**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**

**8:35 a.m. – 11:45 a.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

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

**Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, Milton

**Karen Daniels,** Milton

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Matthew Malone**,Secretary of Education (by James DiTullio**,** designee)

**James O’S. Morton,** Springfield

**Pendred Noyce**,Weston

**David Roach**, Sutton

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

Member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

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

Chair Banta called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Banta and Commissioner Chester presented a citation to the Department’s Chief Operating Officer, Carole Thomson, wished her the best in her retirement, and thanked her for her years of service to the students of the Commonwealth. Chair Banta gave a recap of the February 24th special meeting on civic education and engagement. She said the discussion was excellent and the goal is to make civic education an integral part of schooling, not an add-on to the list of things districts have to do.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Chester reported that the Department’s two deputy commissioners and chief financial officer were attending the Ways and Means Committee hearing in Amherst on the FY2015 education budget. He updated the Board on work underway on computer science education. Commissioner Chester said he has been in correspondence with the Pioneer Institute on the Common Core State Standards and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). He informed the Board that the Department has received a waiver from the United States Department of Education so that schools participating in the PARCC field test can avoid double-testing students.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Mr. Ditullio said the special meeting on civic education was an excellent discussion. He noted that Secretary Malone was at the Ways and Means budget hearing. Mr. DiTullio said the Governor’s budget is strong on education, with historic investments in Chapter 70 aid, early learning, and higher education. He said the school safety and security taskforce is meeting for the first time this afternoon.

**Public Comment**

1. Tim Sullivan of the Massachusetts Teachers Association addressed the Board on the school turnaround work in New Bedford.

2. Anne Borg and Terry Yoffe of the League of Women Voters addressed the Board on civic learning and engagement.

Vanessa Calderón-Rosado arrived at 9:05 a.m.

**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 January 27, 2014 special meeting and the January 28, 2014 regular meeting.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Proposed Amendments to Regulations on Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval (603 CMR 7) and Educator License Renewal (603 CMR 44): Requirements for Teachers of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students**

Commissioner Chester gave the Board an overview of the main goals of the proposed amendments. He reminded the Board that today’s vote is to send the proposed regulations out for public comment.

Associate Commissioner Heather Peske said the Department has been working with the field on these regulations. In response to Ms. Kaplan’s questions, Special Education Director Marcia Mittnacht said a provision in the regulations is aimed at strengthening the skill level of American Sign Language educators. Ms. Noyce asked if deaf students reach proficiency in reading. Ms. Mittnacht said some students do, but it varies depending on students’ hearing loss, and outcomes are changing with the increased use of cochlear implants.

**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, § 38G, hereby authorize 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 Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval (603 CMR 7) and Educator License Renewal (603 CMR 44), as presented by the Commissioner. The proposed amendments relate to the requirements for Teachers of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students.**

**Update on Level 5 Schools**

Commissioner Chester said four schools were designated as Level 5 and he has selected turnaround operators to implement each of the turnaround plans. He described the process and timelines set forth in the statute and said he has directed the school committees and affected unions in Boston, Holyoke, and New Bedford to undertake bargaining on a series of working conditions. The commissioner said he expects to release the draft turnaround plans early in March, and then the local stakeholder group, superintendent, and school committee will have the opportunity to propose modifications.

Chair Banta thanked the commissioner for keeping the Board well informed about the process. In response to a question from Ms. Daniels, Commissioner Chester confirmed that Unlocking Potential is the turnaround operator for the Holland Elementary School, but is not turning it into a charter school. He said in each case the receivers are responsible for implementing the Commissioner’s turnaround plan. Mr. Roach asked about the staffing review under the Lawrence receivership and in New Bedford. Commissioner Chester said in Lawrence, the receiver re-evaluated staff rather than exercising his right to require all to re-apply, and about one-fourth of the staff did not return. Commissioner Chester said in New Bedford the superintendent did announce that staff would need to re-apply. He said New Bedford High School is a Level 4 school and the district is responsible for implementing the turnaround plan.

