*****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:** | 2020 Massachusetts Teacher of Year Presentation to Board |

On May 15, 2019, Takeru Nagayoshi, an English teacher at New Bedford High School, was named the 2020 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Mr. Nagayoshi is the state's 58th recipient of this award and automatically became the state's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year program. The Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program is the state's top award for educators and annually recognizes excellence in teaching across the Commonwealth by selecting a teacher who exemplifies the dedication, commitment and positive contributions of educators statewide

Takeru Nagayoshi has spent the last five years teaching English and research at New Bedford High School. He specializes in teaching Advanced Placement courses such as AP Seminar and AP Literature within the school's Academy of Honors, and more than 92 percent of his students passed the AP Seminar exam in 2017 and 2018. A son of immigrants and LGBT teacher of color for an urban public school, Takeru believes in using his personal perspectives to advocate for education equity, social justice, and community-based education reforms. In his classes, he combines high expectations with compassion and radical empathy. He does not take students' wellbeing or family resources for granted and tries to ensure his assignments and extra help sessions are accessible.

Outside of school, Takeru has collaborated with Teach for America and Leadership for Educational Equity to launch the Southern New England Alumni Leaders Initiative, an educator development program for TFA alumni and friends. He has also participated in numerous fellowships, including DESE's InSPIRED Fellowship and those offered by Teach Plus and by Harvard Graduate School of Education's Education Redesign Lab.

Mr. Nagayoshi is a winner of the Sontag Prize in Urban Education. He graduated magna cum laude from Brown University with a bachelor's degree in international relations and received his master's degree in education from Boston University.

At our meeting on May 26th, Mr. Nagayoshi will make a presentation to the Board sharing his teaching philosophy and classroom experiences.