*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | May 18, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the May 26, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Meeting by Remote Participation) |

The next regular meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be on **Tuesday, May 26, 2020**. Members will be participating remotely, in light of the ongoing pandemic and Governor Baker’s emergency [order](https://41g41s33vxdd2vc05w415s1e-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OpenMtgLaw_ExecOrder_Mar32020.pdf) of March 12, 2020, modifying the Open Meeting Law. The meeting will start at **2:00 p.m.** and should adjourn by **4:00 p.m.** Helene Bettencourt and Courtney Sullivan will assist with all arrangements for our virtual meeting; please email or call them if you have any questions.

**OVERVIEW**

Our agenda leads off with an update on actions the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is taking to support schools, students, and families during the current state of emergency. Other agenda items include a presentation by Takeru Nagayoshi, 2020 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year; discussion and vote on proposed modifications to the science component of the competency determination for certain high school students due to the emergency: an education budget update; final action on the regulations on district plans under the Student Opportunity Act; and initial review of the proposed FY2021 Board meeting schedule.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

**Comments from the Commissioner**

**Comments from the Secretary**

**Approval of the Minutes of the April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **Update on COVID-19 Action Steps to Support Schools, Students, and Families – Discussion**

The public health emergency continues to dominate our lives and our work. The Department is continuing to work energetically with the Administration, the Legislature, and education stakeholders to support schools, students, and families through this crisis. Under Tab 1 are some of the guidance documents and resources that we have produced and disseminated widely in the past several weeks, including the testimony I presented to the Joint Committee on Education at its May 13 oversight hearing on K-12 education. At our meeting on May 26, I will review key actions the Department has taken, update you on new information, and answer your questions. Other members of our senior leadership team will join the discussion.

1. **2020 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, Takeru Nagayoshi – Presentation and Discussion**

The Board will hear from Massachusetts 2020 Teacher of the Year Takeru Nagayoshi, an English and research teacher at New Bedford High School. When Mr. Nagayoshi was named Teacher of the Year a year ago, he did not expect his term would include remote learning. He will share his experiences with teaching and learning remotely and talk about what he has heard from other educators. More information about Mr. Nagayoshi and the Teacher of the Year program is at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/amazingeducators/toy/>.

1. **High School MCAS Testing Plans and Proposed Modifications to Competency Determination Requirement Due to COVID-19 Emergency – Discussion and Vote**

Last month the Board voted to approve modified competency determination (CD) requirements for the class of 2020, this year’s high school seniors. At our meeting on May 26, I will update the Board on our plans for the classes of 2021-2023 and present my recommendations for the CD requirements in science and technology/engineering for those classes.

1. **Update on Education Budget Matters – Discussion**

Senior Associate Commissioner/CFO Bill Bell will brief the Board on the latest information we have about federal and state funding for K-12 education.

1. **Student Opportunity Act: Regulations on District Plans, 603 CMR 55.00 – Discussion and Vote to Adopt Permanent Regulations**

In February, the Board voted to adopt regulations on Student Opportunity Act district plans and did so on an emergency basis because of the tight statutory timeline requiring districts to submit plans by April 1. To date, approximately 90 districts have submitted their district plans. Under special legislation giving me authority to extend the submission date, I have set June 19, 2020, as the new due date for the remaining plans.

We solicited public comment on the regulations and received only one: a statement of support from Rep. Alice Peisch, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. I recommend that the Board vote on May 26 to make the regulations permanent. Senior Associate Commissioner Russell Johnston, Associate Commissioner Dan Anderson, and Deputy General Counsel Deb Steenland will be available to answer your questions.

1. **Proposed Schedule for Regular Board Meetings through June 2021 - Discussion**

Enclosed for your review is a list of proposed Board meeting dates for the upcoming school year. The Board will vote on the schedule at the June meeting.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. **Report on Grants Approved by the Commissioner**

I am presenting information on grants that I have approved since our last meeting, under the authority the Board has delegated to the Commissioner.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you – virtually – on May 26.