In response to Ms. Kaplan’s questions, Commissioner Chester said the law provides for an initial three-year turnaround plan. Commissioner Chester said he would look for a sustained improvement trajectory before an exit strategy is even discussed. He said the school districts and receivers in the Level 5 schools have met with faculty and sent letters to parents to inform and engage them in the process. Ms. Calderón-Rosado asked about the Dever’s dual language program. Commissioner Chester said the program received a lot of advocacy, but after a thorough review of the program it is clearly very uneven. Commissioner Chester said a strong program for English Language Learners is being discussed for all of the turnaround schools.

**Update on PARCC**

Commissioner Chester informed the Board of the recent press release on the schools participating in the field test. He said in most cases just a few classrooms in the school have been chosen, and 81,000 Massachusetts students will try out the assessment. Commissioner Chester said there is a great deal of interest in the field test, and Burlington and Revere are going to use a variety of devices to analyze what works best. He reminded the Board of the two-year transition plan the Board adopted in November, which includes the PARCC field test this spring, next year’s choice of MCAS or PARCC, and a Board vote in the fall of 2015 on whether to adopt PARCC as the Commonwealth’s assessment program.

Chair Banta said the implementation timeline is thoughtful, and most in the field agree. Commissioner Chester said some states have made the transition abruptly, while Massachusetts tried to be deliberate in implementation and allow districts to try out the assessment and provide feedback during the “test drive” period. He said MCAS is in its seventeenth year of administration and a lot has been learned in that time about technology, student learning, and what students need to know to succeed in the twenty-first century.

Ms. Noyce asked what the state will learn from the field test and what will be reported. Commissioner Chester said students will not receive scores on the field test because we are assessing the assessment and analyzing the testing items. He said information will be reported to the public and the Board. Ms. Daniels said she is pleased that so many schools are participating in the online mode. She asked how schools are getting students ready, including those that are not technologically advanced. Luis Rodriguez of the Office of Digital Learning said PARCC practice items are available, and digital literacy tools vary from district to district. In response to Ms. Kaplan’s questions, Mr. Rodriguez said tested students are in grades three through eight and some in high school. He noted that PARCC set the sample for the number of online and number of paper tests, as part of the random sampling. Mr. Roach asked for an update on the state IT bond in the Legislature. Commissioner Chester said federal E-Rate funds are more certain; the state IT bond bill has passed the House and he is hopeful it will pass the Senate, but he cannot predict when that might happen.

**Virtual Schools – Recommendation for New Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School**

Commissioner Chester reminded the Board that its formal approval of virtual schools is the culmination of recommendations the Board made to the Legislature to ensure state oversight, quality control, and consumer protection. He said he is presenting one applicant for approval with conditions. Luis Rodriguez explained the conditions being placed upon the school, including the duration of the certificate, maximum enrollment, and governance. Mr. Brogan asked about the student to teacher ratio, listed as 43 to 1 in the application. Mr. Rodriguez said the ratio will be much lower with the reduced maximum enrollment and tuition rate. Mr. Roach asked about ensuring safe environments and reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect. Mr. Rodriguez said these safeguards are covered in the regulations and opening procedures. Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang noted that the Department will require substantial work from new virtual schools through the opening procedures, as it does for new charter schools. He said the virtual school would have to meet the requirements by the time of the school opening. Mr. Roach asked what about the experience with the first virtual school suggests we are ready for a second one in Massachusetts. Commissioner Chester said the new statute and proposed regulations, and the experience of the past several years, put us in a much better place, with a clear structure and standards. Mr. Chuang said there is evidence of demand, and the school went through a rigorous review process.

