*****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

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| Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner |
| **Date:** | March 17, 2017 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Charters Renewed for Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School, Christa McAuliffe Charter School, Community Day Charter Public School – Gateway, Community Day Charter Public School – R. Kingman Webster, and Pioneer Charter School of Science; and Renewal and Action Taken for Sizer School: A North Central Charter Essential School |

At its meeting in February 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to authorize the Commissioner to act on its behalf in “(a) granting charter renewals that do not involve probation; (b) approving charter amendments that do not involve changes in grade span, maximum enrollment, or districts served; and (c) removing or continuing conditions imposed on charters of charter schools; provided that the Commissioner shall report to the Board on all charter renewals, charter amendments, and conditions that have been so approved; and provided further, that the Commissioner shall notify the Board in advance of all such intended actions, and a Board member may request that the Commissioner place the charter matter(s) on the agenda of the Board for discussion and action.”

On February 16, 2017, I notified the Board that I intended to renew the charters of six schools: Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School (APR), Christa McAuliffe Charter School (CMCS), Community Day Charter Public School – Gateway (Gateway), Community Day Charter Public School – R. Kingman Webster (Webster), and Pioneer Charter School of Science (PCSS). I also notified the Board of my intention to renew the charter of Sizer School: A North Central Charter Essential School (Sizer) with a condition. No Board member requested that any of these matters be brought to the full Board for review. I am now notifying the Board that I have renewed the charters of these six schools and placed a condition on the charter of Sizer.

Summary information regarding the six schools being renewed is provided in this memorandum. Each charter is renewed for the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2022. The charter of each school is renewed for the maximum enrollment, grades served, and district(s) served, as follows. All of the schools shall operate in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 71, § 89; 603 CMR 1.00; and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner or the Board may establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.

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| ** Exceeds** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Falls Far Below** |

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|  | **Criteria** | **APR** | **CMCS** | **Gateway** | **Webster** | **PCSS** | **Sizer** |
| **Faithfulness to Charter** | 1. Mission and Key Design  Elements | ** Meets** | ** Exceeds** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** |
| 2. Access and Equity | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** |
| 3. Compliance | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** |
| 4. Dissemination | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Exceeds** | ** Exceeds** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** |
| **Academic Program Success** | **5. Student Performance[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **Level: 2**  **Percentile: 57th** | **Level: 2**  **Percentile: 64th** | **Level: Insufficient Data**  **Percentile: Insufficient Data[[2]](#footnote-2)** | **Level: Insufficient Data**  **Percentile: Insufficient Data[[3]](#footnote-3)** | **Level: 1**  **Percentile: 93rd** | **Level: 1**  **Percentile: 40th** |
| **Organizational Viability** | 9. Governance | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** |
|  | **Commissioner Action** | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Renewal with Conditions |

**Charter School Performance Criteria – Ratings and Recommendation Summary**

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**Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1997 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 545 | **Current Enrollment** | 527 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 5-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 5-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 542[[4]](#footnote-4) | **Current Age of School** | 20 years |
| **Mission Statement**  To empower urban students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to achieve their full intellectual and social potential by combining the best of the East – high standards, discipline and character education – with the best of the West – a commitment to individualism, creativity and diversity. | | | |

**Christa McAuliffe Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Framingham |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Marlborough, Natick, Southborough, Sudbury |
| **Year Opened** | 2002 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2007, 2012, 2017 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 396 | **Current Enrollment** | 395 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-8 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 93 | **Current Age of School** | 15 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of the Christa McAuliffe Charter School is to cultivate within each member of a diverse student body, through the Expeditionary Learning design, an intense commitment to self and community, the courage and insight to set high standards for academic and personal success, and the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to achieve those standards. | | | |

