**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the Massachusetts Board of Education**

**November 27, 2007**

**9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**Ferryway School**

**150 Cross Street**

**Malden, Massachusetts**

Members of the Board of Education Present:

**Paul Reville**, Chairman, Worcester

**Ann J. Reale**, Vice Chair, Commissioner of Early Education and Care, Boston

**Christopher R. Anderson**, Westford

**Harneen Chernow**, Jamaica Plain

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Patricia F. Plummer**, Chancellor, Board of Higher Education, Boston

**Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Zachary Tsetsos**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Oxford

**Jeffrey Nellhaus**, Acting Commissioner of Education, Secretary to the Board

Chairman Paul Reville called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

# Comments from the Chairman

Chairman Reville provided an overview of the search for a new commissioner of education. The chairman said that after November 30, the deadline for candidates to submit applications, the Board will begin the process to screen those applications. The Board will meet in executive session on December 4 to review applications and to select a list of semi-finalists. The Board will interview the semi-finalists in executive session on December 13. Next, the Board will announce a list of 3 or 4 finalists, and will publicly interview those candidates at the Omni Parker House in Boston on January 7. The Chairman said that he has invited an advisory group of 20-25 people representing constituency groups, the Legislature, and Department staff to participate in the interviewing of finalists and provide feedback to the Board. The Chairman said that the Board hopes to announce the appointment of a new commissioner of education at or before its regular meeting on January 22, 2008.

# Comments from the Commissioner

Acting Commissioner Jeffrey Nellhaus announced that the Department is pleased that its offices will stay in Malden when the construction of a new building is completed in early 2009. He also noted that several Department staff recently participated in subcommittee meetings of the governor’s Readiness Project.

The Acting Commissioner called attention to two important education summits to be held on Friday, November 30, the first a college and career readiness summit presented by the New England Board of Higher Education, and the second an expanded learning time summit convened by the Department and Massachusetts 2020.

# Comments from the Public

* Charlie Lyons, Superintendent-Director of Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, addressed the Board on MassCore.
* Michael Brandmeyer, Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools, and Lajae Woolcock, a senior at Weston High School, addressed the Board on Metco.
* Kathy Lowe, Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Library Association, addressed the Board on school libraries.
* Linda Noonan, Managing Director of the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, addressed the Board on MassCore.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education approve the corrected version of the minutes of the October 30, 2007 regular meeting.**

The vote was unanimous.

# Expanded Learning Time (ELT)

Chairman Reville welcomed Malden Mayor Richard Howard, and acknowledged state Representatives Paul J. Donato and Christopher G. Fallon, who represent the city of Malden and were present in the audience. Mayor Howard extended a formal welcome to the Board. The mayor said he too is pleased that the Department’s headquarters would remain in Malden, and noted that the city has benefited greatly from the proximity of the Department and its staff.

Joining Mayor Howard on the panel were Malden Superintendent Sid Smith, Salemwood School Principal Ronald Eckel, Ferryway School Principal Thomas DeVito, Jennifer Davis and Ben Lummis of Massachusetts 2020, and Sarah McLaughlin from the Department. The mayor said that the Ferryway School was one of six new schools that the city built within the last 10 years thanks to the state’s 90 percent reimbursement program. Mayor Howard noted that Malden was one of the first cities to implement expanded learning time, beginning with Salemwood a year ago, and adding Ferryway this year. The mayor said that he hopes that a third Malden school (Beebe) will be added next year.

Chairman Reville thanked Mayor Howard for his comments and his leadership, and remarked that there is great national interest in the Massachusetts ELT program.

Ms. McLaughlin provided a statewide overview of ELT, which began in FY 2006 when the first planning grants were announced. Currently, 18 schools in 8 districts have implemented expanded learning time. Seven of those 8 districts are urban districts, and 4 of the 5 districts that started last year added an additional school this year. The first high school to adopt ELT was added this year. Ms. McLaughlin noted that the Board voted to approve 28 new planning grants at its October 30, 2007 regular meeting.

Ms. McLaughlin said that the ELT initiative, funded this year through a $13 million state appropriation, adds at least 25% more time to school schedules in order to:

* Provide students with more core instructional opportunity in math, literacy, science and other core subjects to support student achievement;
* Integrate enrichment and applied learning opportunities into the school day to motivate and engage students; and
* Provide educators with increased opportunity to plan together and to participate in professional development with other teachers and in collaboration with their partnering community-based organizations.

