**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

**8:35 a.m. –  1:00 p.m.**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

**Maura Banta**,Chair, Melrose

**Daniel Brogan**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Dennis

**Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, Milton

**Harneen Chernow**, Vice-Chair, Jamaica Plain

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

**Matthew Malone**,Secretary of Education, Roslindale

**James O’S. Morton,** Springfield

**Pendred Noyce**,Weston

**David Roach**, Sutton

**Mitchell D. Chester**, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Secretary to the Board

Member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

**Karen Daniels,** Milton

Chair Banta called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

**Comments from the Chair**

Chair Banta said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently visited Massachusetts. The Chair attended visits to Orchard Gardens School in Boston and to the Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School in Reading, where the Secretary engaged in a discussion with educators and students about the new education standards. Chair Banta said she attended a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) conference. She noted that many colleagues in other states were eager to discuss the Massachusetts student board member. Chair Banta asked for reports from the chairs of the Board committees that met recently. Dr. Noyce provided an overview of the Commissioner’s Performance Evaluation Committee, which met recently to review this year's performance criteria. Chair Banta said the Budget Committee met yesterday to hear from Bill Oates, the Commonwealth’s Chief Information Officer, and the Executive Office of Education’s Chief Information Officer Sharon Wright about the proposed EOE IT Consolidation.

**Comments from the Commissioner**

Commissioner Chester said Secretary Duncan was impressed with the work happening in our districts across Massachusetts. The Commissioner joined Secretary Duncan during visits to Worcester Technical High School, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School in Reading, and Match Charter Public School in Boston. Commissioner Chester noted that a tentative agreement had been reached on a new contract agreement between Lawrence Public Schools and the Lawrence Teachers Union. The Commissioner recognized the important work of the American Federation of Teachers and Lawrence Teachers Union President Frank McLaughlin. Commissioner Chester said the Lawrence agreement will be a model for other districts moving forward.

**Comments from the Secretary**

Secretary Malone said the Legislature is currently in the middle of their budget process, and the House Ways and Means budget should be released the second week of April. Secretary Malone said the fact that agencies were level funded was a victory, and the Governor budget’s largest increases were in education. The Secretary said the school safety and security taskforce is moving forward with recommendations and resources for schools and districts. The Secretary said the Board will hear another update from the literacy working group in the spring. Secretary Malone recommended the Information Technology Office appear each year to provide an update to the Board. Secretary Malone updated the Board on his school visits around the state. He noted a recent meeting with members of British Parliament regarding education best practices and goals.

**Public Comment**

1. Charles Lyons, Superintendent/Director, Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, addressed the Board on the Career and Vocational-Technical Education Regulations.
2. Roger Bourgeois, Superintendent/Director, Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical School addressed the Board on the Career and Vocational-Technical Education Regulations.
3. Edward Bouquillon, Superintendent/Director, Minuteman Regional Technical Vocational High School addressed the Board on the Career and Vocational-Technical Education Regulations.
4. Judith Klimkiewicz, Superintendent, Nashoba Valley Technical High School addressed the Board on the Career and Vocational-Technical Education Regulations.
5. Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent/Director, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District addressed the Board on the Career and Vocational-Technical Education Regulations.
6. John McDonough, Interim Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, addressed the Board on the Career and Vocational-Technical Education Regulations.
7. Senator Patricia Jehlen addressed the Board on the proposed charter school regulations.
8. Tracy O'Connell Novick, Worcester School Committee member, addressed the Board on the proposed charter school regulations.
9. Barbara Donnelly, Parent, addressed the Board on the Dever Elementary School turnaround.
10. Lisa Guisbond, Executive Director at Citizens for Public Schools, and a parent from Boston addressed the Board on the Dever and Holland Elementary turnarounds.
11. Matthew Cregor, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice, addressed the Board on the proposed student discipline regulations.
12. Thomas Mela, MA Advocates for Children, addressed the Board on the proposed student discipline regulations.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 special meeting and the February 25, 2014 regular meeting.**

The vote was unanimous.

