**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, December 17, 2013**

**8:40 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

**Maura Banta**,Chair, Melrose

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

**Daniel Brogan**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Dennis

**Karen Daniels,** Milton

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Matthew Malone**,Secretary of Education

**Pendred Noyce**,Weston

**David Roach**, Sutton

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

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

**Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, Milton

**James Morton**, Springfield

Chair Banta called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Banta provided an update on the Board’s December 16th special meeting on digital learning and college and career readiness. Vice-Chair Chernow updated the Board on the work of the proficiency gap committee, which met on December 16th. She said the committee discussed the Department's Progress and Performance Index (PPI) and the Composite Performance Index (CPI), and this year will examine the work being done in Level 4 and Level 5 schools. Mr. Roach reported on the virtual school hearing held on December 16th, at which one person spoke in favor of the only virtual school proposal in this year's application cycle. Chair Banta thanked members of the Board for attending the recent charter school public hearings.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Chester provided an update on Level 5 schools, noting that he is speaking with potential receivers and partners for those schools. The Commissioner said he expects to update the Board in January. Commissioner Chester said the Department has continued outreach discussions with schools and districts involved in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) field test. The Commissioner noted that more than 76,000 students from 1,100 schools across the state will participate in this spring's field test. Commissioner Chester announced that the state has selected Educational Testing Service (ETS) as the provider of the Massachusetts High School Equivalency Assessment. The Commissioner said the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE) is sponsoring an international benchmarking study to better understand education systems across the world, and it will be a topic for discussion at one of the Board’s special meetings in the spring. Commissioner Chester also distributed the Department’s Year 3 Race to the Top report to Board members.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Secretary Malone updated the Board on two budget hearings the Administration held in Somerset and Roxbury. The Secretary said the Governor is in the midst of the budget process and is fully committed to education, innovation, and infrastructure. Secretary Malone said he attended a charter school public hearing in Lynn, which was very respectful and professional. The Secretary said he has continued seeing enthusiasm and collaboration during his visits to schools around the state. The Secretary updated the Board on the "Go Public" higher education campaign, which encourages Massachusetts high school graduates to attend one of our public campuses. He also noted the Commonwealth’s continuing commitment to school safety and security.

**Public Comment**

1. Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools, addressed the Board on charter school regulations.
2. Janine Matho of the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association addressed the Board on charter school regulations.
3. Paul Toner, President of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, addressed the Board on background checks.
4. Thomas Mela of Massachusetts Advocates for Children addressed the Board on the student discipline law.
5. Ann Lambert of the ACLU of Massachusetts addressed the Board on the student discipline law.
6. Tyrone Mowatt, member of the Board of Trustees of Lowell Community Charter Public School, addressed the Board on the school’s proposed amendment request.
7. Richard Chavez addressed the addressed the Board on Lowell Community Charter Public School’s proposed amendment request.
8. Neil Kinnon, chair of the Board of Trustees of Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, addressed the Board on the school’s amendment request and conditions.
9. David D’Arcangelo, Malden City Councilor, addressed the Board on Mystic Valley Regional Charter School’s amendment request and conditions.
10. Martin Trice, Executive Director of Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, addressed the Board on the school’s amendment request and conditions.
11. Antoinette Quinones, a parent, addressed the Board on Mystic Valley Regional Charter School’s amendment request and conditions.
12. Jemima Magliore, a parent, addressed the Board on Mystic Valley Regional Charter School’s amendment request and conditions.
13. Regine Capos de Oliveira, a parent, addressed the Board on Mystic Valley Regional Charter School’s amendment request and conditions.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the November 18, 2013 special meeting and the November 19, 2013 regular meeting.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Report on Conditions for Mystic Valley Regional Charter School**

Commissioner Chester said the continuing issue involving Mystic Valley Regional Charter School is very disappointing. The Commissioner said he would be willing to review the enrollment cap once the school has resolved the governance issues that are at the heart of the conditions that were imposed on the charter.

Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said the school's amendment request to add 400 seats is not on the agenda today, and the Commissioner has not made a recommendation on it. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said the Department has deferred action until the conditions placed on the school have been substantially satisfied. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said the primary area of disagreement is term limits for the school’s trustees. The Department has included term limits as a recommended practice, and this is now required for all new charter schools. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said while the Department recognizes the school's high academic performance, the school's board is a public body, and is accountable for meeting the conditions.

Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said the proposed charter school regulations on today's agenda include a requirement for charter schools to have term limits for trustees. He said Massachusetts has the best charter schools in the nation, largely due to the role and authority of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as charter authorizer. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson added that the Board has consistently said it wants strong oversight of charter schools in Massachusetts, and this is what the Commissioner and Department do.

