

Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, August 27, 2014
Monomoy Regional High School

Members Present: Terry Russell, Chairperson; Steve Davol, Vice Chair; Nancy Scott, Ed Jaworski; Glenn Bryant; Brian Widegren and Sharon Stout. **Administrators present:** Scott Carpenter, Superintendent; Joan Goggin; Carla Blanchard; Sam Hein; Adam O'Shea; Bill Burkhead; Marcy Dugas; Deb Morgan and Steve Litwinowich.

A. Call to Order – Chairman Terry Russell called the regular meeting of the school committee to order at 7:06 pm in the library/media center at the new Monomoy Regional High School. Terry Russell introduced Amanda Alten, who is the new Chatham representative to the school committee.

B. Approval of Minutes –July 23, 2014

Motion: Steve Davol moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2014, seconded by Glenn Bryant. **Vote: Unanimous.**

C. Public Comment – None

D. Recognitions

The Superintendent acknowledged the Chatham Middle School seventh grade students whose Project Citizen portfolio was selected to represent Massachusetts at the National level.

The Superintendent acknowledged the work of the curriculum task forces and faculty in the development and design of the new curriculum and Program of Studies for the district.

The Superintendent recognized the custodial staff for their hard work, dedication and team effort for moving the furniture around the district this summer and getting the buildings ready for the opening of school.

E. Reports and Discussions

1. MRHS Financial Plan Update – Treasurer Don Mercure advised that the issuance of the bond for the high school project is based on the joint recommendations from the Monomoy Finance Team (town managers, administrators, and finance directors for both towns; the Monomoy superintendent, business manager, and treasurer and the district's financial advisors at Cape Cod Five). The finance team meeting met on July 25, 2014 and reviewed the following:

- Actual construction costs through June 2014
- Construction schedule through December 2014 and May to July 2015.
- Costs based on contracts and bids awarded
- Projected costs for bids to be awarded
- Status of the contingency accounts
- MSBA reimbursement
- Cash flow projections through December

A project team meeting was held on August 20 to update the projections for any planned additional costs beyond those already contracted for; items remaining to be bid with estimated costs; pending change orders; and MSBA grant exclusions for the remaining costs of the project.

Based on the above factors, the finance team recommends the issuance of a bond for a term of 25 years in the amount of \$28 million. This has been approved by the bond counsel.

In summary, the project started in September 2012 with a budget of \$64.7 million approved by MSBA and the towns of Chatham and Harwich. Upon final construction estimates, MSBA approved the bid budget of \$59.5 million which represents a cost avoidance of \$5.2 million. As of this current budget projection, there is a further estimated under-budget position of approximately \$600,000.

Based on current market conditions, a favorable interest rate, combined with a 25 year term, will result in a lower than originally projected debt service schedule for the town. The final overall bond amounts for the Monomoy funding share of the project will be under the authorized debt. The school committee will be asked to vote on awarding the bond at the September 10, 2014 school committee meeting.

2. Monomoy School Handbooks – The new Monomoy Regional High School and Middle School handbooks are the result of blending the Harwich and Chatham handbooks along with the recent changes in State law for student discipline and civil rights issues. The committee will be provided with copies of the handbooks prior to the next meeting.

The committee was provided with an outline of changes to the elementary school handbooks which reflect the changes in State law as well as the new school start times, and staffing changes. Over the past two years and in connection with the regionalization process, the administrators have worked to make all the school handbooks similar in scope.

F. Subcommittee Reports –

The school committee's goals established in October 2013 became part of the Superintendent's action steps. It is necessary for the committee to vote on those goals at the September 10, 2014 meeting. The chair asked the committee to formalize their comments on the Superintendent's evaluation form previously provided to them. The chair will incorporate members' comments and create a summative evaluation report that will be delivered to the Superintendent.

G. Superintendent's Report

The Chatham Board of Selectmen and the Chatham representatives of the school committee met August 19, 2014 to interview four applicants for the available seat on the school committee. The Superintendent met with each applicant individually prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting. Amanda Alten was appointed to serve the remainder of Diane Nash's term which expires May 2015.

The Superintendent and Facilities Director, Steve Litwinowich walked through the Harwich Middle School with Harwich Town Manager and Facilities Director in preparation for turning the building over to the town. The building is in immaculate condition and is totally empty.

The Superintendent provided an overview of the ribbon cutting ceremony held August 21, 2014 which was attended by Congressman William Keating; Representative Sarah Peake; State Senator Dan Wolf; Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matthew Malone; State Treasurer Steven Grossman and MSBA Executive Director Jack McCarthy.

The Superintendent announced that Marcy Dugas will assume the role of supervisor of curriculum previously held by Adam O'Shea. Adam O'Shea is currently the interim principal of the Chatham Elementary School. Ms. Robin Millen has been hired to replace Marcy Dugas as assistant principal at the Harwich Elementary School.

Building principals Bill Burkhead, Sam Hein and Adam O'Shea provided an update on preparations and activities for the beginning of school.

H. Action Items

1. Vote to Transfer Harwich Middle School to the Town of Harwich

Motion: Brian Widegren moved that the Monomoy Regional School Committee transfer the Harwich Middle School located on Sisson Road, Harwich, to the Town of Harwich effective September 1, 2014, seconded by Steve Davol. **Vote: Unanimous.**

2. Monomoy School Handbooks – tabled until the September 10, 2014 meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT - Motion made by Nancy Scott to adjourn at 7:34, seconded by Steve Davol. **Voting Aye on a Roll Call Vote: Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Susko
Recording Secretary

Documents Used at Meeting and Available For Review
MRHS Building Project Budget & Finance Update