reconcile surpluses and deficits among major accounts and close the fiscal year without deficits.

MOTION: Brett Fortin motioned to approve the FY26 quarter four budget transfers as listed in the memorandum provided to the School Committee, seconded by Lucia Quinn.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

viii. MRMS Construction Project Borrowing – Sale of Bond Anticipation Notes

Middle School Siding Project – Short-Term Borrowing: The committee was informed that approval will be requested in September to renew the district’s short-term borrowing for the middle school siding project. The district has issued two short-term bonds totaling \$9 million. Due to continued uncertainty regarding the project’s final cost, the district, in consultation with its financial advisors, plans to extend the short-term borrowing for an additional six months before pursuing long-term financing. Bond counsel will provide the necessary vote language and paperwork. Approval is needed by September 10 to allow the district to repay the existing short-term borrowing.

E. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

i. MRMS Building Committee

The Building Committee provided an update on the middle school renovation project. Mold remediation between the gymnasium and original building is expected to cost approximately \$380,000, with final change-order costs to be approved soon. Most classrooms are expected to be ready for the start of school, although several classrooms in the older section require additional mold and potential asbestos remediation and will be reassigned as needed. The cafeteria will be usable but will have some remaining work. The large gym is expected to remain closed until approximately December, while the smaller gym will be available for physical education.

F. Superintendent’s Report

i. Recognitions

Monomoy has been awarded a grant of \$197,500 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as part of the Partnership for Reading Success - Massachusetts II program, which focuses on early reading instruction. The PRISM grant program was launched to strengthen literacy instruction through curriculum and materials selection, educator professional development, and focused coaching. Monomoy is in the PRISM II cohort, with the funding positioned to support early literacy through the implementation of high-quality instructional materials in pre-kindergarten through third grade. This grant funding follows an initial award to Monomoy last year of \$97K.

Monomoy Regional High School students in Mandarin classes with teacher Melinda Jones recently took the HSK, which is China's official, standardized Mandarin Chinese proficiency exam for non-native speakers. Of the 21 Monomoy students who took the exam, 19 passed with scores high enough to earn certificates. Congratulations to the following MRHS students for this impressive achievement: Sabrina Bassett; Ella Baum; Daniel Belkarian; Davion Dawkins; Isabelle Ferron; Sean Garland; Jacob Gould; Madison Gray; Riley Hesse; Gianna Larocco; Tyler Layton; Ryder Long; Henry Metters; Sophia Saunders; Cooper Snell; Madison Staniels; Jake Terrio; Alexa Vermaak; and Jeffrey Viera. For these Monomoy students, earning an HSK certificate provides an internationally recognized measure of their Chinese proficiency in the language skills needed to pursue future academic, study-abroad, and professional opportunities.

We released our bus routes earlier this week, giving families plenty of time to plan their routines around the return to school. Many thanks to Faith Rushnak and the Cape Cod Collaborative team for their hard work in putting this together in such a timely fashion.

We also want to thank our incredible facilities team, who have been working hard all summer to clean, organize, and maintain our buildings to make sure everything is in excellent shape for the return to school.

As part of my transition activities, we've created a series of videos with questions from our students and my response - I appreciate the students' engagement in sharing such thoughtful questions. The videos created to date can be found on the Superintendent's Page of the website, with more to come.

H. Action Items -Vote Required

- i. Student Handbooks - Updates for the 2026-2027 School Year

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UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

- ii. MRHS Field Trip to Washington DC

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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

Brett Fortin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lucia Quinn.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Simmons
Recording Secretary