



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 28, 2016
6 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
John Hockridge, Berkshire County Education Task Force

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:01 p.m. The minutes of November 14 and 21 were held until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

John Hockridge advised the Board of Selectmen of the Phase One study that is underway by the Berkshire County Education Task Force in conjunction with the Massachusetts Donahue Institute. The Task Force is made up of former school administrators, educators, school committee members, town administrators and local business leaders. He reported that the Task Force was formed as an advisory group, collecting data from all Berkshire County schools. The goal of the committee is to identify trends in enrollment, costs and educational programs. His handouts included graphs indicating that enrollment in Berkshire County has dropped from over 20,000 in 2000 to approximately 16,000 in 2015, with the trend continuing to drop in future years, while costs continue to rise, thereby threatening the quality of education. Phase Two of this study will make recommendations for addressing the problems identified in Phase One. John reported that the school districts will have four options available to them:

1. Do nothing.
2. Expand Shared Services
3. Develop partnerships.
4. Develop Super Regional Schools

A Request for Proposal was just sent out for consulting services; recommendations are due in June 2017 that will impact FY19.

Broadband Update

Board of Selectmen Chair, Nat Yohalem, advised that no meeting had been set with counsel, and that he would like to have a Broadband Negotiating Committee meeting prior

to meeting with counsel. A tentative date has been set for 8 a.m. Monday, December 5, 2016.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, had no updates.

SELECTMEN'S UPDATES

There were no updates from the Selectmen.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary