Minutes of the Regular Meeting

**of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**October 27, 2009**

**8:40 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**75 Pleasant Street**

**Malden, MA**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

**Harneen Chernow**, Vice Chair, Jamaica Plain

**Gerald Chertavian**, Cambridge

**Michael D'Ortenzio Jr.**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Wellesley

**Beverly Holmes**, Springfield

**Jeff Howard**, Reading

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Dana Mohler-Faria**, Bridgewater

**Paul Reville**, Secretary of Education, Worcester (by Nicholas Martinelli, designee)

**Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Mitchell D. Chester**, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Secretary to the Board

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

**Maura Banta**, Chair, Melrose

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

Vice Chair Harneen Chernow, who was presiding, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Comments from the Chair**

Vice Chair Harneen Chernow said she was presiding for Chair Banta, who was away on business. The vice chair commended Board member Sandra Stotsky, who was named to the National Validation Committee of the Common Core Standards effort. Vice Chair Chernow asked Board member Jeff Howard to provide an update on the work of the Proficiency Gap Committee. Dr. Howard said the four subgroups (school and family engagement, instructional leadership, English language learners, early literacy) have been meeting regularly and are taking their work very seriously. Dr. Howard said each subgroup has been charged with developing three to five powerful, strategic recommendations.

Vice Chair Chernow said that after the September Board meeting, she, Chair Banta, and Commissioner Chester met to discuss hiring an impartial, outside consultant to review the process related to the granting of a charter to Gloucester Community Arts Charter School and to identify (1) the range of procedural options that are consistent with state law for further action and (2) the legal standard to justify the revocation of a charter. The vice chair said a Request for Responses was issued, and the Department hopes to make an offer shortly so the individual selected may attend the November 7, 2009 meeting in Gloucester.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Chester congratulated Dr. Stotsky on her appointment to the Validation Committee for the Common Core initiative. The commissioner said he was a participant at last week's STEM summit, during which the Governor by executive order created a STEM Advisory Committee. Commissioner Chester said he visited several schools in Lowell last week, including Lowell High School where he participated in an assembly to recognize 175 students who earned an Adams Scholarship. The commissioner provided an update on the *Alston* case, an action challenging the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL), and the court ruling that dismissed the case. He noted that Grafton High School is the state's first school to close this year due to flu-related absences. The commissioner called attention to the data report on school enrollment trends, in the Information section of the Board materials.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Nicholas Martinelli, the designee for Secretary Reville, said that the Governor would make an announcement on Thursday related to new 9C budget reductions. Mr. Martinelli said the Governor has made an effort to prioritize education whenever possible. Mr. Martinelli said the Administration has announced the establishment of six readiness centers to provide professional development and disseminate resources to teachers.

**Comments from the Public**

* Monty Neill from FairTest addressed the Board on Race to the Top.
* Gerry Mroz, a Melrose parent, addressed the Board on Race to the Top.

# Approval of the Minutes

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the September 22, 2009 regular meeting and the September 21, 2009 special meeting.**

The vote was unanimous.

**College and Career Web Portal**

Commissioner Chester said the development of a college and career web portal has been a joint effort of the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education, the Executive Office of Education, and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). The Department's chief of staff, Heidi Guarino, provided an overview of the project, which began in 2005 as an effort to increase graduation rates and help students prepare for college and careers. Governor Patrick asked MEFA last year to take ownership of the project, to house it, and to run it. MEFA has invested $2 million in the portal, and an additional $1.7 million has come from the federal college access grant.

Tom Graf, MEFA's executive director, said that ConnectEdu was selected last year to develop the portal. He said the portal would be a one-stop location for students to plan, prepare, research, and apply to college. Mr. Graf said that all services would be free and web-based, and the portal would allow students to submit applications, transcripts, and letters of recommendation electronically. He said the portal is being designed to be simple and intuitive, with the access point being through the school. Jeff Alderson from ConnectEdu, a Boston-based company, provided an overview of the portal's development site. Mr. Alderson said the company's proprietary software will enable the portal to match students to opportunities.

