



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOLS

32 Evergreen Road Holliston, MA 01746

Perry Davis, Executive Director
774-217-9764 (Cell)

Barbara J. Ripa, Asst. Executive Dir.
413-535-2973 (Cell) 413-538-8941 (Office)

MARS & MASS General Meeting **Focus on the needs of rural schools in Massachusetts**

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Pathfinder Voc/Tech HS

240 Sykes Street

Palmer, MA 01069

9:30 AM to Noon

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Gerry Paist – Superintendent Pathfinder Voc/Tech
 - b. Maureen Marshall – Chair MARS Board
 - c. Perry Davis – MARS Executive Director
 - d. Steve Hemman – MARS Assistant Director
 - e. Michael Buoniconti – Mohawk Regional School District – RURAL Schools
2. Updates – Michael Buoniconti
 - a. Ways and Means Committee members
 - b. Meeting with Secretary of Education
 - c. Meeting with Commissioner of Education
3. Challenges Facing Small Rural Regional and Local School Districts –
 - a. Enrollment
 - i. Declining student enrollment
 1. Economy – lack of employment opportunities
 2. Decline in the general population
 3. Decline in young families with children
 - ii. Loss of students to School Choice
 - iii. Loss of students to Charter School
 - b. Funding - Budget
 - i. Only minimum Chapter 70 Aid increase
 - ii. Fix expenses increasing – Salaries and Health Insurance
 - c. Staffing
 - i. Staff reductions – Teachers, Support Staff and Administrators
 - ii. Class size – student to teacher ratio
 - iii. Teacher license limitation
 - d. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment
 - i. Demands of Common Core Curriculum
 - ii. Implementation of activity based instruction
 - iii. Responding to required assessments – District Determined Measures and MCAS testing
 - e. Technology
 - i. Supporting and improving student access to technology
 - ii. Using technology in the classroom



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOLS

32 Evergreen Road Holliston, MA 01746

Perry Davis, Executive Director
774-217-9764 (Cell)

Barbara J. Ripa, Asst. Executive Dir.
413-535-2973 (Cell) 413-538-8941 (Office)

- iii. Technology based assessments (MCAS)
 - f. Report of SWOT ANALYSIS – April 2016 – Perry Davis
 - i. STRENGTHS
 - ii. WEAKNESSES
 - iii. OPPORTUNITIES
 - iv. THREATS
 - v. What does the data suggest for more research – common themes
 - vi. Actions taken since last spring
 - g. Next Steps
4. Adjourn