**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the Massachusetts Board of Education**

**December 18, 2007**

**9:15 a.m. – 12:12 p.m.**

**Massachusetts Department of Education**

**350 Main Street**

**Malden, Massachusetts**

Members of the Board of Education Present:

**Paul Reville**, Chairman, Worcester

**Ann J. Reale**, Vice Chair, Commissioner of Early Education and Care, Boston

**Christopher R. Anderson**, Westford

**Harneen Chernow**, Jamaica Plain

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Clantha McCurdy** (for Patricia Plummer, Chancellor of Higher Education)

**Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Zachary Tsetsos**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Oxford

**Jeffrey Nellhaus**, Acting Commissioner of Education, Secretary to the Board

Chairman Paul Reville called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

# Comments from the Chairman

Chairman Paul Reville provided an update on the search for a new commissioner of education. The chairman said that once the Board concludes its interviews with the last of the 8 semi-finalist candidates later today, it would announce the finalists within 24 hours. The Board would then conduct a variety of background checks on the finalists in preparation for public interviews to take place on Monday, January 7, 2008 at the Omni Parker House in Boston. The chairman said that the Board hopes to announce the appointment of a new commissioner no later than its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

The chairman reported that the Board’s Ad Hoc Committee on Public Comment has reviewed how the Board entertains public comment at its regular meetings. The Board’s new policy on public comment, developed by Ad Hoc Committee members Ruth Kaplan and Thomas Fortmann, clarifies the process for people who wish to address the Board. It will be posted on the [Board’s website](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/boedate.html). Board member Kaplan thanked Board member Fortmann and Department staff who contributed to the process, and said that this effort demonstrates that the Board values public comment.

The chairman said that following the Board’s vote in November declaring Randolph Public Schools to be an underperforming district, the Department’s in-depth review of the district is well underway. The chairman also extended an apology to Randolph, on behalf of the Board, the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA), and the Commonwealth, for an inaccurate statement made at the November 27, 2007 meeting by EQA Executive Director Joseph Rappa concerning chargebacks related to the regional vocational system.

The chairman said that there is a need for deeper, more reflective sessions to consider many of the momentous issues facing the Board. Accordingly, in the future, the Board will likely convene longer meetings to give in-depth attention to many of those key issues.

The chairman said that Rick Weissbourd, a lecturer on education at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education and Kennedy School of Government, has offered to follow up his presentation on Support for Students at the October 30, 2007 Board meeting by convening a group to offer advice to the Board. The chairman said that Board member Ann Reale will also participate in this endeavor.

# Comments from the Acting Commissioner

Acting Commissioner Jeffrey Nellhaus said that in response to the U.S. Department of Education’s recent announcement of the expansion of its growth model pilot project under the No Child Left Behind Act, the Massachusetts Department of Education is preparing to submit a proposal. He said that proposals are due in early February. The Acting Commissioner said that adding growth to the Department’s existing index and improvement factors would add another level of complexity. The Acting Commissioner said that he would bring the Department’s growth model proposal to the Board in January, along with the new graduation rate standard for making 2008 AYP determinations. Chairman Reville commended the Department for pursuing the growth model approach for determining schools’ progress in improving student performance.

# Special Commission on After-School and Out-of-School Time

Chairman Reville welcomed state Senator Thomas McGee and state Representative Marie St. Fleur, the co-chairs of the Special Commission on After-School and Out-of-School Time. Senator McGee presented the findings of the Special Commission’s report, “Our Common Wealth: Building a Future for Our Children and Youth.” He thanked the 36-member Special Commission, which included Board member Ann Reale and Carole Thomson of the Department. Senator McGee said the 1.3 million children and youth in Massachusetts spend only about 20 percent of their waking time in school, versus 80 percent (or 4,000 hours annually) outside of school. The Special Commission has identified major service gaps and recommends creating a unified network to support children and youth in after-school and out-of-school time.

Representative St. Fleur said that she was pleased to have the opportunity to present the findings of the Special Commission. Representative St. Fleur said that high quality after-school and out-of-school time programs are an important part of education reform. She emphasized that public-private partnerships are critical to this work, and that the state can help partners leverage resources.

