**Syringa Mountain School
Work Session April 11th, 2016**

Call to Order: 3:37pm

Present: Randy Flood, Jessica Banks, Stefanie O’Neill, Phoebe Pilaro, Greg Bloomfield, Mary Gervase, Julie Evans, Amy Jonas.

Greg Bloomfield formally welcome Mary Gervase to our meeting. Mary will be the consultant on the negotiations with BCSD.

Greg stated that it is important to keep the matter of the Innovation Schools Act in front of the BCSD and also keep the press informed and involved moving forward. Phoebe Pilaro suggested inviting the press to both events. Stefanie O’Neill will email the press ASAP.

Greg reported that he had an email from Shawn Bennion on Friday, April 8th. Phoebe asked Greg to forward the emails to the board. Greg said that Shawn would like to have a work session between both boards in early May.

Greg asked to move onto the tea/coffee. Stefanie noted that the coffee had been planned by the Parent’s Association prior to the passing of H0570 and that the intent had been to open our school up to community leaders so they can gain more knowledge of what is offered and what Syringa is about. Phoebe asked if teachers and students should speak. The entire group answered affirmatively. Mary asked who should facilitate the coffee’s. Both Mende and Svea were suggested but Greg noted that both had a conflict with testing on Wednesday the 13th. Phoebe offered to speak. Greg said that he could be there as well. Stefanie noted she would be present. Amy suggested that Kristen Funk speak as both a parent and a teacher. Mary asked Julie to speak. Julie said she was very busy with IEPs but would try. Mary asked that we have the teachers inform the children who is coming and to encourage interaction.

Randy Flood asked to streamline the objective of the coffee. Stefanie said it is to showcase our innovative school. Randy said to keep it simple. Julie Evans said that we want them to fall in love with Syringa.

Mary asked for a timeline. Phoebe said 9:00am coffee and mingling. Start talks at 9:10am. Phoebe will speak first. Then Kristen. Mende should speak if possible. Two students, maybe Nina ad Luke. Amy suggested Julie talk on student advocacy. Tours start at 9:30. Start with K and work our way up. Jessica Banks suggested asking the classes to do something special for the visitors. Julie said we need handouts or a packet to send people home with information. She mentioned a Waldorf Myths handout that Mende as used in the past. Stefanie offered to assemble the packets for Wednesdays Coffee.

Greg - Back to innovation schools. Greg said our charter school would become a part of the district for equalized funding. Phoebe wanted to know if we could ask for testing waivers. Greg said that that may be too much to ask off the bat. Mary said that we need to build a solid foundation and relationship before requesting exemptions but it is possible down the road.

Mary said that we need to build our case as to why BCSD should take us on. Julie said that we can be a part of the amazing of portfolio of BCSD. The approach needs to be accurate, with good faith, no threats or ultimatums. Give them no reason to say no. Randy offered to speak at the 19th meeting. He will need to talk about choice. Different setting, different curriculum helps come children thrive. Phoebe said that we offer a vital choice to the 130 students who come to this school.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:31pm