



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOLS

8 Hillcrest Ave., South Hadley, MA 01075

Barbara Ripa, Executive Director
413-535-2973 (Cell)

Stephen Hemman, Asst. Executive Dir.
978-821-2890 (Cell) 978-874-0385 (Office)

MARS Board of Directors Meeting Jan 9, 2018 at Assabet Valley Tech Minutes

- 1.0 Call to order – Maureen Marshall, President
 - 1.1 Welcome, Barbara Ripa
 - 1.2 Introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:04. Board members introduced themselves.

- 2.0 MARS Meeting Minutes September 13, 2017 and Nov 1, 2017

Minutes for Sept 13, 2017 was approved. Minutes of Nov 1, 2017 were approved.

- 3.0 Update on change in early start times discussion

There has been no action or movement on this subject.

- 4.0 Review of 2017-2018 MARS Goals – Barbara

Barbara updated the Board on the Goals. The goals are attached to these minutes.

- 5.0 Regional Transportation Fund—how to use it

Debra Boyd presented her experience with the Transportation Fund. The fund can hold up to one-year amount of the Chapter 71 received by the district. She explained what happened to her. There is a need to follow up on using the Transportation Fund.

- 6.0 MARS Financial Report FY2018 - Steve

- 6.1 Budget balances
- 6.2 Total dues collected as of Dec 31, 2017

Steve presented the Budget Report and explained the budget balances. Only three districts have not paid. The income amount to balance the budget has been met.



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- 7.0 MARS Audit - Steve
 - 7.1 Federal filing completed by Milanson and Heath
 - 7.2 MARS filing with Secretary of State-completed
 - 7.3 MARS Audit Completed
 - 7.4

Steve reported that all above were completed.

- 8.0 MARS Budget FY2019 – Barbara
 - 7.1 Dues increased to \$950 per year
 - 7.2 MARS Staffing

A motion was made to move the dues from 900 to 950. It was so voted.

Lynn brought up the idea of have a sliding/differentiated rate for dues.

Barbara began the discussion on need to have technical people. Suggestion were made on how to proceed. Agreed to put an amount of money into the budget as well as develop a list of the technology needs.

- 9.0 MARS Meeting Calendar 2017-2018 -
 - 9.1 General Meetings
 - 9.2 Board Meetings
 - 9.3 MARS Professional Development
 - 9.4 MASC/MASS Conference meeting and panel—update

Ellen pointed out the conflicts in the calendar for this year and next. Discussion took place on making changes.

- 10.0 Professional Development – Steve
 - 10.1 Training for new superintendents, school committee members and business administrators
 - 10.2 End-of-Year Report training
 - 10.3 E and D Training
 - 10.4 Other trainings

Steve reviewed the items above.



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- 11.0 Auditor's Report
 - 11.1 Regional Transportation
 - 11.2 Homeless Transportation and Out of District Vocational Transportation
 - 11.3 Responding to the Report and follow up

Discussion took place on the Auditor report and MARS follow up to the report. Letters were sent to Legislators, DESE and the Governor asking for 100% reimbursement.

- 12.0 MARS legislation update
 - 12.1 Status of current bills in legislative process
 - 12.2 Call in from Joe Giannino

Joe Giannino called in to review the summary of bills he sent to Barbara. He expects actions to begin as the Legislature comes back and has formal sessions. He suggests that we contact our Legislators urging them to pass bills that MARS proposed. He provided information about the current budget and that the Governor will issue the FY2019 by the end of January. There were questions about certain bills.

- 13.0 MARS Consulting Group update – Steve
 - 13.1 Current projects
 - 13.2 Upcoming projects
 - 13.3 Possible new consulting services

Steve recommended that the EOY 2016, 2017, and New Superintendents be closed out and the remaining funds transferred to the MARS Reserve within the Consulting Account. The Board agreed. He also mentioned the current projects.

- 14.0 Use of technology at MARS meetings – Steve
 - 14.1 General meetings will be recorded
 - 14.2 You Tube
 - 14.3 Facebook
 - 14.4 Tweeter
 - 14.5 New website--update
 - 14.6 Listserves
 - 14.7 Email Invite to meetings

The above items were presented to the Board.



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- 15.0 Review membership on Standing Committees
 - 15.1 Legislative
Ellen, Mindy, Barbara and Mike
 - 15.2 Budget/audit
Margaret, Deb, Avi
 - 15.3 Professional Development
Ernie, Steve, Christine
 - 15.4 Technology
Lynn, Barbara

- 16.0 MARS succession planning

Barbara discussed the future leadership of MARS considering that Barbara and Steve will be finishing their contracts in two years. Discussion took place on planning for the future.

- 17.0 Appoint Nominating Committee for 2018-2019 Board of Directors

A nominating Committee was appointed: Lynn, Mike B, Mike F, Deb,

- 18.0 Next meeting: General Meeting is at Nashoba Valley in Westford on Feb 13, 2017 starting at 9:30 am.

- 19.0 Other topics

- 20.0 Adjournment took place at 10:55 am.

Submitted by;

Stephen Hemman, Assistant Executive Director