Commissioner Chester asked about a tension between keeping students realistic while not limiting what's possible for them. Mr. Graf said he is aware of that tension, and that MEFA wants students to aspire, but at the same time not head down a path that is not realistic. Vice Chair Chernow asked whether adult learners and individuals receiving GEDs are eligible to use this portal. Mr. Graf said this needs to be addressed in later phases. He added that the service will be provided to school districts at no cost, and that guidance counselors will control access. Board member Ruth Kaplan said there needs to be a human interface. Mr. Graf said this has been discussed since the beginning of the project, and that the services this provides should free up guidance counselors to spend more time working directly with students.

Board member Gerald Chertavian commended the effort and said this model can have a huge benefit. Mr. Chertavian asked whether a student who received a GED or who graduated but did not immediately go to college could still access the portal. Mr. Alderson said yes, once a student was introduced to the system and was assigned an identification account, he/she would have the account for life. Board member Beverly Holmes said this is a great use of technology, and asked whether it could be used by younger students starting in junior high school. Mr. Graf said yes, and that is why a junior high school has been included in the pilot. Mr. Graf said the goal is to start early with students for this to be successful. Ms. Guarino said that North Carolina requires all students to build a profile in grade 8, and that Rhode Island has a high school, middle school and elementary school component.

Board member Dana Mohler-Faria said this is an effective tool for colleges as well as students. Board member Michael D'Ortenzio Jr. asked whether the developers have looked at the SAT and College Board websites. Mr. Alderson said this tool can link to information available from other sites, such as SAT registration dates. Board member Sandra Stotsky applauded the development of the tool, and asked whether it would be possible to use it to link middle school students to alternative high school options such as vocational technical schools. Mr. Graf said the portal is designed for help with career choices and college, and the vocational technical schools participating in the pilot are enthusiastic about its possibilities.

**Growth Model: Statewide Report**

Commissioner Chester said the state's new growth model illustrates how well a school is achieving gains with the students it serves, based on students' prior achievement. The commissioner said the growth model allows for a more robust picture of the effectiveness of a school. Associate Commissioner Bob Bickerton presented an overview of the growth model and explained how this new metric compares each student to his/her academic peers, students with similar MCAS score histories. The commissioner said there is tremendous potential for districts to use this metric as a diagnostic tool.

Vice Chair Chernow asked whether individual teachers would receive growth percentiles for each student. Associate Commissioner Bickerton said that schools and districts have access to the data and can go down to the student level. The state has piloted this statewide, and next year will go down to the classroom level. Ms. Kaplan cautioned about comparing students with disabilities across schools, given that schools have different types of students with different disabilities. Vice Chair Chernow asked about the challenges schools have with transient students. Associate Commissioner Bickerton said the state uses the October 1 student enrollment data.

Dr. Howard made a prediction that three years after the growth model is rolled out, there will be dramatic improvement in student outcomes as individual principals and teachers have ready access to the data. Dr. Howard said this new model should prompt a range of positive changes in school practices.

**Race to the Top**

Vice Chair Chernow said the Board had a good discussion on Monday evening on the state's Race to the Top application, the timeline, potential funding, and stakeholder engagement. The vice chair said there is a lot of interest in understanding the specifics of the proposal and what the U.S. Education Department will publish as final criteria. Vice Chair Chernow said the Board is interested in continuing this discussion in November. Commissioner Chester said in November he will update the Board on the Department's latest thinking and Board members will have another opportunity for to provide feedback.

**Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Budget Proposal for FY 2011**

Vice Chair Chernow thanked the members of the budget committee (Maura Banta, Tom Fortmann, Ruth Kaplan, Gerald Chertavian, Jeff Howard, Michael D'Ortenzio Jr.), which met last week. Commissioner Chester said he expects the FY10 budget to be cut via the 9C process within the next couple of days, and that the prognosis for next year's budget is not good. He said there are no good options available, but the Board's obligation is to make a recommendation. The commissioner said the Board and Department's responsibility is to set expectations for performance, support schools and districts in meeting those expectations, and measure progress against those expectations. Commissioner Chester said every reduction in the budget would affect programs and students. He noted that his 2-page handout is intended to be a starting point for discussion, not a recommendation.