**Community Day Charter Public School – Gateway**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Lawrence |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2017 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 400 | **Current Enrollment** | 280 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-8 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 468 | **Current Age of School** | 5 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of CDCPS is to provide a kindergarten through grade eight school that will draw upon our considerable experience in working together as a community to develop and implement a curriculum that discovers and supports the special characteristics and unique learning styles of each student. We will engage that student in meaningful learning experiences for the purposes of clearly stated goals in the areas of understandings, knowledge, skills, habits, and social competencies. The school will reinforce the positive aspects of our city: its culture, art and economy, working class history, and strong work ethic. Our educational philosophy, curriculum, and teaching methods are informed by an understanding that learning takes place in the context of family and that family must be supported in ways that make learning for the child possible. | | | |

**Community Day Charter Public School – R. Kingman Webster**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Lawrence |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2017 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 400 | **Current Enrollment** | 280 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-8 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 476 | **Current Age of School** | 5 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of CDCPS is to provide a kindergarten through grade eight school that will draw upon our considerable experience in working together as a community to develop and implement a curriculum that discovers and supports the special characteristics and unique learning styles of each student. We will engage that student in meaningful learning experiences for the purposes of clearly stated goals in the areas of understandings, knowledge, skills, habits, and social competencies. The school will reinforce the positive aspects of our city: its culture, art and economy, working class history, and strong work ethic. Our educational philosophy, curriculum, and teaching methods are informed by an understanding that learning takes place in the context of family and that family must be supported in ways that make learning for the child possible. | | | |

**Pioneer Charter School of Science**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Everett |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | Chelsea, Everett, Revere |
| **Year Opened** | 2007 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2012, 2017 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 780 (with a limit of 400 from Everett) | **Current Enrollment** | 543 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-2, 7-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 733 | **Current Age of School** | 10 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of Pioneer Charter School of Science (PCSS) is to prepare educationally under-resourced students in Chelsea, Everett, and Revere for today’s competitive world. PCSS will help them develop the academic and social skills necessary to become successful professionals and exemplary members of their community. This goal will be achieved by providing the students with a rigorous academic curriculum with emphasis on math and science, balanced by a strong foundation in the humanities, a character education program, career-oriented college preparation, and strong student–teacher–parent collaboration. | | | |

**Sizer School: A North Central Charter Essential School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Fitchburg |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | Ashburnham-Westminster, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Lunenburg, Nashoba, North Middlesex, Wachusett |
| **Year Opened** | 2002 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2007, 2012, 2017 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 400 | **Current Enrollment** | 370 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 7-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 7-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 69 | **Current Age of School** | 15 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The Sizer School, a North Central Charter Essential School is a public school where students are known personally, challenged intellectually, and participate actively in their learning. Guided by its commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, the school seeks to send graduates into the world who THINK for themselves, CARE about others, and ACT creatively and responsibly. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Sizer is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing Sizer on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

Condition: As a result of enrolling more than 20 percent of its total enrollment from school districts not included in its original charter for 2 consecutive years, Sizer shall submit the following:

* By June 1, 2017, Sizer must send the Department an action plan regarding its enrollment pattern from school districts not included in its original charter.
  + Should the school determine to maintain its current region, by August 2017, Sizer must submit for Department approval a plan that ensures that enrollment from districts outside of the school’s region does not exceed 20 percent of its total population by June 30, 2021, and corresponding charter amendment requests for the school’s maximum enrollment, enrollment policy, and any other relevant material terms.
  + Should the school wish to add districts to its current region, the school must submit an amendment request by August 1, 2021.
* The recruitment and retention plans that the school submits on August 1 in 2017 through 2021 must address how the school intends to increase recruitment efforts within the region specified in the school’s charter.

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alison Bagg, Director (781-338-3218); Cliff Chuang, Senior Associate Commissioner, (781-338-3222); or me.

Attachments: Charter Schools – Notification of Intended Actions

1. As noted in the October 2013 memo, [Considerations for Charter School Renewal](http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=7802), student academic achievement is of paramount importance during renewal. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Gateway does not yet have sufficient data to merit a Level determination or a percentile ranking. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Webster does not yet have sufficient data to merit a Level determination or a percentile ranking. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. All waitlist numbers are taken from the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Updated Report for 2016-2017 published in December 2016, which is based on the October 1, 2017 SIMS report. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)