

**Monomoy Regional School Committee  
Meeting Minutes: February 25, 2015  
Monomoy Regional High School**

**Public Hearing FY16 Budget and Regular Business Meeting**

**Members Present:** Terry Russell, Chairperson; Steve Davol, Vice Chair; Brian Widegren; Sharon Stout; Amy Middleton; Nancy Scott; and Ed Jaworski. **Members Absent:** Amanda Alten. **Administrators present:** Scott Carpenter, Superintendent; Kathleen Isernio; Carla Blanchard; Joan Goggin; Brian Daniels; Sam Hein; Katie Isernio; Robin Millen; Bill Burkhead; Adam O'Shea; and Deb Morgan.

**6:00 pm Public Hearing – FY2016 Budget**

**Motion:** Brian Widegren moved to open the FY2016 Public Budget Hearing at 6:15 pm; seconded by Steve Davol. **Vote: Unanimous.**

Superintendent Scott Carpenter reviewed the proposed FY16 Draft Budget with the public. Monomoy's budgetary goals and priorities in preparing this budget included maintaining class sizes at agreed-upon levels; maintaining the district's improved curricula and expanded opportunities; and to address the staffing and programmatic needs to meet projected enrollment increases at the middle and high school. This budget reflects a reduction of 10 FTEs. There is a 10% increase in the FY16 health insurance premiums and a projected 10% increase in property, worker's compensation and liability insurance. In addition, several State funding categories remain unknown, such as Chapter 70 aid, and regional transportation reimbursement. Both towns were warned during the FY15 budget presentations of an over reliance of School Choice funds. As projected, there are fewer school choice dollars available to be used in the FY16 budget.

At last week's Chatham and Harwich Tri-Board meeting, it was requested by the Harwich Board of Selectmen (BOS) that the district use more funds from the Excess & Deficiency (E&D) account to close the budget funding gap. The current FY16 draft budget projects using \$600,000 from the E&D account, leaving a 2.4% balance in the account. The District feels that removing more than that amount from the E&D account is not fiscally feasible. The five-year capital plan (previously provided to Chatham and Harwich BOS) outlines the District's needs for repair and maintenance projects which rely on the use of those funds.

At the February 23 Harwich BOS meeting, the BOS voted to approve the town's FY16 budget. The vote balanced the town's budget by reducing the school budget by \$680,000. This reduction by the BOS was to allow the town to use these funds to increase town services by \$480,000 and increase the town's stabilization fund by \$200,000. When Harwich cuts the District's budget by \$680,000, the Monomoy budget must also be cut proportionally for Chatham. This results in a total budget cut of \$828,219 for the District. The Monomoy administrative team reviewed what positions and programs would have to be cut in order to reduce the budget by \$828,219. A total of 26.90 staffing reductions would be needed, together with the implementation of athletic fees of \$125 per student per sport; elimination of the lacrosse program; elimination of late bus runs; elimination of several curricula programs at the middle and high school level; and increase class sizes at all schools. There would also be an additional budget expense of \$189,000 for unemployment expenses in connection with the layoffs.

Many parents, students and staff spoke against the proposed cuts. Many feel more students will transfer to other school districts, MCAS scores will decline, programs will be lost, and tuition payments to other school districts will increase.

**The public hearing of the FY16 budget was closed at 7:47 pm.**

**A. Call to order** – The regular business meeting was called to order at 8:03 pm.

**B. Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2015.**

**Motion:** Steve Davol moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2015, seconded by Nancy Scott.

**Vote:** 6 Ayes, 1 Abstain. **Motion Carried.**

**C. Public Comment – None**

**D. Recognitions** – The Superintendent thanked the administrative team for their collaborative work on preparing another draft of the FY16 budget with staffing reductions to meet the Harwich BOS town budget. Total staffing reductions are estimated at 26.90 FTEs.

**E. Student Representative Report**

High school representative Laine Kotoski reported on events at the high school and the recent field trip to Madrid, Rome and Paris. Fourteen students are participating in the internship program working with local businesses and in the elementary schools. The hockey team has progressed to State tournament play. Spring sports will begin on March 16. Rehearsals for the musical “*Grease*” have begun. Twenty students participated in the STAND Washington, D.C. field trip.

Middle school representatives Isabella Cohrs; Katie Sanborn; Trevor Russell; and Noah Concordia reported on events at the middle school. 1,088 chocolate roses were sold for Valentine’s Day. In the spirit of kindness, they made sure every student received a rose. The teachers did a good job keeping students relaxed and focused during the unexpected evacuation on the Friday before vacation. Pennies for Patients, a spare-change fundraiser for people with leukemia has begun at the middle school.

**F. Reports and Discussions**

1. MRHS Foreign Language teachers Betsy Simmons and Bob Smeltzer gave a presentation on the recent foreign language field trip to Paris, Madrid and Rome. The 23 students were great student ambassadors for the District; they were very well behaved and had a wonderful experience. Chaperones and students appreciated having the support of the administrators and school committee for their field trip. Planning for the next European trip has already begun.

2. FY16 Budget – Discussion of the budget occurred during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

3. Monthly Financial Reports through January 31, 2015 – Business Manager Katie Isernio reported that 1.7% of the budget remains unencumbered. There will be challenges for the remaining budget year with regard to snow removal costs and the loss of \$20,000 from the kindergarten grant. Also, we are still waiting to hear from the Governor regarding any budget reductions for Chapter 70, charter school tuitions and transportation reimbursements.

**G. Subcommittee Reports – None.**

**H. Superintendent's Report –**

The Superintendent updated the committee on the status of the water damage at the high school which resulted from a roof top HVAC unit malfunctioning. Water leaked from the roof top into the art room on the second floor and down to the next level in the library and TV studio. There was extensive damage to electronic and computer equipment in all areas. The contractor and subcontractors and their insurance companies are responsible for the damage. This is the second occurrence of a rooftop HVAC malfunctioning. There is concern because there are approximately 15 rooftop HVAC units. A programming error is occurring with the units which is causing the circulating water to freeze and burst the pipes. The Superintendent reported that ServePro did an excellent job in cleaning up the water.

The Superintendent provided the committee with a draft of the 2015-2016 school year calendar. There are some differences in this calendar from previous years. Staff will report back on the Wednesday and Thursday before Labor Day, with students' first day on Tuesday after Labor Day. Also, Columbus Day, October 12, 2015, will be a school day. Traditionally parent conferences have been held on half-days the week of Thanksgiving. For 2015-2016, conferences will be half days on November 3 and November 12.

**I. Action Items - none**

**J. ADJOURNMENT - Motion** made by Nancy Scott to adjourn at 9:00 pm; seconded by Ed Jaworski. ***Vote: Unanimous.***

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Susko  
Recording Secretary

**Documents Used at Meeting and Available For Review**

FY16 Budget Information  
Draft 2015-2016 School Calendar