Board member Beverly Holmes said that if the Department receives funding through Race to the Top (RTTT), she is not sure about the Department’s capacity to manage and oversee the programs, in light of budget constraints. Commissioner Chester said he has similar concerns, and that Department staff are working hard and are stretched thin. The commissioner said the Board's budget recommendation needs to take into account all these demands but cannot ignore the fiscal realities. He suggested that the Board start by examining which programs are most important to preserve and protect.

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria said the Board’s role is to set high expectations and help districts meet those expectations in the context of this budget. Commissioner Chester gave as an example the student assessment program, which sets expectations, and the MCAS/academic support services, which help students meet those expectations. He said any cuts to programs under the category of setting expectations and supporting success would have a real impact on districts.

Dr. Stotsky said she appreciated having all budget line items laid out in categories, as presented by the commissioner. Dr. Stotsky asked whether the Department has criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of particular programs and services, such as the effectiveness of MCAS intervention and tutoring programs. Commissioner Chester said the $9 million in that account goes to school districts to support academic intervention to students to help them meet the standards as measured by the MCAS. He agreed that measuring the effectiveness of particular programs is important, but a better starting point would be for Board members to consider what is core to the work of the Department.

Ms. Kaplan said she would like to examine items in the first category on the budget sheet more closely, such as the MCAS line item which reflects high stakes tied to the high school Science and Technology/Engineering test. She said she finds the numbers for professional development very low. Commissioner Chester said he would not recommend a cutback in the MCAS line item or a retreat from the high school graduation requirements. The commissioner said that ultimately such a decision is the Board's to make, but it would require statutory change, and the high school graduation requirement has been a powerful equity lever to support more students to reach high standards.

Dr. Howard asked whether the Board had reached a consensus on its priorities, which could then drive a discussion about its mission. Vice Chair Chernow noted the Board had discussed the priorities at the August retreat. Dr. Howard he favors empowering the Department to make powerful interventions to eliminate underperformance.

Mr. Chertavian said in this financial crisis, the Board needs to start from a basis of what it should protect. Mr. Chertavian asked whether Chapter 70 money flowed equitably and if the formula should be reviewed. The commissioner said Chapter 70 is the bulk of the total budget, and once Chapter 70 and the SPED Circuit Breaker are taken off the table, the budget is down to less than $300 million out of a $4.4 billion total, so we are focusing on about 8% of the total state education budget. Commissioner Chester said Chapter 70 was offset by $412 million in ARRA funds in FY09, and an additional $168 million will be used to bolster Chapter 70 in FY10. In FY11, while there will be some stabilization funds, there won't be much additional federal funding to support the budget. Associate Commissioner Jeff Wulfson said that $200 million of the $4 billion is for above- foundation districts, which are not uniformly wealthier districts. Associate Commissioner Wulfson said Chapter 70 is a wealth based formula, and that could change, but the research literature shows little correlation between spending and performance. He said the formula sets the foundation budget (minimum amount needed) and a required spending level, with the state guaranteeing to make up the difference to get all districts to the foundation level.

The vice chair said the Board would hold another budget committee meeting in early November, and that the Board will vote on a budget recommendation at its November 17th meeting.

**Appointments and Reappointments to Advisory Councils to the Board**

Vice Chair Chernow said the Board was given a list of proposed appointments and reappointments to the Advisory Councils at its September meeting. Commissioner Chester said the Department received advice from Board members on additional nominees. Ms. Kaplan suggested the Board consider ways to interact more effectively with these groups, such as putting them on the agenda to hear from a council representative at each meeting. The commissioner said since the Board has identified time management as an issue, the Board needs to be strategic about bringing in advisory councils as they relate to a particular topic. Commissioner Chester reminded Board members that the Department sent the Board the Advisory Councils’ 2009 annual reports last month, including a matrix on how the work of the councils mapped to the Board's goals and priorities. Mr. D'Ortenzio Jr. commented that the Student Advisory Council is very excited to involve students in the educational policymaking process.

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

VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws Chapter 15, § 1G, hereby appoint the Advisory Council members as recommended by the Commissioner. Unless otherwise specified, appointed members shall serve for a three-year term, concluding November 1, 2012.