Ms. Chernow said the Board had this discussion in May, and there were clear criteria established for the school to meet the conditions. Ms. Chernow said this is a public school and it is subject to public laws. Ms. Chernow asked about the school's sibling policy. Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang said it is unclear what the school is doing with enrollment, hence the new conditions relating to enrollment. Mr. Chuang said the school accepted a larger kindergarten class without getting a cap increase.

Dr. Noyce said she heard the school’s board of trustees is waiting until alumnae can join its board. She asked when this might happen. Mr. Chuang said the Department has not heard any detail on this. Mr. Roach said he supports the Commissioner’s recommendation and finds it ironic that the school's response to the conditions makes the decision to impose them more credible and necessary. Dr. Noyce said that parents should understand the trustees hold the power to change the current situation.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby imposes seven conditions on the charter of Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, as presented by the Commissioner. Failure to meet these conditions may result in revocation of the charter or imposition of additional conditions.**

1. **Beginning in March 2013 and until further notice, the Mystic Valley Regional Charter School (MVRCS) will submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at** **charterschools@doe.mass.edu** **or 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA, 02148, board meeting agendas, materials, and minutes prior to each board meeting at the same time these items are sent to MVRCS board members. The Department reserves the right to request additional information, such as quarterly or monthly financial statements, if board materials do not already include this information, and MVRCS must provide such additional information within two business days.**
2. **By February 28, 2014, MVRCS will submit for Department approval an enrollment growth plan that maintains class sizes consistent with the school’s current approved maximum enrollment of 1,500 students.**
3. **By February 28, 2014, MVRCS will submit for Department approval a revised enrollment policy that clearly articulates the school’s process for accepting students in each grade and conforms to Department criteria at** [**http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/governance/?section=enrollment**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/governance/?section=enrollment)**.**
4. **By April 30, 2014, the Board of Trustees of MVRCS will submit for Department approval amended bylaws that set specific, reasonable limits on successive or total terms that a member may serve on the board of trustees. These limits must apply to all current board members.**
5. **By May 31, 2014, the Board of Trustees of MVRCS will recruit additional members who have needed expertise and provide documentary evidence of recruitment efforts to the Department.**
6. **By June 30, 2014, the Board of Trustees of MVRCS will expand the board membership to at least seven members.**
7. **By July 31, 2014, the Board of Trustees of MVRCS will engage in training, conducted by an external consultant, accepted and approved in advance by the Department, on the roles and responsibilities of a public charter school board of trustees.**

**In addition to meeting these conditions, Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, like all charter schools, must also comply with the terms of its charter. The Commissioner shall review and report to the Board on success or lack of success of Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in meeting the conditions imposed on its charter and, based on his review, shall recommend such further action as he deems appropriate.**

The vote was unanimous.

**PISA Results for Massachusetts**

Commissioner Chester presented an overview of the recently released results from the 2012 administration of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). PISA is a triennial international survey designed to assess how well 15-year-old students can apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in school to real-life situations in reading, mathematics, and science literacy. Commissioner Chester said Massachusetts students performed best in reading literacy and tied for fourth worldwide, trailing only students from Shanghai-China, Hong Kong-China, and Singapore; in mathematics and science literacy, Massachusetts students tied for tenth and seventh. He noted that although Massachusetts ranked well, Shanghai was 99 points ahead of Massachusetts in mathematics. Commissioner Chester said Massachusetts should be pleased with the results, but will look for ways to improve and learn from the data.

Chair Banta asked about reading results and student selection. Commissioner Chester said he has been concerned by flat reading results. The Commissioner said PISA claims that students are from a representative sample. He noted there is no national score for China, and the issue in the China-Shanghai score is whether migrant students are excluded. Dr. Noyce asked if the proficiency standard at grade 3 is higher, relatively speaking, than the proficiency score at grade 10. She suggested as we look to improve reading at the early grades, we should be thoughtful and moderate. Dr. Noyce asked whether the PISA performance levels are at all comparable to performance on NAEP or MCAS. Dr. Noyce said she would be interested in the impact of poverty on scores in different jurisdictions.

Ms. Daniels said if PISA is measuring higher order thinking, then it should make us feel better about the direction we are going with PARCC. Mr. Roach said the lack of access to early childhood education is an issue for early literacy skills. Secretary Malone stressed the importance of early childhood education, and said a task force on early literacy is focused on these issues. Dr. Noyce said summer reading programs are vital for improving literacy for low-income children. Commissioner Chester concluded by noting that 16% of Massachusetts students score in the top levels on PISA, compared to over 90% scoring proficient or higher on MCAS, which is not an aspirational standard. The Commissioner said he expects the PARCC assessments will align more closely with PISA.

