*****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 17, 2023 *Updated: January 19, 2023[[1]](#footnote-2)* |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the January 24, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 24, 2023**, 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**

Our business agenda leads off with a presentation from the 2023 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, Danielle ("Dani") Charbonneau, followed by an update from the Department on our ongoing work under the Student Opportunity Act to accelerate learning and close gaps in opportunity and achievement. We will continue the discussion of the goal setting process for the district and school accountability system. The fourth item on the agenda is a progress report on the Department’s initiative to improve special education services and outcomes, the [Individualized Education Program (IEP) Improvement Project](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/ImproveIEP/default.html). The final item on our business agenda is a discussion and vote to accept the surrender of the charter for Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Craven will welcome Secretary Patrick Tutwiler to his first meeting as a member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Secretary Tutwiler will speak about his priorities as Secretary of Education.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting and January 3, 2023 Special Meeting**

The Board will vote on approval of the minutes.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **2023 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year: Danielle “Dani” Charbonneau – Presentation and Discussion**

Each year, the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year program honors an educator who exemplifies excellent teaching in the Commonwealth. The 2023 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, Danielle ("Dani") Charbonneau, teaches English language arts in Project Vine, the alternative program within Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in Oak Bluffs. She is also the program coordinator for Project Vine. I look forward to introducing Ms. Charbonneau to the Board on January 24.

1. **Student Opportunity Act: Update from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education –** **Discussion**

The Department will update the Board on our ongoing work with districts under the [Student Opportunity Act](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2019/Chapter132) (SOA) and how districts are using SOA funds to accelerate learning and close gaps in opportunity and achievement. Komal Bhasin, DESE’s Chief Schools Officer, will lead the presentation, joined by members of her team (Associate Commissioner Charmie Curry, Senior Director Rebecca Shor, Director Erica Champagne, and SOA Coordinator Karen Johnston), and our outside partners.

1. **Goal Setting Process for Accountability System and Student Opportunity Act –** **Continuing Discussion**

As we discussed at the Board’s [special meeting](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-01/) on January 3, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires states to set targets at the state, district, school, and student-group level for the purposes of annual accountability reporting. Similarly, the state Student Opportunity Act requires the Commissioner to establish statewide targets to address disparities in achievement among student subgroups and requires districts to set district-level targets consistent with those established by the state. Having considered the feedback provided by Board members at the special meeting, we welcome the opportunity to continue the discussion with the Board on January 24. Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability and Associate Commissioner Erica Gonzales will join us for the discussion.

1. **Special Education Update: IEP Improvement Project – Discussion**

Deputy Commissioner Russell Johnston and Director of Special Education Planning and Policy Jamie Camacho will present a progress report on the Department’s initiative to improve special education services and outcomes for eligible students with disabilities through the [Individualized Education Program (IEP) Improvement Project](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/ImproveIEP/default.html).

1. **Charter Schools: Surrender of Charter for Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School –Discussion and Vote**

On January 17, 2023, the board of trustees of Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School (PFSJCS) voted to surrender its charter, effective June 30, 2023. The school has been unable to attract enrollment sufficient to maintain financial viability and has faced many other challenges. The school is committed to continuing operations through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. I recommend that the Board vote on January 24 to accept the surrender of the charter granted to PFSJCS.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. **Report on Grants Approved by the Commissioner**

Enclosed is information on grants I have approved since the December meeting under the authority the Board has delegated to the Commissioner.

1. **Chronically Underperforming Schools: Quarter 2 Reports**

Your materials include the second FY2023 quarterly progress update to the Board on the chronically underperforming schools’ implementation of their school turnaround plans.

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. This year, one charter application is eligible for consideration. The enclosed memorandum provides a preview of the charter application currently under review and describes the Department’s review process. Also enclosed is the executive summary of the final application and a detailed description of the review process and 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 24.

1. The agenda and memorandum have been updated to reflect the 1/17/23 decision of the board of trustees of Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School to surrender the charter. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)