

MARS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2015	Location: Pathfinder
Attendees: See sign-in sheet	

Items for Discussion	Discussion/Action
Call to Order	Lynn Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:46 am.
Minutes	The March minutes were unanimously approved as presented. Ellen moved and Brett seconded the motion.
Introductions	Steve invited everyone to introduce themselves.
Regional Transportation	Steve was referred to the new counsel to the A&F. He was informed that there is no money to add to regional transportation. The legal opinion that MARS received has merit. They are working to get some money back this year. Steve is advising that districts have their regional transportation reserve fund set up. The Board discussed the merits of setting up the fund v. not setting it up. Each district needs to do what is politically astute for their district at this time. We are waiting to see the FY2016 budget release on April 15 th . The legislators know that MARS has legal funds set aside for use in securing additional transportation funds. Steve will send out an email to districts advising them to set up the fund. MARS will push for not linking regional transportation to 9C cuts in the future.
Legal Filings	Steve informed the Board that we have filed with the Secretary of State. We also have filed the 5014C forms and filing all appropriate taxes. Need to write these responsibilities into someone's job description. Steve is very pleased with our new treasurer, Gail Stanton. Everything is going well.
Dues	District dues will be \$900 for FY2016 and \$50 for individual memberships.
Foundation Budget	Steve attended one of the meetings. The biggest problem is health insurance followed by special education. The Foundation Budget Committee hopes to have its work done by June. Brett Kustigian represented MARS at the budget hearing in March. Brett feels the Committee knows the issues. Thanks to Brett.
Annual Meeting	May 12, 2015 at Nashoba. Assabet will be open next year for our meeting.
Election of Officers	Steve reviewed the open slots in the ballot. A nominating committee will be appointed and Steve will work with that committee. We need an additional auditor. Steve has someone in mind. Lynn asked for volunteers and no one did. Steve recommended Mike Fitzpatrick and Mindy Kempner and Mark Morris and said that the work could be done via conference call. Mark agreed to chair the committee. Steve would like to hear back from the committee in about three weeks. They need to nominate for President, Vice President and Board Members.
Budget	<p>Steve shared a copy of the FY2015 budget balances through March 19, 2015. Lynn would like to see legal account funds listed separate from the MARS general ledger. Steve agreed and said that is currently what is being done. \$18,600 has been collected to date. A third account is the Consulting Account.</p> <p>The proposed budget for FY2016 has been set. Anticipated expenses will be \$70,012, with projected revenue of \$72,300. Steve anticipates that 79-80 districts will send in their</p>

dues. Steve noted that the Board will need to look at the Executive Director's salary for FY2017.

Calendar of Meetings	Steve shared a calendar of meetings and Professional Development sessions for FY2016. Steve hopes to hold the PD sessions at Assabet Valley next year. The End-of-Year Report training will be held in June and September 2015.
Guest speaker for May	Steve hopes to get the Secretary of Education.
Recruiting a new Executive Dir.	Steve suggests sending out a notice in June reminding districts of the upcoming change. Barbara told the Board that she will also be leaving but will stay on for up to one year after Steve leaves to assist with transition. Steve notified the Board that he would like to stay on as a Consultant. The Search Committee needs to have a copy of the job description. Not included in the job description is Steve's reaching out to MASC and MASBO and working with them. Steve will update the job description to better reflect what is currently happening.
May agenda item	Policy regarding the MARS Consultant Group. The Board discussed the draft policy.
Mac Reid	Executive Director Search. Current contracts are full of nuts and bolts. Mac recommends that the section about dismissal should state that the Board can release the Director with a 90 day notice. Steve suggested that the new Director be a retired regional superintendent. Lynn would like the qualifications to not be that limited. The Board settled on: "Administrative Experience working for or with a Massachusetts Regional School District(s) required. " Mac suggested the Search Sub-Committee work with Steve and Barbara to review the job descriptions and contracts and to develop a posting notice and have the notice ready for the start of September with applications due end of October. Ellen moved that the Search Sub-Committee consist of Lynn Ryan, Mike Fitzpatrick, Debra Boyd and Brett Kustigian, with Mike as Chair. Mark seconded. The vote was unanimous. Brett moved and Ellen seconded to have Steve provide the Board with an updated copy of his job description prior to the May meeting. The vote was unanimous.
Strategic Planning	Mac reviewed the priorities of the Board as discussed in a previous meeting. He will redo the information and put it into a more narrative format.
Adjournment	Lynn adjourned the meeting at 11:31 am.