**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 9:08 a.m.– 12:55 p.m.**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**75 Pleasant Street**

**Malden, MA 02148**

**Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:**

**Katherine Craven**,Chair,Brookline

**James Morton**, Vice-Chair, Boston

**Amanda** **Fernandez**,Belmont

**Matthew Hills**, Newton

**Michael Moriarty**, Holyoke

**James Peyser**,Secretary of Education

**Paymon Rouhanifard**, Brookline

**Matthew Tibbitts**, Student Advisory Council, Ludlow

**Martin West**, Newton

**Member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:**

**Mary Ann Stewart**, Lexington

**Jeffrey C. Riley**,Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Chair Craven convened the meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) at 9:08 a.m. Members introduced themselves.

Chair Craven introduced Senator Jason Lewis, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. Chair Craven thanked Senator Lewis and the Legislature for passing the Student Opportunity Act in November. Commissioner Riley added his gratitude to Senator Lewis, as Education Committee co-chair, for the key role he played in driving the legislation forward.

Senator Lewis thanked Board members for the important service they are providing to the students and schools of the Commonwealth. Senator Lewis said the Student Opportunity Act was years in the making and it took many people and perspectives to get it across the finish line. He added that the expertise of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was critical to the success of the legislative effort. In particular, he thanked Commissioner Riley, Deputy Commissioner Wulfson, and the Department’s school finance team for their invaluable assistance to the Joint Committee on Education. Senator Lewis said while it was rewarding to see Governor Baker sign the bill into law, the hard work is ahead, and it is up to all of us to support superintendents, school committees, teachers, parents, and students in using the resources to address the achievement and opportunity gaps that persist in too many of our schools. The Senator said he looks forward to continuing to work with the Board and Department on education initiatives. Chair Craven expressed appreciation to Senator Lewis for coming to speak to the Board and for all his good work.

## Public Comment

* **Tim Nicolette,** Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association, addressed the Board on charter schools
* **Dr. Cara Stillings-Candal**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of City on a Hill Charter Public School, addressed the Board on City on a Hill New Bedford – Surrender of Charter
* **Kevin T. Taylor,** Chief Executive Officer, City on a Hill New Bedford, addressed the Board on City on a Hill New Bedford – Surrender of Charter
* **Stephanie Rodriguez-Ruiz, Esq**., Education Staff Attorney, Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts, addressed the Board on City on a Hill Public Charter School Dudley Square and Circuit Street
* **Samuel Bojela**, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees, PCSS Class of 2014, addressed the Board on Pioneer Charter School of Science II, Amendment of Charter
* **Alex Palacios**, Freshman at Dean College, PCSS II Class of 2019, addressed the Board on Pioneer Charter School of Science II, Amendment of Charter
* **Rachel Romano,** Veritas Prep Executive Director, addressed the Board on Veritas Prep Charter School, Amendment of Charter
* **Shannon Langone**, Veritas Prep employee and parent, addressed the Board on Veritas Prep Charter School, Amendment of Charter
* **Targen Quamie,** parent, addressed the Board on Veritas Prep Charter School, Amendment of Charter
* **Kevin J. Dumpson**, President of the Board of Trustees, addressed the Board on Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School, Report on Probation
* **Isabelina Rodriguez**, Executive Director, addressed the Board on Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School, Report on Probation
* **Tom Gardner,** Vice President of the Board of Trustees, addressed the Board on Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School, Report on Probation
* **Matt Holzer**, Headmaster of Boston Green Academy, addressed the Board on Boston Green Academy, Report on Probation
* **Alexander Chu,** Board Chair for Boston Green Academy, addressed the Board on Boston Green Academy, Report on Probation
* **Christopher Coblyn,** Executive Director, addressed the Board on Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School, Report on Probation
* **Emily Lebo**, Quincy School Committee member, addressed the Board on Chapter 74 regulations

**Comments from Chair Craven**

Chair Craven confirmed current committee assignments for the Board, as follows:

Commissioner's Performance Evaluation Committee: Each year the performance evaluation committee reviews the performance of the Commissioner and reports publicly at the June meeting. Members are James Morton (Chair), Amanda Fernandez, Katherine Craven.

Budget Committee: The budget committee typically meets in the fall and presents its recommendation to the Board for a vote in November. Members are Matt Hills (Chair), Michael Moriarty, and Mary Ann Stewart.