Senator McGee said that the Special Commission held 10 public hearings around the state, which were attended by nearly 500 people. He said commission members visited 10 different after-school programs. In addition, outside research was conducted and five full commission meetings were convened. The Senator said that only 20 percent of children currently participate in after-school activities.

Senator McGee and Representative St. Fleur reviewed the Special Commission’s recommendations, which include: (1) increasing public awareness; (2) providing information and increasing access; (3) promoting quality programs and a quality workforce; (4) fostering partnerships and collaborations; and (5) sustaining the effort. The Special Commission’s report is available at: <http://www.massafterschoolcomm.org/>. Representative St. Fleur said that it is important to define the qualities of good after-school time and to make sure that adults have the critical skills required to support children.

Chairman Reville thanked the co-chairs for their leadership in this area. The chairman said that the Board is focused deeply on achievement gaps and their persistence, and the notion that schools can solve this issue with only 15-20% of a child’s time is unrealistic. The chairman said that the Board has launched an effort around support for students, is focusing on time (expanded learning time; after-school and out-of-school time), and given the stressful budgetary circumstances faced by the state and districts, is examining how to make this work systematically.

Chairman Reville asked the co-chairs what the most immediate implications of their work were for the K-12 system. Representative St. Fleur said that while a dialogue has begun between K-12 and the after-school and out-of-school community, the conversation needs to be formalized. She said that charter schools and community schools have been doing expanded time for years, and much can be learned from talking to them. She said that the state must create incentives so that collaboration is heightened.

The chairman remarked that additional time alone is not enough – quality makes all the difference. Senator McGee said that challenges include how to get things into kids’ lives that need to be there, such as physical education, and how to create a public will for discussion on how kids learn.

Board member Christopher Anderson asked the co-chairs how they would address the fact that after-school programs may bump into a competitive environment with expanded learning time, and noted that transportation would be a huge obstacle. Senator McGee said that expanded learning time is happening because of the recognition that these are important issues. The Senator acknowledged there is some conflict between the two initiatives, but that the larger theme found by the Special Commission was the focus on creating opportunities for young people. Representative St. Fleur said that the strain is caused by the availability of resources and how those resources are used. She said it was important to define best models.

Board member Kaplan asked about any opportunities to hold a broader summit that encompasses both initiatives. Senator McGee noted a recommendation that an advisory council be formed to allow everyone to be brought to the table.

Board member Harneen Chernow said that she was struck by what a maze the current system is, and asked who would coordinate this initiative. Senator McGee said that the co-chairs were struggling with that issue now and were hesitant to create another bureaucracy. Representative St. Fleur said there must be an advocacy model that remains in place after the work of the special commission is done.

Board member Fortmann said that positive, caring relationships with young people matter, and where schools have made a dent in the achievement gap, the power of relationships is always evident.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the November 27, 2007 regular meeting.**

The vote was unanimous.

# Commissioner’s Recommendations on 10 Underperforming Schools

Acting Commissioner Nellhaus recommended that six schools be designated as Priority 1 / chronically underperforming, and four schools remain in Commonwealth Priority Schools / underperforming status. Associate Commissioner Juliane Dow said that the four schools that the Acting Commissioner is recommending stay in underperforming status have made some gains, but those results have been mixed. She said that the Department remains optimistic that in another year, those schools can move out of underperforming status.

Associate Commissioner Dow said that the Acting Commissioner’s recommendation is to recognize the six remaining schools as in a chronic state of underperformance. This would mean those schools receive top priority status for assistance and support from the state.

Chairman Reville invited three superintendents – Eduardo Carballo (Holyoke), Wilfredo Laboy (Lawrence), and Joseph Burke (Springfield) – to address the Board.

