*****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:** | September 18, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Conditions Amended for Five Charter Schools |

At its meeting in February 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) authorized 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 June 19, 2020, I notified the Board that I intended to amend conditions on the charters of five charter schools: Argosy Collegiate Charter School (ACCS), Baystate Academy Charter School (BACPS), Boston Renaissance Charter School (BRCPS), Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter School (HYD), and SABIS International Charter School (SICS). 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 taken these actions. Summary information regarding all five schools is provided in this memorandum. 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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| **Argosy Collegiate Charter School** | | | |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Fall River |
| **Regional or Non-**  **Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Maximum**  **Enrollment** | 644 | **Chartered Grade**  **Span** | 6-12 |

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

1. 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 mathematics, English language arts, and science.

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| **Baystate Academy Charter Public School** | | | |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non**  **Regional** | Non-regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Maximum**  **Enrollment** | 560 | **Chartered Grade**  **Span** | 6-12 |

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

1. By December 31, 2022, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

| **Boston Renaissance Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 944 | **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-6 |

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

1. By December 31, 2023, Boston Renaissance Charter Public School must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2023, the Commissioner and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2023.
2. Until further notice, Boston Renaissance Charter Public School must submit on a quarterly basis to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at [charterschools@doe.mass.edu](mailto:charterschools@doe.mass.edu) or 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA, 02148, board and committee meeting materials and minutes documenting the board’s efforts to ensure that the school is an academic success.

| **Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 216 | **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-8 |

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

1. Until further notice, HYD must submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at [charterschools@doe.mass.edu](mailto:charterschools@doe.mass.edu) or 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA 02148, board and committeemeeting 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 February 28, 2021, 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, 2022, 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.

| **SABIS International Charter School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 1,574 | **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 |

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

1. By December 31, 2023, SABIS International Charter School must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science for students in grades 3 through 8. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2023, the Commissioner and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2023.
2. By June 1, 2020, the board of trustees of SABIS International Charter School must submit to the Department for review a final draft of the board’s bylaws and its proposed contract with Springfield Education Management for FY2021-2025. All proposed changes must align with published Department guidance and ensure the autonomy and authority of the school’s board of trustees.

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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.

Attachment: Renewal of Charters – Notification of Intended Actions (June 19, 2020)