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 94, and chapter 379, section 6, of the Acts of 2012, subject to the conditions set forth below and regulations promulgated pursuant to General Laws chapter 71, section 94, hereby grants a certificate to the board of trustees of the following school, as recommended by the Commissioner:**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School (CMVS):**

**TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School**

**Location: Dedham**

**Maximum Enrollment: 2,000, with a maximum of 1,000 students in year 1 and 1,500 students in year 2**

**Grade Levels: K-12**

**Certificate Timeframe: July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017**

**Per Pupil Tuition Rate: $6,700 (minus $75 admin fee)**

**Pursuant to General Laws chapter 71, section 94, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education hereby imposes the following conditions on the certificate of the TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School (TECCA):**

1. **No later than March 14, 2014, the board of trustees of TECCA must submit for the Commissioner’s approval a list of additional proposed board members of TECCA who possess the needed skills and expertise to oversee the CMVS, with a minimum of 5 total board members, and identifying the board chair.**
2. **All appointed and proposed trustees who also hold a position, whether paid or unpaid, with The Education Cooperative or its member school districts must seek a written opinion from the State Ethics Commission and, upon receipt, provide a copy of that opinion to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. For appointed trustees, that opinion must be requested no later than the close of business on March 14, 2014.**
3. **No later than March 14, 2014, the board of trustees of TECCA must submit bylaws for review and approval to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.**
4. **No later than April 1, 2014, the board of trustees of TECCA must submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education a draft contract with Connections Academy for review and approval.**
5. **No later than April 1, 2014, the board of trustees of TECCA must submit a draft enrollment policy, procedure, and application to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review and approval, and such approval must be received prior to admission of any students.**
6. **TECCA shall establish, prior to opening, and shall operate a program of special education in a manner consistent with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.**
7. **TECCA shall establish, prior to opening, and shall operate a program for English language learners, including recruiting such students and enrolling applicants, in a manner consistent with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.**
8. **TECCA shall submit, no later than August 1, 2014, annual goals that are specific and measurable for student achievement and college and career readiness including, but not limited to the Department's Progress and Performance Index (PPI).**
9. **TECCA shall complete the alignment of the virtual school’s curriculum to the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks (**[**http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html)**) no later than September 1, 2015.**

**In addition to these conditions, the TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School, like all Commonwealth of Massachusetts virtual schools, must also comply with the terms of its certificate and request and receive approval from the Commissioner in advance of implementing any change to the terms. The Commissioner shall review and report to the Board on success or lack of success of the TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School in meeting the conditions imposed on its certificate and, based upon his review, shall recommend such further action as he deems appropriate.**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts virtual school shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 94; regulations governing Commonwealth of Massachusetts virtual schools; and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such conditions as the Commissioner or the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the certificate.**

The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Kaplan had to leave the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

**Charter Schools – Recommendations for New Charter Schools**

Ms. Calderón-Rosado gave the Board an update on the February 24th charter school committee meeting. She said there was a discussion of comments on the proposed regulations, initiatives to increase access and equity, common school performance criteria, and the launch of a new parent complaint system.

Mr. Brogan reported on the Fall River public hearing. He said there was strong support for the proposed Argosy Collegiate Charter School and New Heights Charter School, while two opponents were concerned about funding. Mr. Roach reported that at the Springfield public hearing, 25 people spoke in favor of the proposed charter school.

Commissioner Chester said Massachusetts sets a high bar for charter schools, both at the application and operational stages. He said that six applicant groups were invited to apply and submitted final applications. Commissioner Chester said after considerable review he is recommending Argosy Collegiate Charter School and Springfield Preparatory Charter School. He noted that the other applicants have potential, and receive feedback from the Department to improve. He added that the two schools he is recommending had applied previously and learned from the feedback they received.

Argosy Collegiate Charter School

Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang said Argosy submitted an application last year and has made significant progress in building its capacity, enhancing access and equity, and addressing previous application weaknesses. He reminded Board members that Argosy had to meet the proven provider requirements because Fall River is above the nine percent net school spending cap. Mr. DiTullio asked if another Fall River application could come forward next year. Mr. Chuang said given the Atlantis Charter School’s expansion and the Argosy application, Fall River would be at the eighteen percent net school spending cap, as are Boston and Holyoke. In response to Mr. DiTullio’s question, Mr. Chuang said the application review process is criterion- referenced, not norm-referenced. He said public comment is taken into consideration, but the ultimate decision is based on the criteria, which the New Heights application did not fully meet.

