*****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 8, 2022  |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the February 15, 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, February 15, 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 Department will present several items for discussion: the proposed process and anticipated timeline for arriving at a recommendation for a new competency determination standard for students in the class of 2026 and beyond and the initial plans and proposed timetable for potential changes to the state’s district and school accountability system, to be implemented for 2022 accountability reporting this fall. The final item on the agenda is an update on the education budget, focusing on the Governor’s education budget proposal for FY23.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Craven will report on current issues and activities. She will also ask member Matt Hills, who chairs the Board’s budget committee, to report on the committee’s February 1 meeting.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

**Comments from the Secretary**

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the January 25, 2022 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. **Update on Competency Determination – Discussion**

At the February 15 meeting I will update the Board on our work toward and anticipated timeline for arriving at a recommendation for a new competency determination standard for students in the class of 2026 (this year’s 8th graders) and beyond. The memorandum under Tab 2 provides background information. Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, former president of Bridgewater State University and a former member of this Board, chaired our CD advisory committee. The committee recently completed its work and Dr. Mohler-Faria will join us for the discussion, along with Rob Curtin, our Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability, and Associate Commissioner Michol Stapel.

1. **Plans for 2022 Accountability Reporting – Initial Discussion**

We will present the Department’s initial plans and a proposed timetable for potential changes to the state’s district and school accountability system, which would be implemented for 2022 accountability reporting this fall. Details are in the enclosed memorandum. Rob Curtin will discuss the plan and answer questions.

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

On January 26, Governor Baker filed House 2, containing the Administration’s FY23 state spending recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. Your materials include a summary and spreadsheet on the Governor’s education recommendations by program area. The education total in House 2 is $6.94 billion, an increase of 8% over FY22 spending. This includes new spending for initiatives under the Student Opportunity Act as well as an increase in Chapter 70 funding, among other accounts. At our meeting, Senior Associate Commissioner/CFO Bill Bell will review the Governor’s proposal and update the Board on other budget matters.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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

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. **Information on Other Charter School Matters**

The memorandum under Tab 6 informs the Board about withdrawal of a charter application and five charter amendment requests.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on February 15.