



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOLS

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

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

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. Perry Davis – MARS Executive Director
 - c. Michael Buoniconti – Mohawk Regional School District – RURAL Schools

2. Challenges Facing Small Rural Regional and Local School Districts – Sharing of Ideas Using a SWOT Analysis – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
 - a. Enrollment
 - i. Declining student enrollment – Low birth rates
 - ii. Loss of students with School Choice
 - iii. Loss of students with 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
 - 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
 - f. SWOT ANALYSIS
 - i. STRENGTHS – List for your district (internal data)
 - ii. WEAKNESSES – List for your district (internal data)
 - iii. OPPORTUNITIES – List for your district (external data)
 - iv. Threats – Internal and External – List for your district (external data)
 - v. What does the data suggest for more research – common themes
 - vi. What are some next steps
 - vii. How can MARS and MASS help
 - viii. Future meetings

3. Adjourn