MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  |
| **From:** | Patrick Tutwiler, Interim Commissioner |
| **Date:** | June 17, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Briefing for the June 24, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  |

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) will have a **regular meeting** on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025**, 9:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.,held in person at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149. The meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. Helene Bettencourt will assist with all arrangements; please email or call her if you have any questions.

**REGULAR MEETING, June 24, 2025**

This meeting will begin with an overview of Innovation Career Pathways, including a spotlight on North Attleborough High School. I will then provide an update on the status of the Holyoke Public Schools’ transition out of state receivership. Next, Member Asikis will present the State Student Advisory Council (SSAC) End-of-Year Report. The Board will review and vote on the amendments to regulations regarding Time-Out Practices that the Board sent out for public comment in March. Next, I will recommend that the Board delegate to the Commissioner authority to approve proposed contracts from two charter schools with education management organizations The Board will receive an update on the education budget and lastly, will vote on the schedule for SY25-26 Board meetings.

**Statements from the Public**

**Comments from the Chair**

**Comments from the Secretary/Interim Commissioner**

* Support for Schools and Districts Relating to Immigrant Students and Families
* Statewide Graduation Council
* Commissioner Transition
* Aspiring Principal Fellowship
* Updates on Literacy Launch
* Presentation of Mitchell D. Chester Award

**Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Regular Meeting, May 20, 2025**

The Board will vote on approval of the minutes.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

1. **Innovation Career Pathways Overview: What We Can Learn from North Attleborough High School – Discussion**

Associate Commissioner Liz Bennett and Innovation Career Pathways Coordinator Jennifer Gwatkin will provide an overview of Innovation Career Pathways across the state. We will then hear from North Attleborough High School staff and students about their Manufacturing pathway.

1. **Exit Determination on the Holyoke Public Schools from Chronically Underperforming Status – Discussion**

I will provide an update on the status of the Holyoke Public Schools’ (HPS) transition out of state receivership. At the October 29, 2024 Board meeting, Acting Commissioner Russell Johnston announced his provisional decision to remove HPS from chronically underperforming status at the end of the school year, anticipated to be July 1, 2025. During the discussion of this item at our June 24 meeting, Mayor and Holyoke School Committee Chair Joshua A. Garcia, Holyoke School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Yadilette Rivera Colón, and Holyoke Public Schools Receiver Anthony Soto will be in attendance.

1. **State Student Advisory Council End-of-Year Report for 2024-2025 – Discussion**

Member Asikis will present the End-of-Year Report from the State Student Advisory Council for 2024-2025.

1. **Time-Out Practices: Amendments to Program and Safety Standards for Approved Public or Private Day and Residential Special Education School Programs (603 CMR 18.00) and Prevention of Physical Restraint and Requirements if Used (603 CMR 46.00) – Discussion and Vote**

At the January 28, 2025 meeting of the Board, we discussed the use of time-out practices in educational settings, including ways to reduce or eliminate the use of certain practices and to safeguard the well-being of students and school staff.

On March 27, 2025, Acting Commissioner Russell Johnston recommended proposed amendments to 603 CMR 46.00, the regulations on Prevention of Physical Restraint and Requirements if Used, and 603 CMR 18.00, the regulations on Program and Safety Standards for Approved Public or Private Day and Residential Special Education School Programs, for initial discussion and a vote to solicit public comment. Following the Board’s approval, the Department invited public comment on the proposed regulations from March 25 to May 2, 2025. Based upon the comments received, I am recommending additional changes to the proposed regulations.

At the June 24, 2025, Board meeting, Iraida J. Álvarez, Acting Executive Director of Special Education, Jamie Camacho, Acting State Director of Special Education, and Jannelle Roberts, Director of the Office of Approved Special Education Schools will present a summary of the public comment and discuss these additional proposed changes to the regulations. I recommend that the Board vote to adopt the regulations as presented.

1. **Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Approve Proposed Contracts with Education Management Organizations for Community Day Charter Public School and Holyoke Community Charter School – Discussion and Vote**

Under the charter school statute, G.L. c. 71, § 89(k)(5), the Board must approve contracts between charter schools and the entities from which they intend to procure substantially all educational services. The Board can delegate the approval of such contracts to the Commissioner under G.L. c. 15, § 1F, para. 3, and has done so on many occasions. The review and approval of the contracts often occur during the summer months and may take longer.

I recommend that the Board vote at its meeting on June 24, 2025, to delegate to the Commissioner approval of the contracts of two charter schools, Community Day Charter Public School (CDCPS) and Holyoke Community Charter School (HCCS).

1. **Education Budget Update – Discussion**

Chief Financial Officer Bill Bell will join us for an update on the education budget.

1. **Schedule for SY 25-26 BESE Meetings – Discussion and Vote**

The Board will vote on the 2025-2026 Board meeting schedule that was shared as an informational item in May.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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

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

1. **Chronically Underperforming Schools Annual Report**

Enclosed is the annual evaluation report for SY2024-2025 on the two chronically underperforming schools and their implementation of their school turnaround plans. The two chronically underperforming schools are the Paul A. Dever Elementary School in Boston and UP Academy Holland in Boston. This report incorporates information from the final school quality reviews conducted by the School Empowerment Network in May 2025.

1. **Annual Report on Non-Operating School Districts Approved by the Commissioner**

At its meeting in June 2009, Board voted to authorize the Commissioner, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 15, § 1F, paragraph 3, “to act on behalf of the Board in approving the annual requests submitted by the superintendents and school committees of towns that do not operate their own schools and seek to tuition their students to public schools in another town, per General Laws c. 71, §§ 1, 4, and 6; provided that the Commissioner shall report to the Board on the school districts that have been so approved.” Enclosed is the annual report on the public school districts that have established tuition arrangements with other public school districts for the education of students in the 2025-2026 school year.

1. **Update on Early College Strategic Plan and Joint Resolution**

The Early College initiative is a key lever in advancing the educational vision of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Through the Early College Joint Committee, the Office of Early College works with BESE, DESE, BHE, DHE, and EOE to connect and support districts, high schools, and colleges in Designated partnerships to give thousands of Massachusetts students intentionally designed pathways to college completion and career success. The enclosed memo and attachment provide an update on the five-year strategic plan as outlined in the [joint resolution](https://www.mass.edu/bhe/documents/2024-JointMeeting-BESE-BHE/BHE-BESE%20Joint%20Resolution%20Early%20College.pdf) voted on by BESE and BHE on June 20, 2024.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on June 24.