Ms. McLaughlin said that the Department has contracted with Abt Associates to conduct a three-year study of the ELT initiative’s design, implementation, and outcomes over time.

Superintendent Smith thanked the Board for visiting Ferryway and introduced the two school principals. Salemwood Principal Ron Eckel said this was a huge challenge for the school community to begin. Serving 1,100 students, Salemwood is larger than any other school currently in the ELT program. Principal Eckel noted that the school has used the additional time to design a school day that now includes 90-120 minutes of literacy block for K-6 students each day, and 90 minutes of mathematics for K-6 students each day. Students at grades 7 and 8 now have the same amount of time for all 4 subjects. In addition, there is a 45-minute block of daily planning time for staff to meet. Students now benefit from increased enrichment activities. Principal Eckel said that the mindset at the school has changed, and teachers view the 7.5-hour school day as a great resource.

Ferryway Principal Tom DeVito said he was pleased to have the opportunity to lead some Board members on a tour of the school that morning to demonstrate how ELT is being implemented. Principal DeVito said that the biggest impact of the program has been to make Ferryway a true K–8 school, most notably in terms of time and scheduling. He said that tardiness is down, attendance is up, enrollment has increased by 50 students, and only 2 out of 100 teachers left. He also noted that grade-level teachers now have 55 minutes of planning time together each day.

Jennifer Davis of Mass 2020 discussed her organization’s partnership with the Department and the Legislature around ELT. Ms. Davis said that Mass 2020 raises private dollars to help support technical assistance, communications, evaluation, and public policy. She noted that the ELT program has made other reform initiatives possible, such as moving all students toward proficiency, creating more time for science, and providing a more well-rounded education. Ms. Davis added that ELT is a continuous improvement process that is challenging to implement. She said the success factors include principal leadership; early involvement of teachers, unions, parents, and community partners; effective communication; and significant technical assistance and support.

Ms. Davis promoted the ELT summit to be held on November 30 at UMass Boston that will bring together more than 500 participants to discuss and examine lessons learned about the program.

Chairman Reville said that school time, like money, is a resource that is valuable depending on how well it is used. He added that the ELT program is an example of effective partnership between an outside agency (Mass 2020), the state, and the schools.

Board member Sandra Stotsky asked whether as a result of expanded time the schools have added supervised leisure reading time. She also asked if 90 minutes of mathematics each day was excessive, particularly for higher achieving students. Principal Eckel said that Salemwood has numerous opportunities for leisure reading, including an expanded literacy block and students reading at home and then having parents sign a reading log. He added that 90 minutes of mathematics is barely enough to cover necessary skills and activities around mathematical processing, math literacy, and connections to the real world.

Board member Zachary Tsetsos asked about students’ interest in expanded learning time. Principal DeVito said that as a result of ELT, students now have greater opportunities to take part in art and music programs, among other activities.

Board member Thomas Fortmann asked what the estimated statewide cost of ELT would be. Ben Lummis of Mass 2020 said that no such calculation had been made, but based on the $1,300 per pupil cost, the figure would be roughly $1.3 billion.

Board member Christopher Anderson said that leadership and collaboration have been at the heart of this initiative. He commended in particular the work of Chris Gabrieli, Mass 2020 Chairman. Ms. Davis said that the ELT program has been a collaborative process from the beginning, and that a key has been the opportunity to bring union and school leaders together to work on a positive school reform agenda.

Board member Ruth Kaplan said she had concerns about younger children staying in school that much longer each day. Principal Eckel said that he initially wondered how the kindergartners would fare, but was happy to say that after about two months of adjustment, they are doing fine with the added time. The key, he said, is good teaching and using the time well, and for younger children to incorporate movement breaks, snack breaks, and arts.

Ms. Davis concluded the presentation, saying that a strength of the ELT initiative is that it is voluntary, and each participating school tailors the program to suit its needs.

# Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association

Board member Kaplan introduced panelists for a presentation on the work of the Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association to promote parent involvement in schools and to support family and community partnerships. Panelists included Mass. PTA President Michelle Tremont, President-Elect Kimberly Hunt, National PTA representative Deborah Walsh, and Margaret O’Hare of the Massachusetts Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC). Board member Kaplan also acknowledged the work of former state Representative Ruth Provost for her efforts to establish a seat on the Board for a parent representative.

Ms. Tremont said the PTA is the oldest parent advocacy group in the country. She said that “there is no PTO.” Ms. Tremont said the PTA offers state and local support, and has developed nationally recognized programs, such as a Healthy Lifestyles booklet. Ms. Tremont said that parent involvement leads to student success, and accordingly, the organization has created parent involvement standards. She noted that Massachusetts is the first state in the country to have a seat on the Board designated for a member nominated by the state PTA.

Ms. O’Hare provided an overview of the work of the PIRC, which is housed at the Federation for Children with Special Needs. The PIRC works to build awareness and increase parent involvement and family engagement in schools.

Chairman Reville asked how the PTA ensures that economically disadvantaged parents are represented in the organization and are engaged in their children’s schooling. Ms. Tremont said the organization is actively trying to recruit members in urban centers, and is working to start PTA centers in Boston and Springfield. Ms. O’Hare noted that the PIRC has resources that are available in multiple languages for parents. Ms. Walsh said the national PTA has a website that includes a checklist for schools on parent involvement.

In response to a question from Board member Thomas Fortmann about the number of schools in Massachusetts with a PTA, Ms. Tremont said that there active chapters in 120 schools statewide.

Board member Kaplan suggested that the Department consider ways to encourage parent involvement in education, perhaps through a summit or by drawing attention to the recommendations of the Parent and Community Education and Involvement Advisory Council that are posted on the Department’s website.

Chairman Reville thanked the PTA representatives for their presentation.

Board member Stotsky had to leave the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

# Report on Fiscally Distressed School Districts

Acting Commissioner Nellhaus provided a brief update on the Department’s study on fiscally distressed districts. The Acting Commissioner said that he would report back to the Board on this issue at its regular meeting in January.

# EQA/EMAC Report on Randolph

Dr. Joseph Rappa, Executive Director of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA), presented key findings to the Board from the EQA review conducted in the Randolph Public Schools in November 2006. This was EQA’s second visit to Randolph, following an initial visit in 2004. Dr. Rappa noted that the district’s demographics had changed significantly since 2000; for example, white students represented 43 percent of the student population in 2000, but that figure dropped to 27 percent in 2007.

Dr. Rappa said that while, on paper, Randolph has met net school spending, he believes the town’s school spending is 5% below the required figure, in part because the town incorrectly included in its net school spending calculation $3 million that it paid to cover the Blue Hills Regional School District assessment. Dr. Rappa said the lack of funding has forced the superintendent to make budget cuts that have contributed to lower achievement; students are being underserved and the district is underperforming.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Dr. Rappa introduced Joseph Esposito, a member of the Educational Management Audit Council (EMAC).

Larry Azer, Chairman of the Randolph School Committee, said that after the first EQA visit, the district attempted to address issues including a lack of curriculum development and lack of central office leadership. The district also went without a business manager since 1992, until one was hired 1 ½ years ago. Mr. Azer said the district has invested in new mathematics and English curriculum materials this year, and has invested in professional development.

Mr. Azer said the district has been forced to make massive cuts, and the high school has been placed on probation. Without additional resources, Mr. Azer said the high school would lose accreditation. He noted that the staff, community, and students view the label “underperforming” as very negative, but if it is necessary to use the term to get the help for the district, so be it.

Chairman Reville asked what action the school committee has taken in response to the point raised by EQA regarding the town’s actions on chargebacks, and why the settlement with the former superintendent was so costly. Mr. Azer said the school committee had bought out the former superintendent’s remaining contract to avoid a trigger clause that would have added on two more years. The buyout amounted to more than $300,000 for salary and almost $300,000 for unused vacation and sick time. He said he voted against the settlement and all the committee members who voted for it are no longer on the committee. Chairman Reville commented that before the Board asks the taxpayers of the Commonwealth to fill the gaps in the local school budget, the Board wants to be sure that local officials are doing what they need to do.