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, and subject to the conditions set forth below, hereby grants a charter to the following school, as recommended by the Commissioner:**

**Commonwealth Charter:**

**Argosy Collegiate Charter School**

**Location: Fall River**

**Maximum Enrollment: 644**

**Grade Levels: 6-12**

**Opening Year: FY2015**

**The charter school shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 89; 603 CMR 1.00; and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such conditions as the Commissioner or the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter; provided that, in accordance with section 9 of chapter 12 of the Acts of 2010, the Commissioner may limit the school’s actual enrollment to an amount less than the maximum enrollment approved herein.**

The vote was unanimous.

Springfield Preparatory Charter School

Mr. Morton stated that he would abstain from the discussion and vote on this matter because he has business and personal relationships with some people affiliated with the school.

Mr. Chuang gave an overview of Springfield Preparatory Charter School’s application. He said Springfield Prep previously applied for a charter and made significant improvements to the application and plan, including a commitment to backfilling every vacant seat in grades K-8. Mr. Roach said the school deserves credit for strengthening its application and community support. Mr. DiTullio asked about teacher salaries at the proposed school. Mr. Chuang said the Department posts the information online.

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, and subject to the conditions set forth below, hereby grants a charter to the following school, as recommended by the Commissioner:**

**Commonwealth Charter:**

**Springfield Preparatory Charter School**

**Location: Springfield**

**Maximum Enrollment: 486**

**Grade Levels: K-8**

**Opening Year: FY2016**

**The charter school shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 89; 603 CMR 1.00; and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such conditions as the Commissioner or the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter; provided that, in accordance with section 9 of chapter 12 of the Acts of 2010, the Commissioner may limit the school’s actual enrollment to an amount less than the maximum enrollment approved herein.**

The vote was 7-0-1. Mr. Morton abstained.

[**Major Amendment for Atlantis Charter School**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2014/2014-02/item6.html)

Commissioner Chester said he is recommending the amendment request in light of the school’s continued solid academic performance and its responsiveness to concerns in the past. He said the school has earned the expansion. Mr. Chuang said the school is high-performing and is committed to addressing access and equity and backfilling vacant seats through the tenth grade.

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby removes the conditions imposed on the charter of the Atlantis Charter School.**

**Further, 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:**

### **Atlantis Charter School (enrollment increase from 795 to 1378)**

**Location: Fall River**

**Maximum Enrollment: 1378**

**Grades Served: K-12**

**Effective year: FY2015**

**Atlantis Charter School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00 and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Amendment Request for Consolidation and Conditions on Charters of Match Charter Public School and Match Community Day Charter Public School**

Ms. Calderón-Rosado stated that she would abstain from the discussion and vote on this matter because she has a business relationship with the school.

Commissioner Chester said Match has delivered a high quality education to its students and has expanded the school’s work and best practices in innovative ways, including initiatives on educator preparation and intensive tutoring in partnership with school turnaround in Lawrence and elsewhere. He recommended that the Board vote to consolidate the two charters and place three conditions on the school to ensure the governance structures and relationships are consistent with the conflict of interest law. Mr. Chuang said Match’s innovations and dissemination of educational ideas, operations, and practices are exactly what was envisioned for charter schools from the beginning. He said the consolidation will great a K-12 pipeline for students. In response to Ms. Noyce’s enrollment question, Mr. Chuang said Match is committed to backfilling vacant seats at grade nine, and the consolidation will increase access.

**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 charters of the Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School, as presented by the Commissioner, effective July 1, 2014:**

**Match Charter Public School**

**(total enrollment of 1250 students reflecting the consolidation of the seats currently allocated to Match Community Day Charter Public School (700 seats) and Match Charter Public School (550 seats) and grade span of K1–12)**

**Location: Boston**

**Maximum enrollment: 1250**

**Grade levels: K1–12**

**Effective fiscal year: 2015**

**Provided further that, by April 1, 2015, the board of trustees of the Match Charter Public School will submit a minor amendment request to: (1) change its mission statement to include the words: “in particular, those would be the first in their families to earn a college degree. We intend this school to serve large numbers of English language learners.” and (2) to change its enrollment policy to indicate that it will backfill vacancies through 9th grade.**

The vote was 7-0-1. Ms. Calderón-Rosado abstained.