Superintendent Carballo introduced John J. Lynch Middle School Principal Paul Hyry. Superintendent Carballo and Principal Hyry reviewed the Lynch School’s efforts to build a distributed leadership structure and to implement both district and school-specific initiatives. Principal Hyry said that school initiatives have included time and learning, math and literacy, English language development work, work on school culture, and a four day, 2 ½ hour per day after school program through a 21st Century grant. Principal Hyry said among the school’s challenges is that his student population has seen rapid growth in the number of English language learners, early-stage English language learners, students with disabilities, and English language learners with disabilities. He said that high student mobility is another challenge. One in 10 students is designated as homeless. The school has launched an intensive professional development initiative and has developed a clear vision for the next two years.

Superintendent Laboy noted that the Board had released Arlington Elementary School from underperforming status at its November 27, 2007 meeting. The superintendent discussed changes at Arlington Middle School, which has hired a new principal and moved to a vertical house structure. Arlington Middle had made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the aggregate and subgroups for English language arts in 2006, and for mathematics in the aggregate, before failing to meet AYP in 2007 in all areas. The superintendent said that one of the biggest challenges facing the school has been staff turnover. Student mobility has also been a challenge. The percentage of students with disabilities has grown to 22%, and a large number of students entering the school have IEPs. According to the superintendent, 90% of the students in Lawrence have Spanish as the primary language spoken at home, the highest concentration of such students in any school district east of Texas.

Superintendent Burke said that ownership, responsibility, and accountability are the context for the reform efforts in the four Springfield schools. The superintendent said that Gerena and Homer St. Schools have both demonstrated steady progress, and asked the Board to consider not placing them in chronically underperforming or Priority 1 status. Gerena has made improvements in student performance and is converting to a full Montessori school. Homer St. hired a new principal two years ago and has made progress in English language arts just short of the target to meet AYP. Homer St. is considering co-pilot status for next year. Superintendent Burke also said that the EQA report on Homer St. was very positive in terms of the capacity to move the school forward.

Superintendent Burke said that the designation of chronically underperforming/Priority 1 status was appropriate for the Kiley and White St. Schools. The superintendent said that a joint-labor management intervention is underway at White St. The school has utilized the Keys Data to look at the climate and culture of the school. The district has placed an assistant principal above the normal allocation at the school to focus on curriculum and instruction. The superintendent admitted that White St. has lagged in progress for a number of years, and the designation of chronically underperforming is appropriate for this school. Kiley School has a new principal and new administration team, including an extra assistant principal. The school has a turnaround specialist. The superintendent said that the school had reassigned four teachers from the faculty, and had seen a 50% turnover of instructional staff.

Chairman Reville acknowledged and thanked the superintendents for their testimony. The chairman urged Board members to think of the Acting Commissioner’s recommendations as a movement to Priority 1 status to give those schools top priority status for assistance and support, rather than blame. The chairman said the district and school leaders are clearly hard at work.

Board member Sandra Stotsky asked Superintendent Carballo about the high teacher turnover, and an apparent disconnect between the turnover and the intensive training the district is providing to teachers. Superintendent Carballo said the district lost experienced teachers to early retirement, and that the district faces competition with nearby districts in Connecticut, which can often offer $10-$15k more in salaries.

Board member Ann Reale asked about the impact of labeling schools as chronically underperforming. Superintendent Carballo said that Peck Middle School is still chronically underperforming two years later, and all Holyoke received was $25,000 for planning. He noted the process to remove teachers was a challenging one. Superintendent Carballo also said that Mass Insight has asserted that it takes a couple of million dollars to really turn around a school. Superintendent Laboy said the issue is that schools are asked to do more with less. He asked whether there will be more dollars, additional staff.

Board member Anderson asked whether co-pilot status was considered and rejected by some of the schools, and whether schools would continue along the same path with a label of chronically underperforming. Superintendent Carballo said the label will exacerbate the challenges, and that certain teachers don’t want to start their careers in a chronically underperforming school.

Acting Commissioner Nellhaus and Board member Reale had to leave the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Superintendent Laboy said the chronically underperforming label would demoralize staff. The chairman asked whether that would be true even if the label were Priority 1 status. Superintendent Laboy said there is some ambiguity with the various definitions, and that labeling is a deficit model. Superintendent Burke said that he was not thrilled with the label, although two of four schools were seen to be mired in a pattern that needs to be turned around significantly.

