*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

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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:** | December 13, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, December 20, 2022**, at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden. The meeting will start at **9:00 a.m.** and should adjourn by **2:30 p.m.,** with a luncheon break from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The Board will meet in person, following the Commonwealth’s current health and safety guidelines, and the meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. 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 an update on gifted and talented education. Second, we will discuss the goal setting process for the district and school accountability system under federal law and the state Student Opportunity Act. The third item on the agenda is an initial review of proposed amendments to the regulations on Commonwealth of Massachusetts virtual schools, and a vote to solicit public comment on the proposed changes. The final item is an update on the Southbridge Public Schools receivership, presented by Superintendent/Receiver Jeffrey Villar.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Craven will report on current issues and activities. She will invite committee chairs Matt Hills (Commissioner’s Performance Evaluation Committee) and Michael Moriarty (Early Literacy Committee) to update the Board.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

**Comments from the Secretary**

**Statements from the Public**

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **Gifted and Talented Education – Discussion**

As requested by the Board, I will present an update on the Department’s ongoing work to support education of gifted and talented students. I have invited a number of representatives to join the presentation and engage in discussion with the Board.

1. **Goal Setting Process for Accountability System and Student Opportunity Act –Discussion**

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires states to set targets at the state, district, school, and student-group level for purposes of annual accountability reporting. Similarly, the Massachusetts Student Opportunity Act requires the Commissioner to establish statewide targets to address disparities in achievement among student subgroups and requires districts to set district-level targets consistent with those established by the state. At our meeting on December 20, we will discuss how we can set ambitious and attainable targets that reflect a path to academic recovery for each district, school, and student group. Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability and Associate Commissioner Erica Gonzales will join us for the discussion.

1. **Proposed Amendments to Regulations on Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools, 603 CMR 52.00 – Initial Discussion and Vote to Solicit Public Comment**

I will present proposed amendments to 603 CMR 52.00, the regulations for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools, for initial discussion and a vote to solicit public comment. The Board adopted the regulations in 2014 and the proposed amendments would update them to reflect changes in the statute and clarify certain provisions. Following the public comment period, the Board will take a final vote on the regulations in the spring of 2023. The memorandum in your materials provides details. I recommend that the Board vote on December 20 to solicit public comment on the proposed amendments. Members of our Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign will be at the meeting to answer your questions.

1. **Receivership School Districts Update: Southbridge Public Schools – Presentation by Supt./Receiver Jeffrey Villar and Discussion**

To keep the Board well informed about the progress being made by schools and districts in state receivership, I will provide regular updates during this school year, starting with the Southbridge Public Schools this month. Southbridge Public Schools Superintendent/Receiver Jeffrey Villar and Deputy Commissioner Russell Johnston will present to the Board and respond to your questions.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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

Enclosed is information on grants I have approved since the November meeting under the authority the Board has delegated to the Commissioner.

1. **SOA Data Advisory Commission Report**

The Student Opportunity Act established a [Data Advisory Commission](https://www.doe.mass.edu/soa/commission/default.html) to assist the Department in identifying, analyzing and making recommendations on high-impact, cost-effective data strategies for assessing student needs and addressing persistent disparities in achievement. The advisory commission’s 2022 annual report is enclosed for your information and will be posted on the Department’s website.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on December 20.