*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | February 14, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Nine Charters Renewed and Actions Taken with Respect to Conditions on Four Charters |

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 15, 2020, I notified the Board that I intended to renew the charters of nine schools. The charters of eight of these schools were to be renewed without conditions: Atlantis Charter School, Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School, Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School, Lawrence Family Development Charter School, Lowell Community Charter Public School, South Shore Charter Public School, and Springfield Preparatory Charter School. The charter of one other school, Community Charter School of Cambridge, was to be renewed with conditions. No Board member requested that any of these matters be brought to the full Board for review.

I also notified the Board that I intended to remove two conditions for Argosy Collegiate Charter School (ACCS) and did not intend to take further action regarding a third condition. I notified the Board that I intended to extend the conditions for Baystate Academy Charter Public School (BACPS) and Codman Academy Charter Public School (CACPS). I further notified the Board that I intended to remove the sole charter condition related to academic performance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence (MLK). 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 taken these actions. Summary information regarding all thirteen schools described above is provided in this memorandum. All charters renewed run from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2025. These charters are renewed for the maximum enrollment, grades served, and district(s) served 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.

**Charters Renewed**

| **Atlantis Charter School** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Fall River |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 1,378 | **Current Enrollment** | 1,302 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 495 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of the Atlantis Charter School is to provide an education second to none, yielding academic excellence and life-long learning skills.  Atlantis Charter School, an independent public school, provides an educational choice to the families of Greater Fall River by offering our students a solid academic foundation on which to build a successful future. We expect an equal partnership among parents, community, faculty, staff and students to create a safe, caring, innovative and progressive learning environment. Atlantis incorporates the best research-based practices in education to meet the needs of our student population. It is our intent to become a model of educational excellence. | | | |

| **Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Franklin |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Bellingham, Blackstone/Millville, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon/Upton, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Walpole, and Wrentham |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 900 | **Current Enrollment** | 708 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-8 | **Current Grade Span** | K-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 395 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of BFCCPS is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing the children with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development and community service. | | | |

| **Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Harwich |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Barnstable, Bourne, Dennis-Yarmouth, Falmouth, Mashpee, Monomoy, Nauset, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Years Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 260 | **Current Enrollment** | 239 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-8 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 364 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School seeks to provide a supportive and challenging learning environment for middle school students, where teachers foster intellectual development and academic achievement in an atmosphere that celebrates learning as a lifelong pleasure.  We appreciate and understand middle school-aged students. We enjoy the often undervalued creativity and intellectual potential of this age group. We strive to provide an emotionally safe and supportive community, encouraging students to develop their strengths and risk new growth, while pursuing an academically rigorous curriculum. Wherever possible, students learn through experience, allowing them to be engaged in the process of discovery and to see the practical applications of classroom lessons.  Looking beyond the walls of the classroom, we collaborate with local partners to utilize the unique natural and creative resources on Cape Cod, and reach out to global partners to broaden our cultural understanding and knowledge. Our graduates take with them the values of personal responsibility, consideration for others, respect for the environment, academic integrity, creative expression, and perseverance. | | | |

| **Community Charter School of Cambridge** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Cambridge |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2005 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 420 | **Current Enrollment** | 326 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 22 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 15 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Community Charter School of Cambridge (CCSC) combines challenging academics with creative use of technology and real-world experience to prepare a diverse student body, grades 6-12, for post-secondary success and productive citizenship. CCSC students are excellent problem solvers and communicators who contribute to their community through internships and other field experiences. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Community Charter School of Cambridge (CCSC) is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing CCSC on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

1. By December 31, 2022, CCSC must enroll no more than 20 percent of its total student population from outside Cambridge. To meet this goal, CCSC must limit the admission of students who live outside of Cambridge. If CCSC does not meet the required enrollment target, the school shall submit a request to the Board, no later than August 1, 2023, to amend its charter region based on enrollment trends.

