

MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REGIONALIZATION



Chatham Public Schools

Harwich Public Schools

April 1, 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY LETTER	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
SECTION 1: PARTNER COMMUNITIES	4
SECTION 2: GOALS	4
SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	5
SECTION 4: BUDGET	5
SECTION 5: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS.....	6
SECTION 6: OUTCOMES.....	6

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dr. Carolyn M. Cragin
Superintendent

Dr. Carla W. Blanchard
Director of Curriculum

Joan M. Goggin
Director of Student Services

Kathleen Isernio
Business Manager

Donald C. Mercure
Treasurer



MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 1, 2013

Mr. Tim Dodd
Grant Program Manager
Executive Office for Administration and Finance
Email: CICgrants@state.ma.us

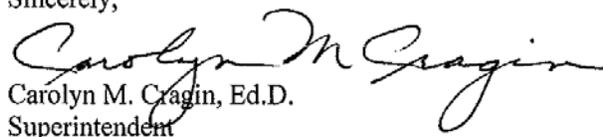
Dear Mr. Dodd:

The Monomoy Regional School District Technology Project, funded by a Community Innovation Challenge Grant in the amount of \$204,000, provided resources for the establishment of the regional technology infrastructure for a new educational entity which merged the former Chatham and Harwich Public Schools. The creation of this new regional school district from two independent local districts presented an array of organizational challenges, including the establishment of a new technological infrastructure ready to support the region when it began operations in July 1, 2012 and welcomed staff and students in September. Central to this process was the purchase and implementation of data, website and communications software, and equipment that were essential in order to manage district operations, communicate with Commonwealth departments, and connect district staff and families. The CIC Grant provided significant funding for the establishment of these resources for the Monomoy Regional School District.

Since simultaneous Town Meeting votes in Chatham and Harwich approved regionalization of our school districts on December 6, 2010, the process of establishing a strong regional district has involved challenges of

many types. That the new region successfully began operation on July 1, 2012 reflects the commitment of the communities and the extraordinary efforts of our staff. In addition, it provides dramatic evidence of the power of regional collaborations. The funding provided by the Community Innovation Challenge Grant enabled school and community leaders to work together with appropriate resources to build a regional school district that will be a model for regional school planning. From the early planning stages, through recommendation and approval, to transitional implementation, the regionalization process in Chatham and Harwich has developed model approaches and materials that can benefit other communities faced with the challenge of providing the best educational opportunities for children in the face of demographic and financial challenges. We are proud of the work that has established the Monomoy Regional School District, we are grateful for the support that has contributed to our success, and we are happy to share our experiences with others who may benefit from a similar model.

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Cragin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With limited resources and a multitude of regionalization projects, Monomoy was challenged to accomplish the critical tasks required to transform two unique districts with varied approaches and resources into a unified, successful region. In nearly every instance the Chatham Public Schools and the Harwich Public Schools employed different organizational plans and software programs to accomplish the same critical tasks. In order to establish a new region with an effective, coherent infrastructure, Monomoy staff reviewed and evaluated relevant programs, selected the best available options, and installed and implemented them in the region. The Community Innovation Grant funded a number of these projects, including:

- District Internet and Intranet Connection
- Student Information Management: Aspen X2
- Website: Final Site
- Central Office Phone Connection

SECTION I: PARTNER COMMUNITIES

The entities involved in the implementation of the grant were the combined Chatham and Harwich Public Schools now known as the Monomoy Regional School District.

SECTION 2: GOALS

To transform two unique districts, with varied approaches and resources into a unified, successful region. To establish a new region with an effective, coherent infrastructure, The Community Innovation Grant funded a number of these projects, including:

- District Internet and Intranet Connection
- Student Information Management: Aspen X2
- Website: Final Site
- Central Office Phone Connection

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The implementation of the Monomoy Regional School District's technology plan was the following:

April 2012 – Chatham and Harwich each had separate, distinct technology infrastructures before the merger into the new Monomoy Regional School District. A district technology team was established to conduct and report on a technology assessment of the current technology in both unique systems. The technology assessment exposed several areas in which the two districts differed on hardware, software and technology support staff. The decision was made to go forward with new technological infrastructure for the new district, rather than use the existing systems in either Chatham or Harwich. The existing systems would have needed to be revamped and upgraded in any case; the coming together of Chatham and Harwich in a new district was an opportunity to start anew with a modern, current system; pursuing a new system for the new district provided a collegial learning opportunity as staff from both towns all learned and made decisions together rather than staff from one town being further along with use of systems.

July 2012 - Student Information systems were reviewed, compared, procured and installed. The data from the two districts was migrated into the new Aspen student information software program. Simultaneously the district procured and installed the communication infrastructure. October 2012 – A new Monomoy Regional School District Web site was created and launched. December 2012 – The services of a consultant were procured to research the telecommunications compatibility required to connect the two separate Monomoy Central Offices. They evaluated, recommended and oversaw the implementation of a new telephone system for the Monomoy Regional School district's two Central Offices

SECTION 4: BUDGET

Total Grant Award \$204, 000

	Original approved Budget:	Amended grant
Assessment	\$4,000	\$4,000
Financial Software	\$50,000	\$0
Student Information System	\$60,000	\$60,000
Telecommunications System	\$30,000	\$75,000
Hardware	\$50,000	\$50,000
Website	\$10,000	\$10,000

The district was fortunate to receive a Cooperative Services Plan grant from the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; therefore we were able to amend our Community Innovation Grant as the other grant was able to fund the purchase of our financial software enabling the district to further improve our communications system.

SECTION 5: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The Chatham Public Schools and the Harwich Public Schools employed different organizational plans and software programs to accomplish the same critical tasks; the challenge was to identify the commonalities and to have a clear vision of the "Monomoy" plan. The key was to maintain a constant flow of communication with all members of the Monomoy community to keep all informed of the changes and the implementation of the new systems put in place at Monomoy.

The new district's staff conducted the installation of new technology systems and migration of data to the new systems during school summer vacation to minimize operational disruption. With a July 1, 2012 deadline for the new Monomoy District's first payroll, staff first focused on getting the new financial systems in place. Throughout the rest of the summer, small task force groups addressed the other systems, including migrating data from each town into the new student information system,

SECTION 6: OUTCOMES

The desired outcome was the integration of the two separate districts' technology into one newly formed regional school district with a single technology plan and infrastructure. The outcomes were achieved by the completion of the following:

- District Internet and Intranet Connection
- Student Information Management: Aspen X2
- Website: Final Site
- Central Office Phone Connection

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kathleen Isernio, Business Manager kisernio@monomoy.edu
Debora Morgan, Director of Technology dmorgan@monomoy.edu

REFERENCES

[Monomoy Regional School District website](#)