The vote was unanimous.

**Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Commission Report**

Vice Chair Chernow said that Secretary Reville chaired the Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Commission, and that Commissioner Chester served as a co-chair. Mr. Martinelli provided an overview of the commission's purpose and work. Neil Sullivan from the Boston Private Industry Council, who served on the commission, provided context on the commission's work.

Mr. Sullivan said a Parthenon study in Boston showed that of students who left school, one quarter were English language learners, one quarter were students with disabilities, one quarter were two or more years behind academically but not ELL or SPED, and one quarter were on track academically with no risk factors at grade 9.

Mr. Martinelli reviewed the commission's recommendations around new statewide expectations, early identification, effective prevention, interventions, and recovery, and responsive reforms and budget priorities. The commission recommended that the state commit to reducing the dropout rate by half over five years and expand the Department's early warning indicator.

Commissioner Chester said that currently, districts have no obligation to serve students who are expelled, and he is interested in making that a requirement.

Dr. Stotsky asked whether there was a way to add enrollment to regional vocational technical and career education, given its success in dealing with students with disabilities and students who are lagging academically. The commissioner said the vocational technical story is more nuanced, in that while very successful, regional vocational technical schools are selective, and the picture varies from school to school.

Mr. D'Ortenzio Jr. commended the report and presentation. He also noted that he and Chair Banta had a great visit to Excel Academy Charter School in East Boston recently.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m., subject to the call of the chair.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell D. Chester

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

and Secretary to the Board

Minutes of the Special Meeting

**of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**October 26, 2009**

**5:40 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.**

**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**75 Pleasant Street**

**Malden, MA**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

**Harneen Chernow**, Vice Chair, Jamaica Plain

**Gerald Chertavian**, Cambridge

**Michael D'Ortenzio Jr.**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Wellesley

**Beverly Holmes**, Springfield

**Jeff Howard**, Reading

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Paul Reville**, Secretary of Education, Worcester

**Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Mitchell D. Chester**, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Secretary to the Board

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

**Maura Banta**, Chair, Melrose

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

**Dana Mohler-Faria**, Bridgewater

Vice Chair Harneen Chernow called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Vice Chair Harneen Chernow, who was presiding in Chair Banta's absence, welcomed Board members to a special meeting on the state's preparations related to its planned application for federal Race to the Top funding. Commissioner Chester provided an overview of the process, the state's support from the Gates Foundation, and the development of a comprehensive plan to address four key "assurance" areas that must be a component of each application: standards and assessments, data systems to support instruction, great teachers and leaders, and turning around struggling schools. An additional priority area that states may choose to address is STEM (science technology, engineering, and mathematics), and Massachusetts is doing so

The commissioner said must ensure that 50% of funds are distributed to participating districts via the Title I formula, and 50% of funds are used by the state or distributed to districts.

Board member Ruth Kaplan asked when the money would be available. Commissioner Chester said the funds would be spent over four years. Ms. Kaplan said knowing that the money is gone after four years presents a challenge. The commissioner agreed, and said the state needs to build capacity beyond the length of the grant period.

Commissioner Chester said the state has engaged key stakeholder groups around each assurance area. The commissioner introduced the following Department senior staff to present on the teams they are leading around each assurance area: Jeff Nellhaus (Standards and Assessments), Lynda Foisy (School Turnaround), David Haselkorn (Great Teachers and Leaders), and Bob Bickerton (Data Systems). Deputy Commissioner Nellhaus also provided an overview of the state's plans to address STEM.

Standards & Assessment

Deputy Commissioner Nellhaus said the goal of the common core standards process will be for states to adopt clear and rigorous K-12 standards in math, ELA, and science. The deputy commissioner said the Department is considering how to merge our framework revision process with the common core effort. Mr. Nellhaus outlined four priority areas: (1) to make enhancements to MCAS; (2) to develop curricula and instructional supports aligned with common standards; (3) to support benchmark and formative assessments; and (4) to expand high school programs and incentives for college and career readiness.