**Educator Evaluation: Support to Districts to Integrate Curriculum Frameworks and Educator Evaluation; Technical Amendment to Educator Evaluation Regulations, 603 CMR 35.00**

Commissioner Chester said today's action to amend the educator evaluation regulations relating to timelines reflects our commitment to the field to make this a pilot year and allow time to implement the new evaluation requirements thoughtfully. The Commissioner noted that the curriculum frameworks and the educator evaluation framework are two worthwhile and important endeavors. Commissioner Chester introduced Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Landman, Associate Commissioner Julia Phelps, and Associate Commissioner Heather Peske.

Ms. Phelps described examples of the Department’s support for districts to implement the two initiatives. She said the Department’s curriculum summit, attended by 1,000 educators, discussed model curriculum units and using curriculum-embedded performance assessments as part of District-Determined Measures (DDMs). She added that DDM technical assistance sessions were held across the state. Ms. Peske gave an overview of the professional practice innovation grant, which supports districts committed to integrating the two initiatives by promoting innovative professional practices. Ms. Peske said a research report on educator evaluation implementation expected in January will provide more insight.

Commissioner Chester said the regulatory amendment would give the Commissioner the flexibility to adjust dates in the educator evaluation regulations. Secretary Malone said he supports the Commissioner’s recommendation, which is very responsive to the field.

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

**VOTED: That the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 69, § 1B, and c. 71, § 38, and having solicited and reviewed public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. c. 30A, § 3, hereby adopt the amendment to the Regulations on Evaluation of Educators, 603 CMR 35.00, as presented by the Commissioner. The amendment adds a new section 35.11 (10), allowing the Commissioner to adjust dates in the regulations for good cause.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Student Discipline Law Effective July 2014: Cost Study and Overview of Next Steps**

Commissioner Chester presented an overview, noting that under current state law, school districts have no obligation to educate regular education students who have been suspended long-term or expelled. The Commissioner said the impact of being removed from school without educational services is devastating, and as of July 1, 2014, this law obligates districts to provide these students with opportunities to continue their education.

Commissioner Chester today the Department is presenting the cost study mandated by the new law, and in January, he will bring a set of draft regulations to the Board. The Commissioner introduced Associate Commissioner John Bynoe, Associate Commissioner Carrie Conway, and Deputy General Counsel Dianne Curran.

Mr. Bynoe gave an overview of key provisions affecting schools and students, including: education services during exclusion; limits on length of suspension or expulsion; discipline procedures; and data reporting to the Department. Ms. Conaway said the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy performed the cost study required by law. She said the study looked at three different program models from North Adams, Fall River, and Springfield.

Ms. Kaplan had to leave the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Board members discussed the capacity of districts to carry out the law; frequency of suspensions and expulsions; use of alternative education programs including digital learning, virtual schools, and collaborative programs to educate students who are excluded from school; wraparound services for students; and applicability to charter schools. Attorney Curran clarified that the new law applies to all public schools, including charter schools.

**Background Checks for School Employees: Progress Report and Adoption of Regulations, 603 CMR 51.00**

Commissioner Chester noted that Massachusetts is the one of the last states to implement a national background check law for school employees. The Commissioner reminded the Board of the emergency regulations it approved in September, and noted one suggestion from the Massachusetts Teachers Association concerning 603 CMR 51.06 (3)(b). Ms. Chernow moved to amend the suitability determination requirement contained in the regulations at 603 CMR 51.06 (3)(b), by making the requirement three years, rather than three months. Mr. Roach said this seems like a common sense adjustment.

Commissioner Chester said the change is a judgment call, and members should weigh the benefit of extra cautions against the benefit of ease for teachers. Chair Banta asked how other states handle this issue. Associate General Counsel Lucy Wall said other states require more frequent checks. She added that school districts can require additional background checks at their own expense.

**On an amendment to the original motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in the proposed final regulation, 603 CMR 51.06(3)(b), strike the word "months" and substitute in its place the word "years."**

The vote was 6-0-1. Secretary Malone abstained.

**On an amended motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with G.L. chapter 69, § 1B and chapter 71, § 38R, as amended by St. 2013, c. 77, and having solicited and reviewed public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. c. 30A, § 3, hereby adopt the Regulations on Criminal History Checks for School Employees, 603 CMR 51.00, as presented by the Commissioner.**

The vote was unanimous.

Secretary Malone had to leave at 12:03 p.m. The Secretary's designee, Jim DiTullio, took the Secretary's place.