Educator Diversity Committee: This committee was established in June 2019 and held its first meeting in December 2019. The committee has meetings planned for January, March, and May 2020. Members are Amanda Fernandez (Chair), Paymon Rouhanifard, and Mary Ann Stewart.

Early College Joint Committee: This committee was established by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Higher Education in 2017. Members are Chair Craven and Matt Hills.

Finally, Chair Craven noted the Board is working with the Board of Higher Education to form a committee or advisory group on Evidence-Based Policy, a topic on our Board’s agenda today. Member Marty West has agreed to chair it.

**Comments from Commissioner Riley**

Commissioner Riley said while we have much to be proud of in Massachusetts K-12 education over the last 25 years, there is still much to do to address persistent achievement gaps for students learning English, those living in poverty, students with disabilities, and other groups. The Commissioner noted that our academic process on the NAEP test has stalled for almost a decade and other states are about to overtake Massachusetts. He said he wants to sharpen our current tools to make them better and also create new tools to improve student outcomes. Commissioner Riley said today the Board will hear important information about the MCAS test, confirming that it is a sound assessment that tracks closely to life outcomes. He added this should put to rest the idea that the test lacks merit. Commissioner Riley said at the same time he is interested in finding ways to reduce testing time and psychometric drift in MCAS scores as well as exploring innovative assessments we could pilot for the future. Similarly, he said, the MTEL teacher licensing tests have a positive impact and he wants to continuously improve this tool and create high-quality options that will help bring the best educators into our classrooms.

Commissioner Riley reported on several matters. He noted the event last month honoring Margaret Hersey, an English teacher at Springfield Honors Academy, with a $25,000 Milken Educators Award. He updated the Board on the Department’s IEP improvement project and on state grants the Department has awarded, totaling $1.45 million, to support districts implementing the Language Opportunity for Our Kids (LOOK) Act. Commissioner Riley said Massachusetts has applied to the U.S. Department of Education for permission to pilot a new approach to the MCAS science assessments in grades 5 and 8, under the Innovative Assessments Demonstration Authority (IADA). The Commissioner announced he has formed an advisory committee that will discuss and advise on the Competency Determination (state high school graduation standard) for students following the transition period from the legacy MCAS tests to next-generation MCAS tests. The committee will hold its first meeting on February 3. He said he is pleased that Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria has accepted his invitation to chair the committee and Board member Marty West has agreed to serve on the committee. The Commissioner reported that the plaintiffs in the 2019 school finance case, Mussotte v. Peyser et al., have filed notice that they are withdrawing their complaint without prejudice, which speaks to the passage of the Student Opportunity Act. He said the Department will be working with the Department of Public Health on guidance for schools on health-related matters. In closing, Commissioner Riley said he anticipates the Department will send the draft of the Boston Public Schools district review report to Boston in mid-February; after that process, the Department will release the final report. The Commissioner said he has made no decisions yet on possible next steps.

Vice-Chair Morton commented that the Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership, on whose board he serves, is a collaborative approach that could be a model for Boston. Ms. Fernandez echoed the idea that collaboration is necessary to improve student outcomes and address troubling gaps. Mr. Hills said the Board knows the issues are complicated and awaits the Commissioner’s recommendation, which should be without regard to politics. Mr. Moriarty said the only people he would be willing to see embarrassed in any policy decision are the guardians of the status quo.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Secretary Peyser thanked Senator Lewis and Representative Alice Peisch, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Education, for their excellent work moving the Student Opportunity Act to the finish line. Secretary Peyser briefly reviewed education items of note from the Governor’s proposed FY2021 budget, which was submitted last week.

### Competency Determination/Evidence-Based Policy Making

**a) Brown University Study**

**b) Competency Determination Regulations (Extend Interim Passing Standard for Class of 2023)**

Chair Craven welcomed Brown University Professor John Papay, Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson, Associate Commissioner Michol Stapel, Lucy Wall, Legal Counsel, Matt Deninger, Director of Resource Allocation, Strategy and Planning, and Bob Lee, MCAS Chief Analyst.

Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said we are continuing our discussion of the Competency Determination (CD) standard and asked Chair Craven if the Board could address the “housekeeping” matter first, which is the vote on the CD regulations to extend the interim passing standard for one more year, to the class of 2023.