Board member Chernow asked about the impact on Kiley of the formation of a co-pilot school at the Duggan. Superintendent Burke said that Duggan was downsized to 450, and other changes included a change in the boundary, changes in student assignments, and some redistribution of staff (including from Duggan to Kiley).

The chairman thanked the three superintendents for their testimony, and again invited Juliane Dow and Lynda Foisy to the speaker’s table. The chairman asked what more the Department would do for those schools that would be labeled as Priority 1 status.

Associate Commissioner Dow clarified that the Department is spending $1.5 million in Holyoke to improve the district as a whole. The Department also spent $150,000 to allow Peck Middle to be a part of America’s Choice intensive model. She said the chronically underperforming label is contained in the statutory language. Associate Commissioner Dow said that the Department reserved dollars within the budget this year for Priority 1 Schools. The Board asked for $30 million and received $9 million in the FY08 budget. In response to the chairman’s question about the approximate benefit to each school, Associate Commissioner Dow said the amount would be $75,000 per school to get a turnaround partner or equivalent. That figure for this year is above and beyond federal assistance monies.

Associate Commissioner Dow said that with respect to Gerena, that school had been underperforming since 2003. She said the school’s conversion will take a while, and the school is deserving of Priority 1 support. She also said the Department would not be opposed to suspending the decision regarding Homer St.’s status pending the school’s application for Commonwealth Pilot status.

Board member Stotsky asked if the Department had data to indicate the relation between a school’s status and whether it was able to attract and retain teachers. Associate Commissioner Dow said that the Department does not currently have such data, but was implementing a new data system for teachers that would allow such a collection moving forward.

Board member Chernow said she would like the Board to have a more thorough discussion relating to how labels impact the future efforts of schools and teachers. Such a discussion could allow members to think about resources and partnerships that can be brought to schools before this stage.

Board member Chernow asked about the statutory language regarding the removal of a principal, especially given Superintendent Carballo’s testimony that he would not remove the principal of Lynch. Associate Commissioner Dow said such a removal was a rebuttable presumption if the principal was not the cause of the school’s underperformance.

Board member Fortmann asked about a principal’s control over staffing in co-pilot versus chronically underperforming. Associate Commissioner Dow said under Priority 1, dismissal could be made for “good cause” (versus “just cause”). Associate Commissioner Dow said the statute on teacher removal has not really been used.

The chairman asked for an individual motion on each of the six schools recommended for Priority 1 Schools status. No motion was made.

The chairman then asked for a motion on retaining the four schools in Commonwealth Priority Schools status.

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education, in accordance with G.L. chapter 69, § 1J and 603 CMR 2.03, and upon recommendation of the Commissioner, hereby retain as *Commonwealth Priority Schools* as the following four schools:**

* + - **Lucy Stone Elementary School – Boston**
		- **Elihu Greenwood Elementary School – Boston**
		- **Michael J. Perkins Elementary School – Boston**
		- **James J. Sullivan Middle School – Lowell**

 **Further, that the Board direct the schools and districts to continue implementing improvement strategies that will result in the schools reaching or exceeding student performance targets, and direct the Department to maintain oversight of the schools’ progress in improving academic performance.**

Chairman Reville said that given the Board’s ambivalence, the Board would defer action on the Acting Commissioner’s recommendation that the following six schools be declared Priority 1 Schools – Arlington Middle School (Lawrence); John Lynch Middle School (Holyoke); and Gerena Elementary School, Homer Street Elementary School, M. Marcus Kiley Middle School, and White Street Elementary School (Springfield).

The chairman said that the Board would devote several hours at the January 22, 2008 regular meeting for a deeper discussion on this topic with Department staff. The chairman also said that while no vote would take place on Lynch, Gerena, and Homer St., the Department would continue to hold active negotiations with those school and district officials and then would return to the January 22, 2008 regular meeting with further recommendations.