**Proposed Amendments to Charter School Regulations, 603 CMR 1.00**

Commissioner Chester introduced Deputy Commissioner Wulfson, Associate Commissioner Chuang, and Ruth Hersh from the Charter School Office. The Commissioner gave the Board an overview of the proposed regulations to be released for public comment. Commissioner Chester said the proposed amendments reflect the experience of the Department since the regulations were last amended in 2010 and align the regulations with current guidance and policy; clarify inconsistencies; and strengthen aspects of the charter school accountability system.

Mr. Chuang summarized the amendments, which pertain to procedures for closing; notification of decreases in enrollment; the process for charter amendments; and board of trustee term limits. He responded to questions from Board members about charter school governance policies, student recruitment, enrollment and retention, and calculation of the lowest ten percent for purposes of the charter cap-lift. Vice-Chair Chernow asked about charter matters that are delegated to the Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson responded that under the delegation authority, the Commissioner notifies the Board in advance of his decisions, and members may ask to have a matter brought to the full Board for review and vote. Mr. Chuang said after the period of public comment on the proposed amendments, the Commissioner will bring the regulations back to the Board for a final vote in March.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with G.L. c. 69, § 1B, and c. 71, § 89, hereby authorizes the Commissioner to proceed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. c.30A, § 3, to solicit public comment on the proposed amendments to the Regulations on Charter Schools, 603 CMR 1.00, as presented by the Commissioner. The proposed amendment address accountability, charter networks, tuition payments schedules, and other matters.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Proposed Regulations on Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools (Adoption of Regulations, 603 CMR 52.00, Repeal of Regulations on Virtual Innovation Schools, 603 CMR 48.00, and Technical Amendment to Special Education Regulations, 603 CMR 28.00)**

Commissioner Chester said the new virtual school law confirmed the Board’s leadership and position that stronger state oversight of virtual schools was needed. Commissioner Chester gave the Board an overview of the law. The commissioner introduced Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang and Luis Rodriguez, Director of the Office of Digital Learning.

Mr. Chuang said the Digital Learning Advisory Council reviewed the proposed regulations, which are similar to the regulations and governance of charter schools. In response to Dr. Noyce’s question, Mr. Rodriguez confirmed that schools would need to provide technology to each student, once enrolled. Mr. DiTullio said the statute and regulations will make Massachusetts a leader on virtual schools. Mr. Roach voiced concerns on health and safety, including mandated reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect. Mr. Chuang said the reporting duty for virtual schools is the same as for other public schools, and the Department will provide further guidance.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with G.L. c. 69, § 1B; G.L. c. 71, § 94; and chapter 379 of the acts of 2012, hereby authorizes the Commissioner to proceed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. c. 30A, § 3, to solicit public comment on the following proposed regulatory actions:**

* **Adoption of the proposed Regulations on Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools, 603 CMR 52.00, as presented by the Commissioner. The proposed regulations implement the statute on virtual schools, G.L. c. 71, § 94, added by section 5 of chapter 379 of the acts of 2012;**
* **Corresponding repeal of the provisions of the regulations on Innovation Schools, 603 CMR 48.00, relating to virtual innovation schools, which would be replaced by the new Regulations on Virtual Schools; and**
* **Corresponding technical amendments to the regulations on Special Education, 603 CMR 28.00, as presented by the Commissioner, to ensure consistency with the statute on virtual schools, G.L. c. 71, § 94.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Amendment Proposed for Lowell Community Charter Public School – Discussion and Vote**

Commissioner Chester recommended that the Board approve Lowell Community Charter Public School’s request to expand its grade span and increase its maximum enrollment. The Commissioner said the school’s success is a remarkable contrast to the situation four years ago. Commissioner Chester said this is the third year in a row that the school has shown significant gains in student achievement.

Dr. Noyce asked what contributed to the school's turnaround. Mr. Chuang said it was a combination of stronger governance and leadership, along with the hard work of teachers, families, and students. Ms. Chernow asked about the letter from Lowell Public Schools Superintendent Jean Franco regarding the number of special education students who transferred back to the public school system. Mr. Chuang said the school has responded and the Department is providing guidance on serving special education students.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby amends the charter granted to the following school, as presented by the Commissioner:**

**Lowell Community Charter Public School (enrollment increase from 640 *to* 800; *grade span change from* K-6 *to* K1-8)**

**Location: Lowell**

**Maximum Enrollment: 800**

**Grades Served: K1-8**

**Effective year: FY2015**

The vote was 5-1-1. Ms. Chernow voted in opposition. Ms. Daniels abstained.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 12:45 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**

