*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |
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# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | March 15, 2019 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Charters Renewed for Boston Preparatory Charter Public School, Conservatory Lab Charter School, Hampden Charter School of Science East, KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School, and Roxbury Preparatory Charter School |

At its meeting in February 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) authorized the Commissioner to act on its behalf in “(a) granting charter renewals that do not involve probation; (b) approving charter amendments that do not involve changes in grade span, maximum enrollment, or districts served; and (c) removing or continuing conditions imposed on charters of charter schools; provided that the Commissioner shall report to the Board on all charter renewals, charter amendments, and conditions that have been so approved; and provided further, that the Commissioner shall notify the Board in advance of all such intended actions, and a Board member may request that the Commissioner place the charter matter(s) on the agenda of the Board for discussion and action.”

On January 31, 2019, I notified the Board that I intended to renew the charters of five schools. The charters of three of these schools, Boston Preparatory Charter Public School (BPCPS), Hampden Charter School of Science East (HCSS East), and KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School (KALCS), were to be renewed without conditions. The charters of the two others, Conservatory Lab Charter School (CLCS) and Roxbury Preparatory Charter School (RPCS) were to be renewed with conditions. No Board member requested that any of these matters be brought to the full Board for review. I am now notifying the Board that I have renewed the charters of these five schools.

Summary information regarding the five schools for which I renewed charters is provided in this memorandum. Each charter is renewed for the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2024. The charter of each school is renewed for the maximum enrollment, grades served, and district(s) served, as indicated in this memorandum. All of the schools shall operate in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 71, § 89; 603 CMR 1.00; and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner or the Board may establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.

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| ** Exceeds** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Falls Far Below** |

**Charter School Performance Criteria – Ratings and Recommendation Summary**

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|  | **Criteria** | **Boston Preparatory Charter Public School** | **Conservatory Lab Charter School** | **Hampden Charter School of Science East** | **KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School** | **Roxbury Preparatory Charter School** |
| **Faithfulness to Charter** | 1. Mission and Key Design  Elements | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** |
| 2. Access and Equity | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Partially Meets** |
| 4. Dissemination | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** |
| **Academic Program Success** | 5. Student Performance | **Not requiring assistance or intervention**  **64th percentile** | **Requiring assistance or intervention**  **29th percentile** | **Not requiring assistance or intervention**  **74th percentile** | **Not requiring assistance or intervention**  **42nd percentile** | **Not requiring assistance or intervention**  **28th percentile** |
| **Organizational Viability** | 9. Governance | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** |
| Commissioner Action | | Unconditional Renewal | Renew with Conditions | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Renew with Conditions |

**Boston Preparatory Charter Public School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2004 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2009, 2014 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 700 | **Current Enrollment** | 526 (as of October 2018) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 1,254 (as of March 2018) | **Current Age of School** | 15 |
| **Mission Statement**  Boston Prep prepares students to succeed in four-year colleges and embody, in thought and action, lifelong ethical growth. | | | |

**Conservatory Lab Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1999 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2004, 2009, 2014 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 444 | **Current Enrollment** | 441 (as of October 2018) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK­­-8 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 3,145 (as of March 2018) | **Current Age of School** | 20 |
| **Mission Statement**  Conservatory Lab Charter School empowers a diverse range of children as scholars, artists, and leaders through a unique and rigorous academic and music education. We enrich the larger community through performance, service and collaboration. As a laboratory school, we develop and disseminate innovative educational approaches that will positively impact children in other schools and programs. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Conservatory Lab Charter School (CLCS) is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet these conditions may result in the Board placing CLCS on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

**Condition 1:** By February 28, 2019, CLCS must submit evidence to the Department that it has provided the school community with notice of the school’s renewal with conditions that the school must meet. The school must inform parents/guardians, teachers, staff, board members, and students of the school’s current status.

**Condition 2:** By June 30, 2019 CLCS’s board of trustees must clarify the relationship among the school, the Conservatory Lab Charter School Foundation, and the Center for Artistry and Scholarship pertaining to issues including, but not limited to, services provided, funding, agreements, facilities, and staffing.

**Condition 3:** By November 1, 2019, the school must include in its annual financial audits all entities that should be reported as component units according to the standards of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) or an alternative plan, approved by the Department, to provide full financial transparency for all transactions and organizational relationships that impact the fiscal viability and health of the school.

**Hampden Charter School of Science East**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Chicopee |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | Springfield, Ludlow, Chicopee, West Springfield |
| **Year Opened** | 2009 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2014 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 560 | **Current Enrollment** | 508 (as of October 2018) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 399 (as of March 2018) | **Current Age of School** | 10 |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of the HCSS is to provide a college preparatory-focused education to the youth of every race and ethnic group in Western Massachusetts in a safe, academically challenging, and caring educational environment. Our promise is to sustain small school size, provide extended math and science curriculum, individualized attention, college guidance, university outreach programs, and to encourage student-teacher-parent partnership. Our mission empowers our students with the support necessary to reach their highest intellectual, emotional, social and physical potentials building on the inherent promise to aid students’ preparation for college. | | | |

**KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Lynn |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2004 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2009, 2014 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 1,586 | **Current Enrollment** | 1,456 (as of October 2018) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-3, 5-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 1,885 (as of March 2018) | **Current Age of School** | 15 |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of KIPP Academy Lynn Charter Public School (KALCS) is to empower all of its students with the academic skills, intellectual habits and character traits necessary to maximize their potential in high school, college, and the world beyond. | | | |

**Roxbury Preparatory Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1999 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2004, 2009, 2014 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 1,800 | **Current Enrollment** | 1,518 (as of October 2018) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 5-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 5-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 557 (as of March 2018) | **Current Age of School** | 20 |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School (Roxbury Prep) is to prepare students to enter, succeed in, and graduate from college. Roxbury Prep is founded on the philosophy that all students are entitled to and can succeed in college preparatory programs when: 1) the curriculum is rigorous, engaging, and well-planned; 2) the school emphasizes student character, community responsibility, and exposure to life’s possibilities; and 3) a community network supports student academic, social, and physical well-being. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School (RPCS) is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet these conditions may result in the Board placing RPCS on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

**Condition 1:** By February 28, 2019, RPCS must submit evidence to the Department that it has provided the school community with notice of the school’s renewal with conditions that the school must meet. The school must inform parents/guardians, teachers, staff, board members, and students of the school’s current status.

**Condition 2:** By April 30, 2019, RPCS must submit to the Department a comprehensive evaluation of the school’s climate, discipline policies, and school culture practices including, but not limited to, whether and how the school’s programs, policies, and procedures effectively create a safe and supportive environment and allow students equitable access the educational program. Such comprehensive evaluation must be conducted by an external consultant(s) acceptable to and approved in advance by the Department.

**Condition 3:** By May 30, 2019, RPCS must submit to the Department for approval an action plan to improve discipline rates. Such action plan must specify the strategies to improve school climate, discipline policies, and school culture practices for all student groups. 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. Roxbury Preparatory Charter School must submit monthly progress reports on the action plan to the Department.

**Condition 4:** By December 31, 2021 the school must demonstrate continued significant and sustained improvement in lowering discipline rates.

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alison Bagg, Director (781-338-3218); Cliff Chuang, Senior Associate Commissioner (781-338-3222); or me.

Attachments: [Charter Schools – Notification of Intended Actions](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2019/2019-03/item7-intended-actions.docx)

[Charter Schools – Approval of Loans beyond Charter Duration](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2019/2019-03/item7-loan-approvals.docx)