With respect to the conditions, Commissioner Chester said the Department has no concern about any problems; we just want to ensure Match has cleared the way for these innovative structures in light of the state ethics and retirement board rules.

**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 the following conditions on the charters of the Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School, as presented by the Commissioner:**

1. **As it relates to Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School and their associated private entities, current members of the board of trustees and employees of Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School who also provide services to or hold a position in any capacity at any of the schools’ associated private entities are required to request the advice of and a written opinion from the State Ethics Commission no later than March 14, 2014. Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School must provide copies of all written communications with the State Ethics Commission, including the requests for opinions and opinions received, to the Department within 15 days of being sent or received, and the schools and their employees shall implement the advice and opinions of the State Ethics Commission upon receipt.**
2. **Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School must contact the appropriate public employee retirement boards no later than March 14, 2014 to ensure that employee time has been properly reported. To the extent that reported time requires correction, Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School must correct that reported time as expeditiously as possible and to the satisfaction of the appropriate public employee retirement boards. No later than June 13, 2014, Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School must provide to the Department evidence of having met this condition.**
3. **Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School must change how they are represented on the website** [**www.matcheducation.org**](http://www.matcheducation.org) **and in all other materials, including those used for marketing, to clarify that Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School are public bodies governed by a board of trustees, and that Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School are not controlled or operated by any private entity, including any associated private entities. Any website used by Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School must indicate to the public clearly and unequivocally that the schools are public entities. No later than June 27, 2014, Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School must provide to the Department evidence of having met this condition.**

**In addition to meeting these conditions, Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School, like all charter schools, must also comply with the terms of their charters. The Commissioner shall review and report to the Board on the success or lack of success of Match Community Day Charter Public School and Match Charter Public School in meeting these conditions and, based upon his review, shall recommend such further action as he deems appropriate.**

The vote was 7-0-1. Ms. Calderón-Rosado abstained.

**Charter Renewal with Probation: Dorchester Collegiate Charter School**

Commissioner Chester said he is concerned about the academic performance of the school, and noted the school is already taking steps to address the concerns. He said he is recommending renewal with probation to signal serious concerns. In response to Chair Banta’s timeline question, the commissioner clarified that the conditions have dates attached to them. Commissioner Chester said the Department is trying to give schools earlier signals about concerns and not wait until the charter is up for its second renewal. Mr. Chuang said the decision point will be in the fall of 2015. In response to Mr. Roach’s question, Mr. Chuang said the charter school added two members to the board of trustees in the last month. Mr. DiTullio asked for clarification on the probation with conditions status. Mr. Chuang said a probationary status almost always comes with conditions that reflect improvements that must be made.

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.13(4), hereby places the Dorchester Collegiate Academy Charter School on probation and directs the school to meet the following terms of probation, as recommended by the Commissioner:**