| **Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Easthampton |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Amherst‐Pelham, Belchertown, Central Berkshire Regional, Easthampton, Erving, Frontier Regional, Gateway Regional, Gill Montague Regional, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Hampshire Regional, Hatfield, Hawlemont Regional, Leverett, Mohawk Regional, New Salem‐ Wendell, Northampton, Orange (Mahar Regional), Pioneer Valley Regional, South Hadley, Ware |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Years Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 218 | **Current Enrollment** | 218 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-8 | **Current Grade Span** | K-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 256 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**   * To involve young people in a school which uses experiential, hands‐on activities, the arts, and interdisciplinary studies, to foster critical thinking skills and a joy of learning. * To sustain a cooperative, intimate community of students, staff, families and local community members, which guides and supports the school and its educational programs. * To cultivate children’s individual voices and a shared respect for each other, our community, and the world around us. | | | |

| **Lawrence Family Development Charter School[[1]](#footnote-1)** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Lawrence |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Years Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 800 | **Current Enrollment** | 780 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-8 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 344 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Strong families, working in partnership with the school as advocates for academic achievement, will create an environment where every child has the opportunity to acquire the foundation skills and habits of mind that foster life-long learning, citizenship participation, and personal fulfillment. | | | |

| **Lowell Community Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Lowell |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2000 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 800 | **Current Enrollment** | 821[[2]](#footnote-2) (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-8 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 308 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 20 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of Lowell Community Charter Public School is to graduate creative, confident and independent thinkers, global citizens and leaders who give back to their community. We will provide a comprehensive education giving students the knowledge, skills and ways of thinking that ensure their success in high school and preparation for the opportunity to go on to college. We expect our students to strive for excellence in academic achievement and personal conduct within a joyful, supportive culture. The diversity within our students, staff, families and community and the many nations from which we come is a source of strength and an opportunity for learning. | | | |

| **South Shore Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Norwell |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Abington, Braintree, Brockton, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Quincy, Randolph, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, Whitman-Hanson |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 1,075 | **Current Enrollment** | 1,001 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 728 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life. | | | |

| **Springfield Preparatory Charter School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Longmeadow (temporary) |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2015 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 486 | **Current Enrollment** | 324 (As of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-8 | **Current Grade Span** | K-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 407 (As of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 5 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Springfield Preparatory Charter School is an inclusive K-8 public charter school that prepares all students for success in high school, college, and life through a focus on rigorous academics and character development. | | | |

**Conditions on Charters**

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| **Argosy Collegiate Charter School** | | | |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Fall River |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2014 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2019 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 644 | **Current Enrollment** | 525 (as of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-11 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 243 (as of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 6 |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of Argosy Collegiate Charter School is to provide all scholars in grades 6 through 12 with a seamless middle to high school education that educates them for a rigorous and relevant four-year college degree and ensures they are able to compete in a 21st century global economy. Argosy Collegiate Charter School prepares Fall River’s diverse community of learners with the academic foundation and character values necessary to be successful in college, career, and life. | | | |

One condition remains on the charter of ACCS. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing ACCS on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

1. By December 31, 2020, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

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| **Baystate Academy Charter Public School** | | | |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2013 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2018 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 560 | **Current Enrollment** | 463 (as of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 214 (as of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 7 |
| **Mission Statement**  Baystate Academy Charter Public School is a college preparatory school that provides challenging academic standards in professional health career settings in order to prepare 6-12th grade students in Springfield to be inspired leaders in the 21st century workforce. | | | |

The charter of BACPS is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing BACPS on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

1. By December 31, 2021, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

| **Codman Academy Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2001 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2006, 2011, 2016 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 345 | **Current Enrollment** | 339 (as of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-12 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 2,914 (as of March 2019) | **Current Age of school** | 19 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Our mission is to provide an outstanding, transformative education to prepare students for success in college, further education and beyond. | | | |

The charter of CACPS is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing CACPS on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

1. By December 31, 2020, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

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| **Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence** | | | |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2006 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2011, 2016 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 360 | **Current Enrollment** | 360 (as of October 2019) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-5 | **Current Grade Span** | K-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 52 (as of March 2019) | **Current Age of School** | 14 |
| **Mission Statement**  Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence prepares kindergarten through 5th grade students of Springfield for academic success and engaged citizenship through insistence on rigorous, challenging work. The school incorporates Dr. King’s commitment to the highest standards in scholarship, civic participation and the ideal of the beloved community. | | | |

No conditions remain on this charter.

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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.

1. The memorandum sent to Board members on January 15, 2020 regarding the renewal of charters included a table on page seven that summarized each school’s performance. Two of the ratings for Lawrence Family Development Charter School were inadvertently reversed. The table should have indicated that the school received a Meets rating in the area of Mission and Key Design Elements and an Exceeds rating in the area of Dissemination. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. As of October 1, 2019, the school was overenrolled by 21 students and as a result is out of compliance with the terms of its charter. Charter schools do not receive tuition for students enrolled above the school’s maximum enrollment. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)