Dr. Stotsky asked about the idea of new curriculum embedded assessments. Mr. Nellhaus said the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment (MEPA) for English language learners is a good model, in that part of the assessment involves a speaking and listening component. Department staff uses a rubric to train teachers, and the assessment becomes part of a school's curriculum, rather than part of an on-demand test. The deputy commissioner said there are a lot of options, and talked about certain investigations that states are developing and measuring as part of a science curriculum. Board member Beverly Holmes asked about the support, use, and development of local assessments. Mr. Nellhaus said many districts use benchmark assessments, which are commercially available, purchased, used in reading and math, and for which the data is not reported to the state. The deputy commissioner said this is an important tool to improve student achievement, in that it provides teachers with more timely and frequent data evaluating strengths and weaknesses.

Ms. Kaplan suggested there be more connection to 21st century skills. She asked whether the current assessments adequately assess the knowledge of special populations such as English language learners and students with disabilities. The deputy commissioner said the state’s array of assessments is appropriate for all populations. Commissioner Chester said if Massachusetts is successful in the RTTT grant process, this would be an opportunity to make a leap beyond the current generation of assessments. He said this is not about building an enhanced MCAS, but rather taking advantage of emerging technologies and building a new generation of tools that get at a broad range of skills and knowledge, leading to stronger curriculum and better instruction for all students.

Board member Jeff Howard asked how many states could receive Race to the Top funds. The commissioner said probably fewer than half the states would be awarded funds. Dr. Howard asked if the unions have weighed in on the application. The commissioner said the state has had very active, engaged conversations with the statewide unions as well as union representatives from the larger school districts. Commissioner Chester said he is hopeful of reaching agreement on some key issues, with an emphasis on being bold.

Vice Chair Chernow said this initial overview seems more wide than deep. She noted that the initiatives all seems to involve a significant amount of staff development.

School Turnaround

Associate Commissioner Lynda Foisy said the Department has worked over the past two years on an accountability redesign grounded in measures that are tied to appropriate, targeted assistance and intervention. The state's proposed regulations on underperforming schools are currently out for public comment. The Department's framework rests on its definition of school and district conditions that are necessary for success. Associate Commissioner Foisy described five priorities: (1) building district leadership capacity; (2) building and disseminating turnaround tools; (3) identifying and scaling up third-party supports; (4) developing a cadre of turnaround teachers and principals; and (5) identifying and incubating lead partners.

Ms. Kaplan suggested that community and parent engagement should be a priority of its own. Ms. Foisy said that through Ms. Kaplan's suggestions, parent and community involvement is in fact one of the 11 essential conditions. Dr. Stotsky said she would like to see included some evaluation of curricular programs to determine if they are research-based and effective for schools and students. Dr. Stotsky added that the turnaround process should include discussions with teachers in the school and what they see as issues from their viewpoint as professionals. Ms. Foisy said these are issues that have been considered in formulating the11 conditions. She noted that teacher surveys could be used to better understand school climate and culture, whether or not that approach is specified.

Teachers & Leaders

Associate Commissioner David Haselkorn said tonight's discussion on teachers and leaders would be recursive of the Board's discussion on educator effectiveness last month. He said the key paradigm shift is seeing the development of expertise and talent as the primary role of the educational system. Mr. Haselkorn outlined priorities to define and assess teacher and leader effectiveness via multiple measures, anchored in student achievement. Priorities include: (1) measure of effectiveness; (2) recruitment, preparation and development; (3) performance-based tiered licensure; (4) evaluation / P.D./ induction models; (5) compensation and equitable distribution; and (6) turnaround teacher and leader teams.

Dr. Howard asked whether the Department is considering developing a corps of highly effective teachers that would travel around the state. Mr. Haselkorn said we are talking about both developing effective teachers in the building and developing turnaround leaders and teacher teams. Commissioner Chester said we intend to make the current corps of teachers as good as it can be, but some schools will require a special infusion of leadership and talent. He said the notion of a team of teachers is taken from the Teach for America model, to create a cadre of teachers who would want to take on the toughest assignments.

Ms. Kaplan noted the report on the impressive growth in student performance on MCAS at Brockton High School as an example of the importance of relationship building within a school. She said there should also be a focus on giving regular education teachers professional development on working with special education and ELL students. Commissioner Chester agreed, saying that school leaders need to commit to making the education of ELL and SPED students the responsibility of the whole school, not just ELL and SPED teachers.

