*****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:** | October 9, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the October 20, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |

The next regular meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) will be on **Tuesday, October 20, 2020**, at the Department ofElementary and Secondary Education’s office in Malden. The meeting will start at **9:00 a.m.** and should adjourn by **12 noon.** As in September, the Board will meet in person, following the Commonwealth’s health and safety guidelines, including limiting the number of people in our meeting room. As always, the meeting will be live-streamed. Helene Bettencourt and Courtney Sullivan will assist with all arrangements; please email or call them if you have any questions.

**OVERVIEW**

Our business agenda leads off with the announcement of the 2021 Teacher of the Year, followed by a report on the Department’s Language Interpretation Services Project that will include a presentation by new Holyoke Public Schools Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vázquez Matos. The Board will hear from the principal of Uxbridge High School, Michael Rubin, in connection with Massachusetts STEM Week. I will report on actions the Department has taken over the past month to support schools, students, and families during the pandemic and school reopening. I will present my goals for the 2020-2021 school year. The Board will take final action on an amendment to the Educator Licensure regulations, creating a pilot alternative assessment for licensure candidates. Our business agenda concludes with an update on education budget matters.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

**Comments from the Commissioner**

**Comments from the Secretary**

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the September 29, 2020 Regular Meeting**

The Board will vote on approval of the minutes of the September meeting.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **2021 Teacher of the Year Announcement – Discussion**

Each year, the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year program honors a Massachusetts teacher who exemplifies excellent teaching in the Commonwealth. I look forward to announcing the 2021 Teacher of the Year at our October 20 meeting and introducing the individual to the Board.

1. **Language Interpretation Services Project – Discussion**

The Department has launched a Language Interpretation Services Project with 20 districts to support them in engaging and communicating with limited-English proficient (LEP) families. At the Board meeting, Senior Associate Commissioner Russell Johnston and Lauren Woo, Director of the Office of Strategic Transformation, will provide an overview of the project. They will be joined by Dr. Alberto Vázquez Matos, Receiver/Superintendent of Holyoke Public Schools (HPS), and Nicholas Magnolia, coordinator of HPS interpretation and translation services, who will highlight the district’s ongoing work to provide interpretation and translation services to LEP families and foster two-way, culturally responsive communication.

1. **STEM Week: Uxbridge High School Presentation – Discussion**

The third annual Massachusetts STEM Week will take place from Monday, October 19 through Friday, October 23 through a mix of virtual and in-person events, lessons, speaker panels, and design challenges. Teachers and employers are encouraged to develop new and creative ways to host STEM Week events to highlight opportunities that exist in science, technology, engineering, and math. At our October 20 meeting, Michael Rubin, principal of Uxbridge High School and the 2020 Massachusetts High School Principal of the Year, will provide an overview of STEM programming at Uxbridge HighSchool and events underway to celebrate STEM Week.

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

The Department is continuing to work energetically with the Administration, the Legislature, and education stakeholders to support schools, students, and families with school reopening, consistent with the standards and guidance we have issued on education, health, and safety. At our meeting on October 20, I will update you on our efforts and answer your questions. Other members of our senior leadership team will join the discussion.

1. **Commissioner Riley’s Goals for 2020-2021****– Discussion**

I have outlined key goals that will guide my work, and the work of the Department, in 2020-2021. I look forward to discussing my goals with the Board.

1. **Amendment to Educator Licensure Regulations, 603 CMR 7.00 (Pilot Alternative Assessment for Licensure) – Discussion and Vote**

In January 2020, the Board voted to send out for public comment a proposed amendment to the Educator Licensure regulations, creating a pilot alternative assessment for licensure candidates. The Department has reviewed the public comments and they are included with the memo under Tab 6. I recommend that the Board vote to adopt the proposed amendment with one change relating to the timeline for the pilot. Senior Associate Commissioner Health Peske and Meagan Comb, Director of Educator Effectiveness, will be at the meeting to answer your questions.

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

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

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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

Enclosed is information on grants I have approved since the 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 in person on October 20.