**Monday, December 16, 2013**

**5:05 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

**Maura Banta**,Chair, Melrose

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

**Daniel Brogan**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Dennis

**Karen Daniels,** Milton

**James DiTullio,** Designee forSecretary of Education Matthew Malone

**James Morton,** Springfield

**Pendred Noyce**,Weston

**David Roach**, Sutton

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

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

**Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, Milton

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

Chair Banta called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

*Digital Learning*

Commissioner Chester welcomed Board members and introduced Luis Rodriguez, Director of the Office of Digital Learning. Commissioner Chester provided the Board with an overview of the special meeting discussion focused on district technology infrastructure, digital tools and resources, and implementation of the new virtual schools law.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced Tom Stella, Assistant Superintendent of Everett Public Schools, to discuss Edwin Teaching and Learning. Edwin T&L is the new comprehensive Massachusetts teaching and learning platform that is designed to provide state educators integrated information and tools that are aligned to state curriculum frameworks and assessments. Edwin T&L will provide curriculum planning tools, model curriculum units, online instructional resources, and a variety of assessment tools and reports. Five districts are a part of the Edwin T&L pilot including: Everett, Malden, Revere, Chelsea, and Winthrop.

Mr. Stella said Everett has been involved in the development and pilot of Edwin T&L because it provides the district with an opportunity to streamline and coordinate the teaching and learning tools for educators across the district. He said previously the district was using thirty different teaching and learning systems, which required annual upgrades and increased costs for hardware. Mr. Stella said the district participated in “train the trainer” sessions with district staff, which has now been scaled district-wide to reach 500 staff, to date.

Commissioner Chester said Edwin Teaching and Learning is one of the Commonwealth’s Race to the Top projects, and Massachusetts has worked on it jointly with the state of Ohio. He thanked Mr. Stella for his leadership in the project. The Commissioner said the goal is to create a common platform that districts may choose to use or not, as they see fit.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced representatives from the Burlington Public Schools: Dennis Villano, information technology director; Irene Farmer, first grade teacher; and Ben Schersten, education technology specialist. The Burlington educators introduced the Board to their one-to-one tablet initiative in grade one and grades 4-12. Ms. Farmer demonstrated student books, digital portfolios, and writing tools on a tablet. Commissioner Chester acknowledged Burlington Superintendent Eric Conti for being a leader on digital learning and technology.

Bethan Cordone, a student at Massachusetts Virtual Academy at Greenfield, presented to the Board on her experience as a virtual school student. Ms. Cardone’s learning coach and parent, Wiley Cordone, also provided insight from her experience with the virtual school.

Board members discussed student engagement in using technology, cost of technology per student, and virtual schools. Mr. Rodriguez said the Department’s focus on technology is to prepare all students with digital learning skills. He said while the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is driving the conversation, digital tools also address the proficiency gap by improving data driven instruction. Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of the digital learning spectrum and digital learning technology readiness, including infrastructure, administration, and devices.

Mr. Brogan updated the Board on the State Student Advisory Council’s digital learning activities. He said the council is creating a digital learning model policy and working through the regional councils to promote student and educator awareness. Mr. Rodriguez said 1,078 schools across 304 districts participated in a statewide internet speed test in October. Results from the speed test were presented to the Board.

*Integrating College and Career Readiness*

Commissioner Chester gave the Board an overview of the second presentation on the progress of the Integration of College and Career Readiness (ICCR) Task Force report recommendations and new components of the District Analysis and Review Tool. Commissioner Chester introduced Keith Westrich, Director of College and Career Readiness at the Department.

Mr. Westrich updated the Board on ICCR project milestones, including: implementing connecting activities in 120 high schools; establishing Pathways to Prosperity initiatives in Boston, Hampden, and the MetroWest areas; publishing the Career Development Education Guide and Glossary; and launching a coordinated professional development strategy.

Lien Hoang from the Office of Planning and Research presented to the Board the Department's new District Analysis and Review Tool (DART) detail for Success After High School. The new DART detail contains a range of postsecondary and career readiness data including: demographics; high school indicators; high school performance; program of study; post secondary education outcomes; and career development information.

The Board discussed the Pathways to Prosperity initiative, college and career readiness, and DART data. Commissioner Chester noted the ambitious targets in the ICCR project and how districts vary in what they provide. With respect to the DART data, he called attention to the sobering statistic that of 100 students who enter 9th grade, only about 50 eventually enroll in a second year of college.

Chair Banta acknowledged Vice-Chair Chernow’s service on the ICCR Task Force and the advisory council. Chair Banta thanked all the presenters and Board members for the informative discussion on the two topics presented at the special meeting.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 6:55 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