

# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000  
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

April 9, 2014

Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent  
New Bedford Public Schools  
455 County Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

New Bedford School Committee  
c/o the Honorable Jon Mitchell, Chair  
New Bedford City Hall  
New Bedford, MA 02740

New Bedford Educators Association  
c/o Louis St. John, President  
160 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Final Level 5 Turnaround Plan for the John Avery Parker School

Dear Supt. Durkin, Mayor Mitchell, and Mr. St. John:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(q), the statute on chronically underperforming (Level 5) schools, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education has today issued the attached final Level 5 turnaround plan for the John Avery Parker School. The statute provides:

the superintendent, school committee or local union may appeal to the board of elementary and secondary education regarding 1 or more components of the plan, including the absence of 1 or more modifications proposed under subsection (p).

The statute provides that any appeal must be filed within 30 days. Accordingly, if the superintendent, the school committee (by vote of the committee), or the local union decides to appeal, the appeal must be submitted in writing to my attention, either via email to [rschneider@doe.mass.edu](mailto:rschneider@doe.mass.edu) or by mail or hand-delivery addressed to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, c/o Rhoda E. Schneider, General Counsel, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148. **The appeal must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2014.**

The statute further provides that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) may vote to modify the turnaround plan only if the appellant establishes that:

- (1) Such modification would further promote the rapid academic achievement of students in the applicable school;
- (2) A component of the plan was included, or a modification was excluded, on the basis of demonstrably false information or evidence; or
- (3) The commissioner failed to meet the requirements of subsections (m) to (p), inclusive [of G.L. c. 69, §1J].

**In order to give the Board adequate time and information to review and consider any appeal, the filing submitted by 5:00 p.m. on May 9, 2014 must include the following for any component of the turnaround plan being appealed:**

- A clear and unambiguous statement as to the grounds for the appeal of the particular component of the plan, identifying which of the three statutory grounds for appeal, found in G.L. c. 69, §1J(q) (see above), serves as basis for the appeal;
- A specific proposed modification to that component of the turnaround plan, which the Board could adopt were the Board to vote to modify the turnaround plan; and
- All arguments and supporting documentation upon which the appellant seeks to rely.

We will provide the written submissions to the Board prior to its consideration of the appeal. We will also make the written submissions available to the public. Any responsive materials prepared by the Commissioner will also be submitted to the Board prior to its consideration of the appeal and will be provided to the appellant and made available to the public.

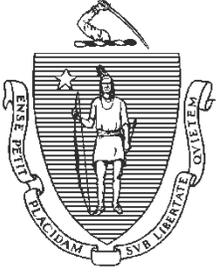
We anticipate that the Board will consider any appeal regarding the Parker School turnaround plan at its special meeting on Monday, May 19, 2014, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The written material and supporting documentation submitted by the May 9 deadline must be sufficient to present an appellant's case. An appellant (superintendent, school committee through its chair, local union through its president) will have the option of addressing the Board on May 19 for 10 minutes, to highlight the key points in its appeal. The Commissioner will have an opportunity to respond. The Board will then discuss the matter and may pose questions to the appellant and to the Commissioner. Please note that, in keeping with the Board's tradition of holding a spring meeting in the hometown of the student member of the Board, the May 19 special meeting is scheduled to be held at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, 210 Station Avenue, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

In accordance with G.L. c. 69, §1J(q), the decision of the Board regarding an appeal is final.

Sincerely,

Rhoda E. Schneider  
General Counsel

C: Maura Banta, Chair, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education



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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

April 18, 2014

John McDonough, Interim Superintendent  
Boston Public Schools  
26 Court Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Michael O'Neill, Chair  
Boston School Committee  
26 Court Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Richard Stutman, President  
Boston Teachers Union  
180 Mt. Vernon Street  
Boston, MA 02125

Re: Final Level 5 Turnaround Plan for the John P. Holland Elementary School

Dear Supt. McDonough, Mr. O'Neill, and Mr. Stutman:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(q), the statute on chronically underperforming (Level 5) schools, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education has today issued the attached final Level 5 turnaround plan for the John P. Holland Elementary School. The statute provides:

the superintendent, school committee or local union may appeal to the board of elementary and secondary education regarding 1 or more components of the plan, including the absence of 1 or more modifications proposed under subsection (p).

The statute provides that any appeal must be filed within 30 days. Accordingly, if the superintendent, the school committee (by vote of the committee), or the local union decides to appeal, the appeal must be submitted in writing to my attention, either via email to [rschneider@doe.mass.edu](mailto:rschneider@doe.mass.edu) or by mail or hand-delivery addressed to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, c/o Rhoda E. Schneider, General Counsel, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148. **The appeal must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2014.**

The statute further provides that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) may vote to modify the turnaround plan only if the appellant establishes that:

- (4) Such modification would further promote the rapid academic achievement of students in the applicable school;
- (5) A component of the plan was included, or a modification was excluded, on the basis of demonstrably false information or evidence; or
- (6) The commissioner failed to meet the requirements of subsections (m) to (p), inclusive [of G.L. c. 69, §1J].