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with G.L. c. 69, § 1B, and having solicited public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. c.30A, § 3, hereby adopts the amendment to the Competency Determination Regulations, 603 CMR 30.00, as presented by the Commissioner.**

**The amendment extends the interim passing standard in English language arts and mathematics for one additional year, to include students in the class of 2023.**

The vote was unanimous.

Deputy Commissioner Wulfson discussed the five-year project the Department started last year with Professor Papay and his team, funded by the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education. He said Professor Papay would present some preliminary findings to the Board today and go over the findings in greater detail with the CD advisory committee that the Commissioner referred to earlier. The Deputy Commissioner added that the research project will inform the committee’s discussions and the Commissioner’s recommendation to the Board later in the year.

Professor Papay said the study, which will continue over the next five years, will address broad questions relative to the competency determination (CD) policy. He explained the preliminary findings indicating that MCAS scores reflect underlying academic skills that pay off in the labor market. He said evidence is mixed about whether students scoring at the *Meets Expectations* equivalent level of the Next-Generation MCAS are ready for college and careers. Professor Papay said the next steps in the study will focus on how changes in the CD policy have impacted the academic success of groups of historically at-risk students, and the relationship between 10th grade MCAS scores and other critical outcomes such as involvement with the criminal justice system.

Chair Craven thanked Professor Papay for his presentation and encouraged the Commissioner to communicate the research findings broadly to all stakeholders. Commissioner Riley said he expects to have a communication plan after the CD advisory committee concludes its work.

Mr. Deninger spoke about the research agenda for the Department’s Office of Planning and Research, which has 18 years of student data that can be used to answer questions about both short- and long-term outcomes. He said the Department recently acquired voter registration and participation data to be able to answer questions about civic engagement and is also pursuing data on criminal justice outcomes. In concluding, Mr. Deninger said the Department is committed to continued cooperation among state agencies, preserving and improving data quality, fostering solid relationships between government and the research community, and continuing to ask good questions.

In relation to evidence-based policy making, Chair Craven read the motion that was carried over from the agenda for the Board’s joint meeting with the Board of Higher Education in December 2019, which was cancelled due to an ice storm. Mr. West noted that the Board of Higher Education will vote on the motion at their next meeting. Secretary Peyser added this is a three-agency initiative with Early Education and Care, whose board will be considering a similar initiative, following this path together with DESE and DHE.

The context for the motion is laid out in the Commissioner’s memo to the Board: Massachusetts is acclaimed for its rich history in education dating back to the first public school and college in America and continuing today with the highest levels of achievement in K-12 and postsecondary attainment in the country. Effective policy making is important to ensure continued state leadership, particularly in promoting equitable opportunities and outcomes for underserved students.

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: Therefore, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) hereby resolves to make a broad-based commitment to collect, review, and act on high-quality evidence to inform ongoing and new initiatives intended to strengthen K-12 education in Massachusetts. The BESE, through its department (DESE), working with schools, districts, and other partners from early education through workforce and beyond, will collect, integrate, and analyze the data needed to understand the students and adults served by our systems, their needs, and the impact of various policies and initiatives. This commitment also includes proactively designing and testing new initiatives to continually build and refine the evidence-based set of policies supporting postsecondary success across the Commonwealth. Finally, the BESE commitment reflects that data about learners and best practices will be securely held, readily available, and user-friendly, with an explicit emphasis on responsible and accountable data sharing with stakeholders, including end-users in our schools and institutions, research partners, and more broadly with the students, families, and communities that we serve.**

The vote was unanimous.

Chair Craven announced a brief break at 11:20 a.m. and said when the Board reconvenes it would move to the charter school items on the agenda. The Board reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

**Charter Schools**

Senior Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang, Alison Bagg, Director, and Brenton Stewart, Coordinator of School Redesign and Impact, provided an overview and discussed the recommendation of the Commissioner for each of the charter school items on the agenda.

Mr. Moriarty commended the message that the leadership of the City on a Hill Charter Public School New Bedford expressed to the Board today, adding that the decision of the school’s board is in the best interest of the students and the community. Commissioner Riley concurred.

**a) City on a Hill Charter Public Schools**

* **City on a Hill Charter Public School New Bedford: Surrender of Charter**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89; General Laws chapter 30A, section 13; and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby accepts the surrender of the public school charter granted to the City on a Hill Charter Public School New Bedford, effective July 1, 2020.**

**The Board of Trustees of City on a Hill Charter Public School New Bedford shall comply with all procedures and timelines established by the Commissioner to effectuate surrender of the school’s charter, transfer of students into other schools, and an orderly closure of the City on a Hill Charter Public School New Bedford.**

The vote was unanimous.