[**MBAE Educational Benchmarking Study and Policy Report: Recap of March 24th Special Meeting**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2014/2014-03/spec-item1.html)

Chair Banta gave Board members a recap of the Monday special meeting presentation on the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education's (MBAE) new benchmarking study on Massachusetts. Chair Banta said the purpose of the report is to look at Massachusetts, how the state ranks internationally, and how to continue successes. Secretary Malone said the report does not fully address the work our educators did over the past twenty years. The Secretary said the Commonwealth has done great work, made progress, and continues to see results. Dr. Noyce noted that she had the same reaction initially, but presenters did recognize the Commonwealth’s successes. Commissioner Chester said the Commonwealth has seen great success, which is a tribute to the work of our educators, school, districts, and state leadership. The Commissioner said Massachusetts must capitalize on its successes to ensure a high quality education for all students.

**Career and Vocational-Technical Education: Review of Policies Relating to Program Approval and Enrollment**

Commissioner Chester said there is a great interest in career and vocational-technical education, as evidenced through the speakers in this morning's public comment period. He said unlike other states, Massachusetts has an excellent vocational-technical education system. The commissioner said the working group began as a pro-active effort to hear from superintendents, educators, and policy makers on successes and concerns. He said the discussion will eventually lead to regulatory changes, including Chapter 74 program approvals, Chapter 74 program admissions, non-resident tuition rates, exploratory programs, transportation limits for non-resident students, and expanded opportunities for career education.

Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson said the topics outlined will be the basis of regulations, and the majority of public comment is consistent with the policies the Department is presenting. He said the intention of the regulatory changes is not to diminish high standards for vocational-technical education. In response to Dr. Noyce’s question, Mr. Wulfson said twenty percent of high school students are part of a vocational-technical program. Chair Banta asked if program approval is linked to the need of the current workforce. Mr. Wulfson said the program approval process needs to be strengthened to assess the need for a program and the labor market. He also noted the Department’s work with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to assess the need for new vocational technical building construction.

Ms. Kaplan noted her concerns about current admission processes. Vice Chair Chernow said that while she understands that schools want to reward seats on merit, every student who would like to attend deserves an opportunity to explore vocational-technical education. Mr. Wulfson said the timing of the regulatory changes do have a fiscal impact. He said the Department needs to provide adequate notice to districts, allow time for public comment, and discussion. Dr. Noyce requested the Board hold a future special meeting to discuss vocational-technical education in greater detail. Mr. Roach said he has some concerns regarding the Department’s capacity to work through and respond to all of the issues presented in public comment. Mr. Wulfson said there has been a leadership shortage in the vocational-technical unit, but the Department has a great staff. Mr. Roach said a large part of the public comment around this issue seems to be about money. He said a balance must be found on admissions policies.

Ms. Kaplan had to leave the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

**Update on Level 5 Schools**

Commissioner Chester said preliminary turnaround plans have been issued, and reminded Board members of the process and timelines outlined by law. He reminded Board members that four years ago the schools were indentified for low performance and have not shown improved results. The Commissioner said he has a commitment to upgrade the results for the children in these low performing schools. The Commissioner said the receivership of a school within the larger district is slightly different and more complicated then the receivership of an entire district.

Vice Chair Chernow thanked parents for attending the Board meeting and voicing their concerns and ideas. She asked for clarification between the Level 4 turnaround plans and the work of Level 5 turnaround. Vice Chair Chernow also inquired about the dual language program at the Dever School and the timelines of the law aligning with parent school choice decisions. Commissioner Chester said he is very sensitive to the concerns about the dual language program and has been open to feedback. However, the Commissioner noted that a thorough review of the program found that it was not strong, presented a large undertaking for teachers, and was not providing the type of results needed for students. Commissioner Chester said he continues to look at the various options. But students without access to strong literacy in two languages are condemned to a diminished future.

Dr. Calderón-Rosadosaid the conversations about turnaround are hard, but something needs to be done to improve the outcomes for students. She said it is discouraging that the dual language program is not moving forward, and asked what it would take to make it work. Commissioner Chester said the turnaround operator selected for Dever Elementary (Blueprint Schools Network) currently works with other schools in Boston. The Commissioner said tremendous improvement, particularly with English language learners, occurred during Blueprint's work in other schools across the country, such as Houston and Denver.

Manuel Monteiro from the Commissioner's Office said the intent is to have separate turnaround plans, and thus separate working conditions for the schools. He said a revised compensation model is not complete yet. Mr. Monteiro said that at New Bedford’s Parker School, the model educator contract is very specific to their turnaround plan.