**In order to give the Board adequate time and information to review and consider any appeal, the filing submitted by 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2014 must include the following for any component of the turnaround plan being appealed:**

- A clear and unambiguous statement as to the grounds for the appeal of the particular component of the plan, identifying which of the three statutory grounds for appeal, found in G.L. c. 69, §1J(q) (see above), serves as basis for the appeal;
- A specific proposed modification to that component of the turnaround plan, which the Board could adopt were the Board to vote to modify the turnaround plan; and
- All arguments and supporting documentation upon which the appellant seeks to rely.

We will provide the written submissions to the Board prior to its consideration of the appeal. We will also make the written submissions available to the public. Any responsive materials prepared by the Commissioner will also be submitted to the Board prior to its consideration of the appeal and will be provided to the appellant and made available to the public.

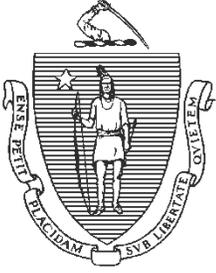
We anticipate that the Board will consider any appeal regarding the Holland School turnaround plan at its special meeting on Monday, June 9, 2014. The written material and supporting documentation submitted by the May 19 deadline must be sufficient to present an appellant's case. An appellant (superintendent, school committee through its chair, local union through its president) will have the option of addressing the Board on June 9 for 10 minutes, to highlight the key points in its appeal. The Commissioner will have an opportunity to respond. The Board will then discuss the matter and may pose questions to the appellant and to the Commissioner. The June 9 special meeting is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be held at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts.

In accordance with G.L. c. 69, §1J(q), the decision of the Board regarding an appeal is final.

Sincerely,

Rhoda E. Schneider  
General Counsel

C: Maura Banta, Chair, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education



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Commissioner

April 18, 2014

Dr. Sergio Paez, Superintendent  
Holyoke Public Schools  
57 Suffolk Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Holyoke School Committee  
c/o the Honorable Alex B. Morse, Chair  
Holyoke City Hall  
536 Dwight Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Peter McAndrew, President  
Holyoke Teachers Association  
476 Appleton Street, Suite 6  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Re: Final Level 5 Turnaround Plan for the Morgan Elementary School

Dear Supt. Paez, Mayor Morse, and Mr. McAndrew:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(q), the statute on chronically underperforming (Level 5) schools, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education has today issued the attached final Level 5 turnaround plan for the Morgan Elementary School. The statute provides:

the superintendent, school committee or local union may appeal to the board of elementary and secondary education regarding 1 or more components of the plan, including the absence of 1 or more modifications proposed under subsection (p).

The statute provides that any appeal must be filed within 30 days. Accordingly, if the superintendent, the school committee (by vote of the committee), or the local union decides to appeal, the appeal must be submitted in writing to my attention, either via email to [rschneider@doe.mass.edu](mailto:rschneider@doe.mass.edu) or by mail or hand-delivery addressed to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, c/o Rhoda E. Schneider, General Counsel, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148. **The appeal must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2014.**

The statute further provides that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) may vote to modify the turnaround plan only if the appellant establishes that:

- (7) Such modification would further promote the rapid academic achievement of students in the applicable school;
- (8) A component of the plan was included, or a modification was excluded, on the basis of demonstrably false information or evidence; or
- (9) The commissioner failed to meet the requirements of subsections (m) to (p), inclusive [of G.L. c. 69, §1J].

**In order to give the Board adequate time and information to review and consider any appeal, the filing submitted by 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2014 must include the following for any component of the turnaround plan being appealed:**

- A clear and unambiguous statement as to the grounds for the appeal of the particular component of the plan, identifying which of the three statutory grounds for appeal, found in G.L. c. 69, §1J(q) (see above), serves as basis for the appeal;
- A specific proposed modification to that component of the turnaround plan, which the Board could adopt were the Board to vote to modify the turnaround plan; and
- All arguments and supporting documentation upon which the appellant seeks to rely.

We will provide the written submissions to the Board prior to its consideration of the appeal. We will also make the written submissions available to the public. Any responsive materials prepared by the Commissioner will also be submitted to the Board prior to its consideration of the appeal and will be provided to the appellant and made available to the public.

We anticipate that the Board will consider any appeal regarding the Morgan School turnaround plan at its special meeting on Monday, June 9, 2014. The written material and supporting documentation submitted by the May 19 deadline must be sufficient to present an appellant's case. An appellant (superintendent, school committee through its chair, local union through its president) will have the option of addressing the Board on June 9 for 10 minutes, to highlight the key points in its appeal. The Commissioner will have an opportunity to respond. The Board will then discuss the matter and may pose questions to the appellant and to the Commissioner. The June 9 special meeting is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be held at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts.

In accordance with G.L. c. 69, §1J(q), the decision of the Board regarding an appeal is final.

Sincerely,

Rhoda E. Schneider  
General Counsel

C: Maura Banta, Chair, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education