*****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:**  | February 22, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the February 27, 2023 Special Meeting and the February 28, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will hold its **regular meeting** on **Tuesday, February 28, 2023**, at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden. The meeting will start at **9:00 a.m.** and should adjourn by **1:00 p.m**. The Board will meet in person, following the Commonwealth’s current health and safety guidelines, and the meeting will be livestreamed and recorded. In case of inclement weather, the regular meeting will be held by remote participation via Zoom. The Board also will hold a **special meeting** on **Monday, February 27, 2023**, by remote participation via Zoom. The special meeting will start at **5:00 p.m.** and should adjourn by **7:00 p.m**. Helene Bettencourt and Courtney Sullivan will assist with all arrangements; please email or call them if you have any questions.

**OVERVIEW**

The topic for our Monday evening special meeting is an initial discussion on my recommendation for a new charter school. No votes will be taken at the special meeting. Our business agenda for the regular meeting on Tuesday leads off with a continued discussion and vote on the proposed new charter school, followed by discussion and vote on a charter school amendment request. We will have an update on the Boston Public Schools, with a presentation from EY-Parthenon. The final item on our business agenda is a discussion and vote on amendments to the educator licensure regulations.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

By statute, the Board grants charters for new charter schools in February. I am recommending that the Board vote on February 28 to grant a charter to the proposed Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School (WCACPS). The Board received information about the charter application in January. The enclosed memorandum and accompanying materials summarize the application review process and provide details about the proposed school. At the special meeting on February 27, Board members will have the opportunity for an initial discussion of the proposal. Cliff Chuang, Senior Associate Commissioner; Alison Bagg, Director of the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign; and Alyssa Hopkins, Assistant Director, will be at the meeting to respond to your questions. No votes will be taken at the special meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

**Comments from the Secretary**

**Comments from the Commissioner**

Chair Craven, Secretary Tutwiler, and I will update the Board on current issues and activities.

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the January 24, 2023 Regular Meeting**

The Board will vote on approval of the minutes.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **Charter Schools: Recommendation for New Charter School – Discussion and Vote**

Based upon the criteria for approval and for the reasons discussed in the enclosed memorandum, I recommend that the Board vote to grant a charter to the proposed Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School. The Board held a public hearing on December 9 in Worcester, where the charter school proposes to locate. Vice Chair Matt Hills and members Mary Ann Stewart and Michael Moriarty attended the hearing, and Chair Craven will ask them to report on it at our meeting. Cliff Chuang, Senior Associate Commissioner; Alison Bagg, Director of the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign; and Alyssa Hopkins, Assistant Director, will be available to assist with the discussion of this item as well as item 2, below.

1. **Charter Schools: Amendment Request for Map Academy Charter School (Charter** **Region) –** **Discussion and Vote**

Pursuant to the charter school regulations, the Board must approve certain changes in the material terms of a school’s charter. I recommend that the Board approve the request of Map Academy Charter School in Plymouth to amend its charter region. The enclosed memorandum provides details.

1. **Boston Public Schools Update: EY Parthenon Report –Discussion**

Staff from DESE and EY-Parthenon will present findings from EY-Parthenon’s assessment of the Boston Public School district’s data systems, including recommendations for improved data quality practices. The enclosed memorandum provides background information. Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability, will join us for the discussion.

1. **Amendments to Educator Licensure Regulations, 603 CMR 7.00 – Discussion and Vote**

In October, the Board voted to solicit public comment on proposed amendments to the educator licensure regulations. The amendments and comments are summarized in the enclosed memorandum. I recommend that the Board vote to adopt the amendments with a few modifications based on the public comments. Brian Devine, Director of Licensure; Claire Abbott, Director of Educator Effectiveness; Liz Losee, Director of Educator Effectiveness Policy; and Lucy Wall of our legal staff will be at the meeting to answer questions

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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

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

1. **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Annual Report for FY2022**

The Board’s annual report highlights key activities and initiatives of the Board and Department for Fiscal Year 2022. The report is posted on our website at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/annual/>. As we do each year, we will inform the Governor, the Legislature, and education stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth about the annual report.

1. **Legislative Report: Education-Related Laws Enacted in 192nd Legislative Session**

This report lists and summarizes education-related state laws that were enacted in the recently concluded two-year 192nd legislative session (2021-2022).

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on February 27 and 28.