Board member Stotsky asked for teacher turnover rates over the past ten years.

**Support for Students**

The Board deferred until its January 22, 2008 regular meeting a continuing discussion on ways to assist schools and districts in providing the various kinds of emotional, social, physical and mental health support that students need in order to be successful in school.

# Report of Graduation Rate Task Force

The Board deferred until its January 22, 2008 regular meeting a discussion on the report of the Graduation Rate Task Force.

# Charter School Renewals

The Board deferred until its January 22, 2008 regular meeting an initial discussion of charter renewals for three schools – Boston Collegiate Charter School, Excel Academy Charter School, and Smith Leadership Academy Charter Public School.

# Guidelines for the Mathematical Preparation of Elementary Teachers

The chairman said that the *Guidelines for the Mathematical Preparation of Elementary Teachers* were approved in principle at a former meeting, and Board member Fortmann has asked that the Board take a formal vote in support of the guidelines. The chairman noted that a vote is not required, since the Acting Commissioner can promulgate the guidelines, but having the Board vote on the measure would add more force to it.

Board member Chernow asked why the Board should vote on these guidelines, given that it does not typically do so. Board member Fortmann said the Board had passed a regulation that was very brief and would be expanded with the guidelines, and this vote puts the weight of the Board behind the guidelines.

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education, in accordance with Chapter 69, Section 1B; Chapter 71, Section 38G; and 603 CMR 7.06(7)(b), hereby approve and endorse the Guidelines for the Mathematical Preparation of Elementary Teachers and commend their use for approval of all preparation programs for elementary and K-8 special education teachers.**

The vote was 4:3. Ruth Kaplan, Harneen Chernow, and Clantha McCurdy voted in opposition.

# Advisory Council Appointments

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education, in accordance with G.L. chapter 15, § 1G, hereby appoint, to three-year terms, the two additional Advisory Council members as recommended by the Commissioner. Unless otherwise specified, appointed members shall serve for a three-year term, concluding November 1, 2010.**

The vote was unanimous.

# Grants

The Board approved state and federal grants totaling $1,886,951 under the following programs: Vocational Technical Education Framework in Criminal Justice ($40,000 – federal funds); Gifted and Talented Services, School Year Program ($430,118 – state funds); Gifted and Talented Services, Summer Program ($87,099 – state funds); Gifted and Talented Planning, School Year Program ($161,077 – state funds); Gifted and Talented Planning, Summer Program ($39,532 – state funds); Gifted and Talented, Implementation Support ($28,446 – state funds); Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success, School Year Program ($175,161 – state funds); Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success, Summer Program ($352,958 – state funds); Pathways to Family Success in Literacy ($20,000 increase – federal funds); Pathways to Family Success in Literacy ($10,992 increase – federal funds); Mass. *Reading First* Targeted Assistance ($541,568 – federal funds).

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education approve the grants as presented by the Acting Commissioner.**

The vote was unanimous.

**On a motion duly moved and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the meeting adjourn at 12:12 p.m., subject to the call of the Chairman.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Nellhaus

Acting Commissioner of Education

and Secretary to the Board

Minutes of the Special Meeting

of the Massachusetts Board of Education

**Thursday, December 13, 2007**

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Board of Higher Education Conference Room**

**One Ashburton Place, Rm. 1401**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

**Members of the Board of Education Present:**

**Paul Reville**, Chairman, Worcester

**Ann J. Reale**, Vice Chair, Commissioner of Early Education and Care, Boston

**Christopher R. Anderson**, Westford

**Harneen Chernow**, Jamaica Plain

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Patricia Plummer**, Chancellor, Board of Higher Education, Boston

**Zachary Tsetsos**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Oxford

**Member of the Board of Education Absent:**

 **Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Also Present:**

 Heidi Guarino

Paul Reville, Chairman of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to interview semifinalists for the position of Commissioner of Education.

Chairman Reville asked for a motion to go into executive session in order to interview the semifinalists. He stated that the Board would return to open session only to adjourn.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education go into executive session to interview semifinalists for the position of commissioner.**

Heidi Guarino called the roll for the vote. The vote was unanimous. The Board went into executive session at 9:02 a.m.

