*****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 22, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the January 23, 2024 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 23, 2024**. The meeting will be held in person at the new office of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149. It will start at **9:00 a.m.** and should adjourn by **1:00 p.m**. Helene Bettencourt will assist with all arrangements; please email or call her if you have any questions.

**OVERVIEW**

Our business agenda leads off with the 2024 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, [De’Shawn C. Washington](https://www.doe.mass.edu/amazingeducators/stoy/#stoy), and Milken Award winners [Michelle (Shelley) Terry and Andrew Rebello](https://www.doe.mass.edu/amazingeducators/milken.html), followed by an update on school safety initiatives in the Commonwealth. I will present proposed changes to 2024 district and school accountability reporting, including a recommendation to increase the weight of the chronic absenteeism indicator, and we will conclude with an update on the education budget and the Department’s relocation. After the meeting adjourns, we welcome members to take a brief tour of our new office space.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

**Comments from the Secretary**

**Comments from the Commissioner**

Chair Craven, Secretary Tutwiler, and I will update the Board on current issues and activities.

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the November 1, 2023 Special Meeting and November 21, 2023 Regular Meeting**

The Board will vote on approval of the minutes.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **2024 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year – Presentation and Discussion**

I look forward to introducing you to 2024 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year [De’Shawn C. Washington](https://www.doe.mass.edu/amazingeducators/stoy/#stoy) and Milken Award winners [Michelle (Shelley) Terry and Andrew Rebello](https://www.doe.mass.edu/amazingeducators/milken.html).

They exemplify the great educators we have in Massachusetts. Mr. Washington is a fourth grade inclusion teacher at Maria Hastings Elementary School in Lexington, Ms. Terry is an English teacher at Plymouth North High School, and Mr. Rebello is assistant superintendent-principal at Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fall River. At our meeting, each of them will make a brief presentation and engage in discussion with the Board.

1. **School Safety – Discussion**

Our Department provides districts and schools with training and technical assistance to promote school health and safety planning, with the goal of supporting districts in creating and implementing plans that will improve and sustain the safety of the entire school community. School and district leaders collaborate with local partners in public safety and behavioral health services to carry out their responsibilities, as outlined in the enclosed memorandum. At the January 23 meeting, our Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator Anne Gilligan will present additional information and respond to your questions.

1. **Chronic Absenteeism and Accountability Reporting – Discussion and Vote**

At the November 21 Board meeting, I introduced plans for making certain changes to the district and school accountability system, including my intention to recommend an increase to the weight of the chronic absenteeism indicator. If approved by the Board, these changes would be included in the calculation of accountability results following the 2023-2024 school year. Please see the enclosed memorandum and attachments for details. At our meeting on January 23, Rob Curtin, Chief Officer of Data, Assessment, and Accountability, and Erica Gonzales, Associate Commissioner of Data and Accountability, will review the proposed changes with the Board and answer your questions, and I will ask the Board to approve the proposed changes.

1. **Update on FY25 Budget Process and Department Relocation – Discussion**

Senior Associate Commissioner/Chief Financial Officer Bill Bell will update the Board on the FY25 education budget process and the Department’s relocation.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. **Report on Grants Approved by the Commissioner (December and January)**

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

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

The enclosed memorandum is the second of four SY2023-2024 quarterly progress reports to the Board on the three chronically underperforming schools’ implementation of their school turnaround plans, focusing on activities from October–December 2023.

1. **SOA Data Advisory Commission Report**

The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) of 2019 created an SOA Data Advisory Commission, which is chaired by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (through Matt Deninger, our Chief Strategy and Research Officer, as my designee). The SOA Data Advisory Commission’s 2023 annual report is enclosed for your information.

1. **Information on Commonwealth Virtual School Applicant and Process for Commonwealth Virtual Schools**

Prior to your February meeting, I will forward to the Board my recommendation regarding the possible award of a certificate for a new virtual school. The enclosed memorandum and accompanying materials provide information on the process for Commonwealth virtual schools and a preview of the application that is currently under review by the Department.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on January 23.