Secretary Malone said the Commonwealth and the Board have the responsibility to educate students and particular populations such as English language learners. He said this is a great opportunity to incorporate cultural competencies and multiple language models. Secretary Malone said teachers, students, and parents are at the core of this turnaround work.

Commissioner Chester said the turnaround status is not a reflection of the effort and commitment of faculty, but given the track record, we must do better for our students. He noted that in the assessment of the dual language program, if it was possible to elevate it to a high quality program that would have been an option. However, the program was found to be far from adequate.

Secretary Malone had to leave the meeting at 11:20 a.m. The Secretary's designee, James DiTullio, took the Secretary's place.

**Amendment to Charter School Regulations, 603 CMR 1.00**

Commissioner Chester reminded Board members that the proposed regulations were sent out for public comment in December. He said that among other changes, the amended regulations provide for alignment with the metrics used for the state accountability system, to the extent permitted by law. He explained that the regulations align the weighting of indicators used to calculate school and district levels for the state's accountability system with the weighting used in calculations to identify the lowest performing 10 percent of districts that are subject to charter school tuition charges, and will allow the use of growth for the first time when calculating the lowest performing 10 percent of districts.

Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson said the ratio of achievement and growth was revisited with stakeholders, and the calculations will include a larger proportion of growth. He noted that the final proportion of growth to achievement has not been determined yet. Commissioner Chester said the U.S. Department of Education is offering states that have an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver the opportunity to apply for a one-year extension of their waiver. He said the calculation used for accountability measures is part of the waiver, and the Board will have an opportunity to review the waiver.

Vice Chair Chernow said the Proficiency Gap Committee recently met to discuss growth and the Progress and Performance Index (PPI), which impacts many policy decisions. Mr. Wulfson said regardless of the waiver, the charter school and traditional school accountability systems should be more closely aligned. Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang said the regulations include an added section on board of trustee training. He said the Department is continuing to track and address transparency in response to the Board’s feedback. Mr. Chuang also noted that the charter amendment requests that came forward recently were analyzed based upon the proposed changes, and charter schools have committed to addressing concerns around attrition, access, and equity. Mr. Roach noted that charter school financial and organizational information would be helpful for looking at successful models. Mr. Chuang said charter school annual reports highlight some of that information, and the new charter school dashboard will show financial information. Mr. DiTullio said the regulations are strong, but he is uncomfortable that it is the last time the Board will formally vote on the accountability calculation. Commissioner Chester said he would bring the accountability changes and ESEA waiver to the Board for further discussion and a vote.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with G.L. chapter 69, § 1B, and chapter 71, § 89, and having solicited and reviewed public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. chapter 30A, § 3, hereby adopts the amendments to the regulations for Charter Schools, 603 CMR 1.00, as presented by the Commissioner.**

The vote was 7-0-1. Vice Chair Chernow abstained.

**Regulations on Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools (Adoption of 603 CMR 52.00; Technical Amendment to Special Education Regulations, 603 CMR 28.00; and Repeal of Regulations on Virtual Innovation Schools, 603 CMR 48.00)**

Commissioner Chester said based upon the comments received during the public comment period, there were a number of revisions to the proposed regulations for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools. The Commissioner said the Department also solicited feedback from a wide range of stakeholders during the drafting period. Mr. Chuang said the regulations do apply to the current virtual schools.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with   
G.L. c. 69, § 1B; G.L. c. 71, § 94; and chapter 379 of the acts of 2012, and having solicited and reviewed public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. chapter 30A, § 3, hereby adopts the regulations for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools, 603 CMR 52.00; and the technical amendments to regulations for Special Education, 603 CMR 28.00; and hereby repeals certain provisions of the Innovation Schools Regulations, 603 CMR 48.00; as presented by the Commissioner.**

The vote was unanimous.

Chair Banta had to leave the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Vice Chair Chernow presided.

**Overview of HiSET, New High School Equivalency Exam**

Commissioner Chester said the Department decided to hold an open procurement to select a test vendor for a new high school equivalency exam for Massachusetts over the next three years. The Commissioner said request for responses were issued last August, and proposals were submitted by three vendors. The Department selected the HiSET™ test offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) as the state's new high school equivalency assessment.