* **Update on City on a Hill Charter Public Schools: Dudley Square and Circuit Street**

Ms. Bagg informed the Board that the board of trustees voted to change the configuration of the two charter schools in Boston to increase efficiency and decrease spending. She said the school intends to submit a consolidation request to the Department later this month. Ms. Bagg explained that the Department is working with the school regarding its amendment request to consolidate the two charters and expects to bring the request, along with the renewal application of CoaH CS, to the Board for consideration at the Board’s February meeting.

**b) Amendments of Charters**

* **Boston Day and Evening Academy Charter School (a Horace Mann charter school)**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby amends the charter granted to the following school, as presented by the Commissioner:**

**Boston Day and Evening Academy Charter School (maximum enrollment increase from 405 to 505)**

**Location: Boston**

**Maximum Enrollment: 505**

**Grades Served: 9-12**

**Effective School Year: FY2021**

**Boston Day and Evening Academy Charter School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 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 of Elementary and Secondary Education may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.**

The vote was unanimous.

* **Pioneer Charter School of Science II**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby amends the charter granted to the following school, as presented by the Commissioner:**

**Pioneer Charter School of Science II (grades served changed from 7-12 to K-12; maximum enrollment increase from 360 to 858)**

**Location: Saugus**

**Districts in Region: Danvers, Lynn, Peabody, Salem, and Saugus**

**Maximum Enrollment: 858, with a limit of 8 from Salem and 130 from Saugus**

**Grades Served: K-12**

**Effective School Year: FY2022**

**Pioneer Charter School of Science-II shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 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 of Elementary and Secondary Education may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.**

The vote was unanimous.

* **Veritas Preparatory Charter School**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby amends the charter granted to the following school, as presented by the Commissioner:**

**Veritas Preparatory Charter School (grades served changed from 5-8 to 5-12; maximum enrollment increase from 432 to 766)**

**Location: Springfield**

**Maximum Enrollment: 766**

**Grades Served: 5-12**

**Effective School Year: FY2023**

**Veritas Preparatory Charter School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 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 of Elementary and Secondary Education may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.**

The vote was unanimous.

**c) Reports on Probation**

* **Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School**

Mr. Rouhanifard said he is sympathetic to the request from the Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School headmaster and board chair for conditions without probation. Mr. West and Ms. Fernandez asked for clarification. Ms. Bagg and Mr. Chuang explained that putting the school on probation is a signal of concern; six years in, the school should be doing better, and the focus should be on improvement. Mr. Hills said he is uncomfortable changing the Commissioner’s recommendation. Commissioner Riley, while noting the school has made some progress, advised the Board to be consistent. Mr. Moriarty said he respects the school’s work and we need to see more of it. Secretary Peyser said the extension of probation would not prejudice the future decision on renewal of the school’s charter.

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**MOVED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby extends probation for one year, removes the conditions imposed with the previous probation, and imposes a new set of conditions on the school’s charter as recommended by the Commissioner.**

1. **Until further notice, Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School must submit to the Department, at charterschools@doe.mass.edu, board meeting agendas, materials, and minutes prior to each board meeting at the same time that these items are sent to the school's board members. Additionally, if board materials do not already include this information, the school must also submit monthly financial statements.**
2. **The school must maintain the established escrow account to pay for any potential closing, legal, and audit expenses associated with closure, should that occur.**
3. **By December 31, 2020, the school must demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.**

**Failure of Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School to meet the conditions placed on its charter may result in immediate suspension and revocation of the school’s charter. The Commissioner shall review and report to the Board on the success or lack of success of Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School in meeting the terms of probation and its charter and, based upon his review, shall recommend such further action as he deems appropriate.**

**Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 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 of Elementary and Secondary Education may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.**

The vote was 8-1. Ms. Fernandez voted in opposition.