Heidi Guarino left the meeting after calling the roll. The Board then interviewed four semifinalists for approximately one hour each.

Due to a major snowstorm, the Board decided to reschedule one semifinalist interview from the afternoon of December 13th to December 18th.

At 2:58 p.m., Chairman Reville asked for a motion to return to open session.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education return to open session.**

The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Reville thanked Board members for their participation in the interviews.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m., subject to the call of the chairman.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guarino

Minutes of the Special Meeting

of the Massachusetts Board of Education

**Tuesday, December 18, 2007**

**7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**350 Main Street**

**Malden, Massachusetts**

**Members of the Board of Education Present:**

**Paul Reville**, Chairman, Worcester

**Ann J. Reale**, Vice Chair, Commissioner of Early Education and Care, Boston

**Christopher R. Anderson**, Westford

**Harneen Chernow**, Jamaica Plain

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Patricia Plummer**, Chancellor, Board of Higher Education, Boston (afternoon session)

**Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Zachary Tsetsos**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Oxford

**Member of the Board of Education Absent:**

 **Patricia Plummer**, Chancellor, Board of Higher Education, Boston (morning session)

**Also Present:**

 Heidi Guarino

Paul Reville, Chairman of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to continue interviewing semifinalists for the position of Commissioner of Education.

Chairman Reville asked for a motion to go into executive session in order to interview the semifinalists. He stated that the Board would return to open session only to adjourn.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education go into executive session to interview semifinalists for the position of commissioner.**

Heidi Guarino called the roll for the vote. The vote was unanimous. The Board went into executive session at 7:48 a.m.

Heidi Guarino left the meeting after calling the roll. The Board then interviewed one of the semifinalists for approximately one hour.

Chairman Reville called a recess so that the Board could convene its regular monthly business meeting at 9:00 a.m. He stated that the Board would resume its executive session for semifinalist interviews at 12:30 p.m.

At 12:30 p.m., the Board reconvened its executive session. The Board then interviewed three semifinalists for approximately one hour each. After the last interview, Board members discussed the semifinalists and agreed on a list of 3 finalists. The Board will invite the finalists to interviews that will be held in open session on January 7th. The Board will announce the list of finalists.

At 6:25 p.m., Chairman Reville asked for a motion to return to open session.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education return to open session.**

The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Reville thanked Board members for their participation in the interviews.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m., subject to the call of the chairman.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guarino

Minutes of the Special Meeting

of the Massachusetts Board of Education

**Monday, January 7, 2008**

**9:03 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.**

**Omni Parker House Hotel**

**60 School Street**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

**Members of the Board of Education Present:**

**Paul Reville**, Chairman, Worcester

**Ann J. Reale**, Vice Chair, Commissioner of Early Education and Care, Boston

**Christopher R. Anderson**, Westford

**Harneen Chernow**, Jamaica Plain

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Patricia Plummer**, Chancellor, Board of Higher Education, Boston

**Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Zachary Tsetsos**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Oxford

**Also Present:**

 Rhoda Schneider

Paul Reville, Chairman of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. He thanked the members of the Board and members of the public who were in attendance. The chairman summarized the search process and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to interview the three finalists for the position of Commissioner of Education. The chairman said that the Board would meet on January 17, 2008 to deliberate publicly and vote on the selection of a new Commissioner.

The Board conducted individual 90-minute interviews with each of the three candidates: Karla Brooks Baehr, Superintendent of Lowell, MA Public Schools; Mitchell Dan Chester, Senior Associate State Superintendent, Ohio Department of Education; and Richard Laine, Education Director, Wallace Foundation.

The chairman noted that the Board would reconvene on January 17, 2008 to deliberate and consider all materials from background checks on the three candidates. The chairman thanked the advisory committee members and co-chairs, Department staff, the three candidates, and all Board members for their important contributions to the search process.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m., subject to the call of the chairman.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhoda Schneider