*****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:** | January 14, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the January 25, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |

The next regular meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be on **Tuesday, January 25, 2022**, at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden. The meeting will start at **9:00 a.m.** and should adjourn by **1:00 p.m.** The Board will meet in person, following the Commonwealth’s current health and safety guidelines, and the meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. Helene Bettencourt and Courtney Sullivan will assist with all arrangements; please email or call them if you have any questions.

**OVERVIEW**

I will update the Board on actions the Department has taken and is taking to support schools, students, and families. The Board will vote on my recommendations for phasing out, as of spring 2024, two of the four MCAS high school science and technology/engineering subject tests. The Board will also vote on two charter school amendment requests. The final item on the agenda is an update on the education budget.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Craven will report on current issues and activities.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

**Vocational school admissions policies.** Districts with Chapter 74-approved career vocational technical education (CVTE) programs have been submitting their admissions policies to the Department, in accordance with the new regulations on CVTE admissions. The district policies are posted on the Department’s CVTE Admissions [webpage](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/admissions/submitted-admissions-policies.docx). I will update the Board at our meeting.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Secretary Peyser will report on current issues and activities.

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the December 17, 2021 Regular Meeting**

The Board will vote on approval of the minutes.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **Update on Action Steps to Support Schools, Students, and Families – Discussion**

I will update the Board on the Department’s recent and ongoing actions to provide support for schools, students, and families.

1. **High School Chemistry and Technology/Engineering Assessments –** **Continuing Discussion and Vote**

At our December meeting, I presented my recommendations for phasing out, as of spring 2024, two of the four MCAS high school science and technology/engineering subject tests that are currently available to students to meet the competency determination requirements for graduation. The memorandum in your materials provides details. I recommend that the Board vote on this matter on January 25. Rob Curtin, chief officer for data, assessment, and accountability, along with Associate Commissioner Michol Stapel and Lucy Wall of our legal staff, will be available to answer your questions.

1. **Charter Schools: Amendment Requests of Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School (Charter Region) and of Community Day Charter Public School–Prospect, Community Day Charter Public School–Gateway, and Community Day Charter Public School–R. Kingman Webster (Consolidation) – Discussion and Vote**

Under the Charter School Regulations, the Board must approve certain changes in the material terms of a school’s charter. I am presenting for your approval this month the request of Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School in Worcester to amend its charter region and the request of the three Community Day Charter Public Schools in Lawrence to consolidate. The memorandum in your materials provides details. Alison Bagg, Director of our Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign, will be at the meeting to answer questions.

1. **Education Budget Update –** **Discussion**

Senior Associate Commissioner/CFO Bill Bell will update the Board on the latest information we have about federal and state funding for K-12 education in the Commonwealth. We anticipate that the Governor will file his proposed FY2023 state budget during the week of January 24.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. **Legislative Report: Education-Related Laws Enacted in 192nd Legislative Session**

This report lists and summarizes the education-related state laws that were enacted in the recently concluded first year of the current two-year legislative session.

1. **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Annual Report for FY 2021**

The Board’s annual report highlights key activities and initiatives of the Board and Department for the past fiscal year. We will send the report to the Board in advance of our January 25 meeting. As we do each year, we will forward the report to the Governor, the Legislature, and education stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth as well as posting it on our website.

1. **Report on Grants and Charter School Matters Approved by the Commissioner**

**a. Conditions Amended for Six Charter Schools**

Enclosed is information on grants and charter school matters that I have approved since our last meeting, under the authority the Board has delegated to the Commissioner.

1. **Second Quarter Reports from Chronically Underperforming Schools**

Your materials include the second of four FY2022 quarterly progress reports to the Board on the four chronically underperforming schools’ implementation of their school turnaround plans. The schools are Paul A. Dever Elementary School and John P. Holland Elementary School (UP Academy Holland) in Boston, Morgan Full Service Community School in Holyoke, and John Avery Parker Elementary School in New Bedford.

1. **Information on New Charter Applicant and Process for New Charters**

By statute, the Board grants charters for new charter schools at its meeting in February. The Department received initial applications for two Commonwealth charter schools in August 2021. I invited one of the applicant groups to submit a final application. In November 2021, the Department received the final application to establish the proposed Innovators Charter School, which the Department is currently reviewing. Your materials include the executive summary as prepared by the applicant group, a description of the review process, and the criteria for Commonwealth charter school applications.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on January 25.