* **Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.12(2) and 603 CMR 1.12(1), hereby removes probation and the conditions imposed in connection with probation, but imposes a new set of conditions on the school’s charter as recommended by the Commissioner.**

1. **Until further notice, Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School must submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at charterschools@doe.mass.edu or 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA 02148, board and committee meeting agendas, materials, and minutes prior to each board meeting at the same time that these items are sent to the school’s board members. Additionally, if board materials do not already include this information, the school must also submit monthly financial statements. The documents must reflect adherence to the Open Meeting Law.**
2. **By June 30, 2020, membership of the school’s board of trustees must comply with the school’s bylaws related to total number of voting members.**

**3. By December 31, 2021, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence of significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.**

**In addition to meeting the terms of conditions, Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School, like all charter schools, must comply with the terms of its charter. Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 89, 603 CMR 1.00, and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter. Failure of Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School to meet the conditions within the timelines specified may result in the imposition of probation or other sanctions.**

The vote was unanimous.

* **Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**MOVED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby extends probation, removes the conditions imposed with the previous probation, and imposes a new set of conditions on the school’s charter as recommended by the Commissioner.**

1. **Until further notice, Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School must submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at charterschools@doe.mass.edu or 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA, 02148, board and committee meeting agendas, materials, and minutes prior to each board meeting at the same time that these items are sent to the school’s board members. The documents must reflect adherence to the Open Meeting Law. Additionally, if board materials do not already include this information, the school must also submit monthly financial statements including, but not limited to, statement of revenues and expenses, a balance sheet, bank account statements, and a cash flow statement including actual and projected revenues and expenses.**
2. **Until further notice, the school must submit weekly enrollment updates to the Department.**
3. **The school must maintain the current escrow account to pay for any potential closing, legal, and audit expenses associated with closure, should that occur.**
4. **By December 31, 2021, the school demonstrate a significant and sustained reduction in its chronic absenteeism rate.**

**5. By December 31, 2021, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in English language arts, mathematics, and science.**

**Failure of Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School to meet the conditions placed on its charter may result in immediate suspension and revocation of the school’s charter. The Commissioner shall review and report to the Board on the success or lack of success of Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School in meeting the terms of probation and its charter and, based upon his review, shall recommend such further action as he deems appropriate.**

**Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 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 of Elementary and Secondary Education may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting and the November 21, 2019 Board retreat.**

The vote was unanimous.

Chair Craven left the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and Vice-Chair Morton took over the gavel.

**Proposed Amendment to Educator Licensure Regulations (Pilot Alternative Assessment for**

**Licensure)**

Commissioner Riley introduced the discussion, stating the MTEL is valid and he wants to maintain a robust system and explore the potential of alternative pathways through a pilot program. Senior Associate Commissioner Heather Peske said the goal is to have excellent, effective teachers join the profession. She and Meagan Comb, Director for Educator Effectiveness, summarized the background and context, the proposed regulatory amendment, potential pilot alternatives, and next steps, including seeking public comment on the proposal. They responded to questions from Board members.

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 69, § 1B, and c. 71, § 38G, hereby authorizes the Commissioner to proceed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c.30A, § 3, to solicit public comment on the proposed amendment to the Regulations on Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, 603 CMR 7.00, as presented by the Commissioner. The proposed amendment would add 603 CMR 7.04(2)(e), creating opportunities to pilot and learn from alternative assessments for educator licensure.**

The vote was unanimous.

### Student Opportunity Act: Update and Next Steps

Commissioner Riley provided an overview of how the new infusion of funds provided by the Student Opportunity Act will be used to support the act’s goals. He explained that each district is required to develop and submit, for the Commissioner’s review, a three-year plan setting forth goals and measurable standards for student improvement and outlining the evidence-based practices the district will implement or expand to address persistent disparities in student achievement. He added these plans are to make sure the dollars are spent well and improve student outcomes. Commissioner Riley laid out the four statutory requirements for district plans, the Department’s approach and guiding principles for the district plans, and a timeline of key dates from January to June 2020. Commissioner Riley said the Department will soon release templates and guidance documents for district plans and will schedule webinars for school superintendents. Secretary Peyser said the approach makes sense and we need to recognize this will be an iterative process, not a single event.

**State Budget Update**

Senior Associate Commissioner/CFO Bill Bell, Budget Director Julia Jou, and Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson provided an overview of House 1, the FY2021 budget recommendation filed by Governor Baker for the upcoming fiscal year. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson highlighted changes in the foundation budget formula and increases relating to Chapter 70 and the Student Opportunity Act.

In closing, Commissioner Riley informed the Board that Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson has announced he will be retiring from the Department in April 2020. Commissioner Riley said Mr. Wulfson has done a great deal over the years, often behind the scenes, to strengthen education for the state and for the students of Massachusetts. Board members applauded Deputy Commissioner Wulfson.

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

and Secretary to the Board