Dr. Richard Silverman, Superintendent of Randolph Public Schools, said that he agreed with the EQA report. He said there has not been a lack of knowledge or lack of will, rather the necessary resources have not been available. The superintendent said that he has opened finance meetings to the public as a way to dispel a lack of trust on the part of the community. Dr. Silverman said the district has worked to engage the community in strategic planning, but the goals cannot be reached without additional resources. He said Randolph is a district in crisis.

Board member Anderson had to leave the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Chairman Reville asked Associate Commissioner Juliane Dow to explain the options available to the Board. Associate Commissioner Dow said if the Board voted to designate Randolph an underperforming district, an immediate leadership review would be launched to review whether the district has the will and capacity to come forward with an appropriate plan to remedy the problem. The district would then present that plan to the Board for approval. If the plan were unacceptable, the Board could vote to declare the district chronically underperforming, which could prompt the Board to appoint a receiver for the district as provided by the statute.

Associate Commissioner Dow said that as long as the town is responsible for the budget, the town decides on the budget. If the town fails to fund schools at the legally required level, she said that would be grounds to declare the district to be chronically underperforming. If that were to occur, the district’s Chapter 70 monies and local and federal aid would be controlled and managed by a receiver.

Board member Patricia Plummer suggested that the Board look more closely at local control of schools.

Board member Fortmann expressed his dismay at the apparent abuse of indirect charges over a period of years, as reported by EQA.[[2]](#footnote-2) He said it also appears that the town has been cutting the school budget annually in response to Chapter 70 increases, which has resulted in level funding.

Board member Harneen Chernow said broader structural problems are evident in Randolph’s case, including some that may go beyond the Board’s authority and purview.

Chairman Reville said there is evidence that the social contract has broken down in the community. He said it is important for the Board to review the facts and observe due process in moving from one stage to the next.

In response to a question from the chairman, General Counsel Rhoda Schneider said that if the Board found evidence of significant non-compliance, the matter could be referred to the Attorney General’s office; the Attorney General typically defers to the Board to make policy judgments under its statutes and regulations.

Board member Kaplan asked whether the label of underperforming would help or hurt matters. Mr. Azer said the district knows the problems that exist and knows how to fix them, and he believes the label will hurt. The chairman noted that the record shows that what the district is doing is not working. Mr. Azer said that if it takes a receiver to get things done, then do that. Superintendent Silverman suggested that the Board consider amending its regulations to change the term “underperforming district.”

Board member Ann Reale said that the system was underperforming, and the state needs to design a financial system to support the social compact. Board member Fortmann said that the label of underperforming will feed distrust and a lack of credibility, and that the Board should be clear that its concern is focused on the town, not the school district.

Board member Fortmann moved that the proposed motion be amended to replace “school district” with “community” in line 5.

**On a motion duly moved and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that in the 5th line of the proposed motion, the words “school district” shall be stricken and replaced with “community.”**

The vote was 6:0:1. Ruth Kaplan abstained.

Associate Commissioner Dow said that the leadership review encompasses the school district and the town. Typically there is a six-month period from a declaration of underperforming to the time that a district has a plan. Chairman Reville called for an expedited review because the situation requires urgent action.

**On a motion duly moved and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education, in accordance with G.L. chapter 69, § 1K and 603 CMR 2.04 (5), and upon recommendation of the Acting Commissioner, hereby declare the Randolph School District to be an under-performing school district, and direct the Commissioner to appoint a leadership review team to assess whether the community has the capacity to address the problems that have been identified and to implement effectively an improvement plan in partnership with the Department.**

The vote was 6:1. Ruth Kaplan voted in opposition.

# MassCore

Acting Commissioner Nellhaus gave a brief overview of MassCore, and noted that the definition of a unit had been strengthened to mean a full academic year of study.

Board member Plummer said she was pleased to see MassCore before the Board for a vote, and noted that this is a big step to align high school and college expectations. She said she would have been more pleased if the Board was making MassCore a requirement rather than a recommendation. She expressed a concern at leaving up to local school committees the decision of whether or not to adopt MassCore.

Board member Plummer also asked that MassCore be clarified to ensure that the public understands that the recommended requirements relate to Massachusetts public colleges.

