

**Massachusetts Association of School Committees
Regional Schools Subcommittee
Assabet Valley V-T High School - Marlborough, MA
January 21, 2010**

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by E. Holmes.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 22nd, 2009

MOTION to approve by R. Newman; seconded by T. Evans. (Unanimous)

III. DESE Update from Jay Sullivan and Christine Lynch

Jay Sullivan reviewed the status of Regional School Transportation funding (FY'10) in the aftermath of the Governor's reversal of the proposed 9C cut to RST. He noted that payments to districts were based on the cut being implemented (district reimbursement), but the department will issue an additional payment to cover the shortfall (difference between the actual reimbursement and the Governor's proposed cut)

He also discussed the impact of the "Ed Reform Part II" legislation that passed recently. Regional School Transportation cannot be reduced by a percent greater than that reduced to Chapter 70. There was confusion as to when the terms of the reduction could take place. (Upon the Governor's signature of the new FY budget or Budget preparation process)

The recommendation from DESE regarding budgeting for RST in FY'11 budgets is to be conservative. Committee discussion focused on budgeting for a low of 29% with the expectation of revising the revenue expectations for RST should the budget revenue projections improve.

Christine Lynch reviewed the recently released reports done by DESE and MARS. Time restraints prevented a full discussion of the report MARS prepared on DESE's behalf, but members will be able to be updated at the February '10 MARS general meeting.

IV. RTTT

There was continued discussion regarding the Race to the Top application, and a review of the number of districts that had three signatures on the application. There were a number of districts for a variety of reasons that only had two signatories.

V. New Business

Day on the Hill is occurring earlier this year. It will be beneficial for school committee members to be able to enter these discussions prior to the House and Senate setting their budgets. Next month the Committee will review its letter and proposed handout at DOH.

Day on the Hill – March 30th

VI. Schedule of Future Meetings

February 18th ; April 15th ; May 20th

V. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by R. Newman; seconded by C. Fountain. Unanimous. 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted
E. Holmes, Chair.