1. **Beginning in March 2014 and until further notice, DCACS must submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at** [**charterschools@doe.mass.edu**](mailto: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 that these items are sent to the school’s board members. Additionally, if board materials do not already include this information, the school must also submit monthly financial statements.**
2. **By June 30, 2014, DCACS must submit a comprehensive evaluation of the school’s mathematics and English language arts programs, including how such programs meet the needs of special education students and English language learners, conducted by an external consultant(s). Such consultant(s) must be acceptable to and approved in advance by the Department.**
3. **By July 31, 2014, DCACS must submit an action plan to the Department for approval. Such action plan must specify strategies to improve mathematics and English language arts performance, including the performance of special education students and English language learners. The action plan must address implementation of a proven curriculum and instruction program for mathematics and English language arts. The action plan must set clear and specific implementation benchmarks, with a clear timetable and deadlines for completion of key tasks, to allow the school’s board of trustees and the Department to monitor implementation.**
4. **By July 31, 2014, DCACS must implement all key elements of its educational program model in alignment with its charter or request an amendment to its charter to accurately reflect the school’s educational program.**
5. **By July 31, 2014, the school’s board of trustees must have completed a comprehensive self-evaluation of its own capacity and must have recruited additional board members with needed expertise, as identified by the board of trustees and the Department.**
6. **By August 31, 2014, the school’s board of trustees must engage in training conducted by an external consultant, acceptable to and approved in advance by the Department, on the roles and responsibilities of a board of trustees for a charter school.**
7. **By September 30, 2014, the school’s board of trustees must develop and implement a formal system of evaluation for the executive director.**
8. **By September 30, 2015, DCACS must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has met or is making substantial progress toward meeting benchmarks in its approved Accountability Plan and, in particular, has demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics and English language arts.**
9. **By September 30, 2015, DCACS must provide written evidence of consistent implementation of its educational program in alignment with its charter, including any approved amendment(s). The Department must be able to corroborate such evidence through the site visit process.**

**Further, 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:**

***Dorchester Collegiate Academy Charter School (grades served changed from 4–12 to 4 – 8)***

**Location: Boston**

**Maximum Enrollment: 238**

**Grades Served: 4–8**

**Effective year: FY2015**

**In addition to meeting the terms of probation, Dorchester Collegiate Academy 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 the success or lack of success of Dorchester Collegiate Academy Charter School in meeting the terms of probation and its charter and, based upon his review, shall recommend such further action as he deems appropriate.**

The vote was unanimous.

## Proposed Contract with a Management Organization for Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

Mr. Chuang explained this is a procedural vote; the delegation is need for the timing of the contract in this case and is not a delegation of approval for all management contracts.

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education authorize the Commissioner, in accordance with General Laws c. 15, § 1F, paragraph 3, to act on behalf of the Board in approving the management contract between Roxbury Preparatory Charter School and Uncommon Schools, as required by General Laws chapter 71, section 89 (k)(5), and 603 CMR 1.00, following his legal and technical review of the contract and a vote by the board of trustees of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School.**

The vote was unanimous.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am, 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, February 24, 2014**

**5:05 p.m. – 7:05 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

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

**Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, Milton

**Karen Daniels,** Milton

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Matthew Malone**,Secretary of Education (by James DiTullio**,** designee)

**James O’S. Morton,** Springfield

**Pendred Noyce**,Weston

**David Roach**, Sutton

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

Member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

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

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

**Civic Education and Engagement: the Role of Schools and State Initiatives**

Commissioner Chester introduced the topic of civic education and engagement. He said Board members would hear from Department staff, members of the Special Commission on Civic Engagement, and educators from the Malden Public Schools.

Susan Wheltle, Director of Literacy & Humanities at the Department, presented background information on the History and Social Science curriculum framework, originally adopted in 1997 and updated in 2003. She added that MASSCore recommends a minimum of three years of history and social science for high school students.  Ms. Wheltle said the Department is developing model curriculum units for educators in various subjects, including civics. Kristen McKinnon, Service Learning Specialist at the Department, said service learning is a method of teaching that integrates academic integrity, student ownership, and apprentice citizenship. Ms. McKinnon gave an overview of the funding history for service learning on the state and federal level. She said continued support for service learning includes: collaborative partnerships for student success, 21st century community learning centers, after-school and out-of-school time grants, and professional development for service-learning practice.

Chair Banta asked if model United Nations and Model Congress programs are still offered in schools. She also asked about the work of the Edward Moore Kennedy Institute. Commissioner Chester said the programs are still offered and the Kennedy Institute is devoted to helping students to understand the legislative process. He said the Institute is located on the UMass Boston campus, and is linking with other statewide projects. In response to Ms. Noyce’s question on social science learning time for elementary school students, Ms. McKinnon said the Department does not track individual class time. Mr. Roach noted that since the loss of the federal Learn and Serve grant program, the last two years of service learning funding has targeted after-school programs. Mr. Roach said he is concerned about the decline in funding support and in the number of schools and educators who are able to participate.

