*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

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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:** | Information on Other Charter School Matters |

Your materials for the February 15 regular meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education include, as usual, my report on grants and charter school matters that I have approved since our last meeting, under the authority the Board has delegated to the Commissioner. In addition, I am informing the Board about these other charter school matters.

**Commissioner Decision: Decline to Recommend Remaining Five Charter Amendments**

In January 2022, I recommended and the Board approved two charter amendments, one to correct the charter region of Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School and another to grant the consolidation of the Community Day Charter Public Schools. I am declining to recommend charter amendment requests seeking expansion from the remaining five charter schools, Global Learning Charter Public School, Hampden Charter School of Science East, Learning First Charter Public School, Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School, and Salem Academy Charter School. My decision does not preclude the schools from returning with a future request that adequately addresses the criteria for approval. The Department will provide all schools not recommended for expansion with feedback regarding the areas of concern.

**Withdrawal of Charter Applicant Group**

By statute, the Board grants charters for new charter schools at its meeting in February. The Department received two initial applications for Commonwealth charter schools in August 2021. I invited one of the applicant groups to submit a final application. Prior to my final determination, the applicant group withdrew its proposal. I encourage the group to build upon the strong and coherent vision that was communicated in the initial and final application and to consider submitting an application in the future.