Board member Reale said that districts should be encouraged to provide parents with information about MassCore, perhaps through report cards that are sent home with students.

Board member Kaplan said that while the proposal has been made better, she remains concerned that MassCore is not flexible enough and should provide more alternatives.

Board member Chernow asked why the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) had not endorsed MassCore. Stafford Peat from the Department said that the majority of vocational administrators agree that MassCore makes sense for their students.

Board member Tsetsos asked what kinds of data will be made available on MassCore. Mr. Peat said that the Department will be able to report on the percent of students taking the recommended curriculum, and will be able to disaggregate that number. Acting Commissioner Nellhaus noted that currently only 45 percent of urban students take this recommended curriculum, versus 80 percent of students in the suburbs. The Acting Commissioner said the important message is that this kind of curriculum is for all students.

The chairman said that this is a norming exercise, and while MassCore is not perfect, the Board is sending a message regarding what counts if students are to be prepared to succeed in college.

**On a motion duly moved and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education, in accordance with Chapter 69, Sections 1B and 1D of the General Laws, approve *MassCore*, the Recommended High School Core Program of Studies for College- and Career-Readiness, and direct the Acting Commissioner to publish it for distribution to public schools and other interested parties throughout the Commonwealth.**

The vote was 5:0:2. Ruth Kaplan and Harneen Chernow abstained.

# FY 2009 Budget Proposal

Chairman Reville presented an overview of the Board’s FY 2009 budget proposal, noting that the budget was prepared in two brackets. The first bracket represents the Board’s optimal request, while the second represents a maintenance level budget.

Associate Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer Tony DeLorenzo explained that the maintenance level budget request was developed according to an overall 5.3% increase, which includes an increase of roughly 6% in Chapter 70 aid and roughly 1.5% across the remaining 39 line items.

Board member Reale said that the state does not have a budget system, rather a series of line items, and needs to rethink the design so that all education agencies could work together on a common budget.

Board member Fortmann made a motion to add $2 million in the Board’s optimal request, not the maintenance level budget request, for increased funding to the line item for professional development for mathematics.

Chairman Reville agreed that the amendment represented a worthwhile item. The chairman said he would oppose the amendment, however, because there are many other worthwhile items that could be increased, and the Board needs to maintain some credibility on the level of increase it proposes. The motion was duly moved and seconded.

**MOVED: that the Board of Education amend the Commissioner’s budget proposal to request $4 million in line item 7061-9804 and that the line item read, “P.D. for mathematics content.”**

The motion failed 1:5:1. Tom Fortmann voted in support; Zachary Tsetsos abstained.

Board member Kaplan made a motion to increase the Metco line item (7010-0012) by $715,000. That motion failed for lack of a second.

**On a motion duly moved and seconded, it was:**

VOTED: that the Board of Education, in accordance with G.L. c. 69, § 1A, approve the FY 2009 budget proposal, and authorize the Commissioner to transmit the budget proposal to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Education, Arts and the Humanities, and the Secretary of Administration and Finance.

The vote was unanimous.

# Underperforming Schools

Chairman Reville proposed splitting the motion on the Recommendation on Schools Previously Identified as Underperforming into three parts, so the Board could vote separately to: (1) declare six schools to be chronically underperforming and designate them as *Priority 1 Schools*; (2) retain four schools as *Commonwealth Priority Schools*; and (3) declare that four schools are no longer considered to be *Commonwealth Priority Schools*.

Board member Chernow asked what would change if the Board labeled the six schools as *Priority 1 Schools*. Lynda Foisy of the Department said that the districts and schools have already taken initiative, and the Department would work with them on next steps, providing additional resources and a high level of oversight. Associate Commissioner Juliane Dow said that two of the schools have expressed interest in becoming Commonwealth Pilot Schools. Board member Chernow expressed a concern that the proposal is still too vague without a plan for intervention, especially when some of the schools are already working on change.

Board member Reale had to leave the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

The chairman tabled consideration of the first two parts of the proposed motion (declare six schools to be chronically underperforming and designate them as *Priority 1 Schools*; retain four schools as *Commonwealth Priority Schools*) until the December 18, 2007 regular meeting, but took up the third part.