Mr. DiTullio noted that the Department is the organizer for Student Government Day. The commissioner added the General Court also provides considerable support. Ms. Kaplan suggested encouraging voter registration among high school students. Mr. Brogan said getting students to register and vote would help them become active citizens. Ms. Calderón-Rosado asked about the status of the model curriculum units in diverse topics. Ms. Wheltle said there are at least 25 model units in each academic area, teachers are already piloting them, and the Department will be providing professional development this summer. Mr. Morton he has seen firsthand the power of community service learning to transform students’ lives.

Commissioner Chester introduced Senator Richard Moore, Chair of the Special Commission on Civic Engagement; and commission members Representative David Vieira, Dr. Charles White of the Boston University School of Education, and Assistant Commissioner Shelley Tinkham of the Department of Higher Education. Senator Moore said Massachusetts has a history of commitment to public education to educate citizens for the workforce and active citizenship. He noted that Mass. General Laws Chapter 71, section 2 requires U.S. history and civics to be taught as required courses in all public elementary and high schools in the Commonwealth. Senator Moore said the commission looked at civics education in elementary and secondary grades, higher education, and adult education. Representative Vieira said Horace Mann created a public infrastructure in Massachusetts for history and civics education. He said civics education is vital for engaging citizens, and suggested the Board take a comprehensive look at how schools are implementing history and civics education.

Dr. Charles White, of the Boston University School of Education, said students learn to be citizens by participating in government. He recommended the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework as a resource. Department of Higher Education Assistant Commissioner Shelley Tinkham gave an overview of the Vision Project and the higher education strategic plan with respect to civic learning across the public higher education campuses. She said the study group saw some great work on a small scale, and there is a need for more resources and increased capacity on campuses. Senator Moore recommended some sort of assessment of civic education and local practices, to find out more about availability and quality. He suggested that students who participate in Student Government Day should reach out to other students when they return to their schools.

Chair Banta said tonight’s presentation provided the Board with much food for thought. She said many interesting ideas were discussed, such as partnerships with organizations and capstone projects. Chair Banta suggested finding ways to spread these ideas without imposing additional mandates; student advisory councils might play a role. Ms. Kaplan said she hopes civic engagement will be elevated on a par with college and career readiness. Ms. Noyce asked about the three competencies outlined in the report and suggested reaching out to other organizations engaged in youth development. Mr. Morton said the YMCA should be a partner of the committee, since the YMCA has a youth in government program and it has been very successful with urban students. Mr. Brogan said the State Student Advisory Council is working on a model policy on digital learning and is interested in encouraging more participation through regional and local student councils. Mr. Roach said the key issue is bringing this work to scale; he suggested the Board should discuss how to set the tone and incorporate this into other statewide initiatives. Chair Banta thanked the presenters.

Commissioner Chester introduced Judi Allen, Director of History and Social Studies in the Malden Public Schools. She said the district incorporated civics into core courses with full force, despite having limited resources. She said while it was challenging preparing the curriculum, the topic engaged all students, not just a small handful. Ms. Allen showed the Board examples from the district’s website for social studies and Generation Citizen. She said the program includes professional development, collaboration with Generation Citizen, and community partnerships.

Chair Banta commented that the Malden program illustrates that integration is key, so that civic education is not just one more add-on. Ms. Noyce said the integration approach is very strategic and gets everyone involved. Ms. Kaplan said she found the Malden example very encouraging.

Commissioner Chester thanked all the participants for a great conversation. He said the concept of a civic ethic is at the heart of this discussion. He described a visit the previous week with high school students participating in Gear Up, and said schools need a range of implementation strategies to give students the tools to contribute to the world they inhabit.

Chair Banta thanked the presenters and Board member David Roach for encouraging the Board to devote a special meeting to this topic.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm, 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