Dr. Stotsky asked about upgrading preparation programs, and what happens now to strengthen math programs for elementary and special education teachers. Mr. Haselkorn said there is a strong partnership between the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education, looking at a range of activities such as the development of online assessments and tutorial tools, and DHE is moving to urge their institutions to set higher academic standards. Dr. Stotsky asked for an update on what schools of education are doing to upgrade preparation of prospective teachers.

Mr. Chertavian said the emphasis should be on principals, rather than leaders generally, as principals are a key point of leverage. Vice Chair Chernow asked which provisions would require statutory or regulatory change. Commissioner Chester said much of the accountability process is consistent with the regulations the Board currently has out for comment. The commissioner said the Department has been working hard with local leadership to fit the puzzle pieces together, and those conversations have been positive. Dr. Howard asked about test scores and teacher effectiveness. The commissioner said he is interested in making student results an element of teacher evaluation, and wants to try varied models of differentiated compensation to assess their impact.

Data Systems

Associate Commissioner Bob Bickerton said the Department's vision for data systems has moved over the past three years from data for reports to data to support teaching and learning and continuous improvement. Mr. Bickerton said the state is pursuing longitudinal data systems as part of an effort to ensure more timely data. Mr. Bickerton said priorities in this area include: (1) designing and building a robust data systems infrastructure; (2) connecting and integrating data systems; and (3) effectively using data to inform instruction and drive decision-making.

Dr. Stotsky said using data to inform decision making usually means test data. She asked if data from high quality research studies could be used as well. Mr. Bickerton said the state wants to build a system to connect test-based research along with numbers. Commissioner Chester talked about a knowledge management system through which teachers could find research and also connect with teacher of similar students who are getting better results. The commissioner noted New York City has built on top of its student database a social networking system where teachers could reach out to other teachers with similar class profiles.

Dr. Howard said the Department should be clear about who should be using this data and how to use it effectively, particularly for teachers. Mr. Bickerton said the Department plans to provide access to data to every teacher at every level, and wants to provide them with easy to use tools. The commissioner said there is a distinction between data information and knowledge. Mr. Chertavian said technology, process, and culture have to work together around the use of data. He suggested getting some ideas from the private sector about change management.

STEM

Deputy Commissioner Nellhaus said STEM needs to be infused in each of the assurance areas, and presented an overview of priorities around STEM.

Ms. Holmes asked what percentage of funds could be used for administration and oversight. Commissioner Chester said at least 50% has to go to districts through the Title I formula, and the state has more discretion over the other 50%. The commissioner said Title I targets to high poverty districts, and 80+% of districts receive some form of Title I dollars. Commissioner Chester said the Department is considering the best use of partners and third party entities. The Department will go through requests for responses and look for entities that have expertise in these assurance areas and can give evidence of their success.

Secretary Reville said this is an issue of the capacity of states to work with local districts to develop their capacity to deliver better instruction. The secretary said the Governor recently created a STEM Advisory Council by executive order. He noted that Massachusetts has work to do to inspire students to prepare for careers in this field. Secretary Reville commended Commissioner Chester and staff for their work on this issue.

Dr. Stotsky asked whether the STEM initiative could involve the expansion of full-time elementary science and math teachers. Mr. Haselkorn said a related recommendation is to consider expanded use of the current license as well as looking at preparation programs. He said the Department is investigating models such as UTeach and TeachSouthCoast, as well as successful models from Ohio and California. Ms. Kaplan suggested using some RTTT funds to survey students and teachers.

The commissioner said this is not just about building capacity beyond the life of the grants, but also about determining “proof of concept,” new demonstration models, and a better idea of which investments are likely to pay off in better student achievement.

Commissioner Chester said the state is under an aggressive timetable to complete its application by the deadline, and the Department will keep the Board informed as its thinking evolves. Vice Chair Chernow thanked the commissioner and Department staff, and said the Board had a good discussion about the process, resources, and stakeholder engagement.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., subject to the call of the chair.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell D. Chester

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

and Secretary to the Board