**On a motion duly moved and seconded, it was:**

VOTED: that the Board of Education, in accordance with G.L. c. 69, § 1J and 603 CMR 2.03, and upon recommendation of the Commissioner, hereby declare that the following four schools are no longer considered to be Commonwealth Priority Schools, based on their having demonstrated both significant gains in student performance and the conditions needed to sustain quality improvement efforts:

* **Arlington Elementary School – Lawrence**
* **Laurel Lake Elementary School – Fall River**
* **Liberty Elementary School – Springfield**
* **Washington Elementary School – Springfield**

**Further, that the Board encourage the schools and their school districts to continue implementing improvement strategies that will lead to further gains in student performance in the future.**

The vote was unanimous.

# Grants

The Board approved state and federal grants totaling $990,384 under the following programs: Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students ($23,700 – state funds); Workplace Education ($1,500 – state funds); Competitive Academic Support Services Pathways One Stop Career Center Initiative School Year Program ($170,064 – state funds); Competitive Academic Support Services Pathways One Stop Career Center Initiative Summer Program, 2008 ($42,286 – state funds); Adult Basic Education Transition to Community College Program ($50,000 – state funds); Adult Basic Education Distance Learning Program ($294,334 – federal funds); and Massachusetts *Reading First* Plan (MRFP) Targeted Assistance Grant ($408,500).

**On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the Board of Education approve the grants as presented by the Acting Commissioner.**

The vote was unanimous.

# Guidelines for the Mathematical Preparation of Elementary Teachers

The chairman deferred action on formally approving the *Guidelines for the Mathematical Preparation of Elementary Teachers* until the December 18, 2007 regular meeting.

**On a motion duly moved and seconded, it was:**

**VOTED: that the meeting adjourn at 1:15 p.m., subject to the call of the Chairman.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Nellhaus

Acting Commissioner of Education

and Secretary to the Board

Minutes of the Special Meeting

of the Massachusetts Board of Education

**Tuesday, December 4, 2007**

**9:10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Board of Higher Education Conference Room**

**One Ashburton Place, Rm. 1401**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

**Members of the Board of Education Present:**

**Paul Reville**, Chairman, Worcester

**Ann J. Reale**, Vice Chair, Commissioner of Early Education and Care, Boston

**Christopher R. Anderson**, Westford

**Harneen Chernow**, Jamaica Plain

**Thomas E. Fortmann**, Lexington

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Patricia Plummer**, Chancellor, Board of Higher Education, Boston

**Zachary Tsetsos**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Oxford

**Member of the Board of Education Absent:**

**Sandra L. Stotsky**, Brookline

**Also Present:**

Heidi Guarino

Brenda Welburn

Paul Reville, Chairman of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the resumes and applications of the 16 people who have applied for the position of Commissioner of Education.

He introduced the Board’s search consultant, Brenda Welburn, Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

At that point Chairman Reville asked for a motion to go into executive session in order to review and discuss the 16 applicants and select semifinalists. He stated that the Board would return to open session only to adjourn.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education go into executive session to meet with our search consultant to screen and discuss applications for commissioner and select semifinalists.**

Heidi Guarino called the roll for the vote. The vote was unanimous. The Board went into executive session at 9:16 a.m.

After reviewing and discussing the 16 applications, the Board agreed to select eight as semifinalists to be interviewed. Brenda Welburn will contact the eight semifinalists to schedule the interviews on either December 13th or December 18th.

At 3:59 p.m., Chairman Reville asked for a motion to return to open session.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education return to open session.**

The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Reville thanked Board members for their hard work.

**On a motion duly made and seconded,** **it was:**

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m., subject to the call of the chairman.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guarino

1. After the meeting, Acting Commissioner Nellhaus asked the Department’s school finance office to review the relevant data from Randolph, including the most recent financial returns for FY07. The Department concluded that Dr. Rappa’s statement about net school spending was inaccurate and was based on a misunderstanding of the school finance data. The Department’s analysis is presented in a memorandum dated December 3, 2007 from Acting Commissioner Nellhaus to the Board. Associate Commissioner Jeff Wulfson reviewed and discussed the data with Dr. Rappa and Supt. Silverman, and they concur that the town of Randolph is fully meeting its legal obligations for the financial support of the Randolph Public Schools. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See footnote 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)