Jolanta Conway, acting director of the Department's Adult and Community Learning Services unit, said the high school equivalency exam will gradually transition to a computerized assessment aligned to the *College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education*. She said the exam will be available in paper-and-pencil and computer form, as well as English and Spanish. Ms. Conway said 26 of the previous 28 GED centers are transitioning to administer the HiSET exam. Ms. Conway outlined the two test battery options.

Ms. Conway introduced Jason Carter and Deborah Shine of ETS to give an overview of the exam. Ms. Shine gave the Board background information on ETS’ involvement with high school equivalency exams. Ms. Shine said eleven other states chose HiSET as their high school equivalency exam. Mr. Carter said test centers do not pay for test materials, shipping, or licensing. He said that free or low-cost preparation materials are available, including: free sample items and practice tests, free ETS study companions, and additional low-cost practice tests with formative (diagnostic) information. Mr. Carter said ETS offers the full range of HiSET support for test takers, test center administrators, including trainings that were recently done with all Massachusetts centers.

Mr. Brogan asked if the price of the test would vary in the future. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said the price will be locked in for the length of the three year contract. Mr. Carter also noted that many organizations provide scholarships or voucher programs for their constituents. Ms. Conway said that in 2013, 14,000 people took the GED exam and 70 percent passed. Ms. Conway said Newton and Milford decided not to move forward with administering the exam due to diminished resources. Mr. Morton asked about the payment process. Mr. Carter said having payments done online alleviates testing centers, but they have brought groups together to register at the centers, and there is a program to convert cash to payment.

**Update on PARCC**

Commissioner Chester said today is the second day of the first of two administration windows for this spring's PARCC field test. Approximately 81,000 Massachusetts students are participating in the field test this spring. Senior Associate Commissioner Bob Bickerton said the Department has had over 40 public outreach meetings to date on PARCC. He said two thirds of students are taking the online portion, while one third are taking the paper version. Mr. Bickerton said there have been a few bumps in the road during the administration, but the assessment is very promising. He reminded Board members that Burlington and Revere are participating in a research study to draw lessons from the field test.

Mr. Roach said it is important to remember that this is a field test, and there will be issues that arise. He said the Board is being measured in the review of the assessment, and the potential it holds deserves our attention and patience. Dr. Calderón-Rosado agreed with Mr. Roach’s comments, and noted that her own child, a seventh grader, was scheduled to participate, but due to issues it did not happen. She said it can be little things that make or break initiatives, and schools must be supported. Vice Chair Chernow asked about field test results. Mr. Bickerton said the intent of the field test is to test the items – not the students – so no results are possible. He said many of the items test the same standards as MCAS and will be compared. Mr. DiTullio said questions from parents regarding opting their children out of the field test do a great disservice to Massachusetts impacting and evaluating the assessment. Mr. Bickerton said the Department has been working with stakeholders to communicate the correct information to parents, as there is a lot of misinformation going around. Commissioner Chester recognized the work of Bob Bickerton, Maureen LaCroix, and educator fellows to inform stakeholders across the Commonwealth about PARCC. He said this is a great opportunity for schools to try out the test and provide feedback.

**Amendment Request from Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School**

Commissioner Chester said the charter school is very successful and currently has a waitlist. He said he supports the request to expand enrollment and become a regional charter school. Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang said the Department has been in communication with the school to meet the criteria, including their commitment to backfill through all grade spans. He said the charter school is one of the oldest and is high performing, and the expansion request will also assist in expanding their diversity. Mr. Chuang said particular demographics in the area are low and that is reflected in the population of the school. He said the expansion will allow the school to reach a larger number of families. Mr. Roach asked about the schools facilities. Mr. Chuang confirmed that the school is looking to relocate to facilities that will meet their needs, including their ability to offer more programs.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby amends the charter granted to the following school, as presented by the Commissioner:**

***Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (enrollment increase from 450 to 900; regional charter serving Bellingham, Blackstone/Millville, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon/Upton, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Walpole, and Wrentham)***

Location: Franklin

Charter Region: Bellingham, Blackstone/Millville, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon/Upton, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Walpole, and Wrentham

Maximum Enrollment: 900

Grades Served: K-8

Effective year: FY2015

**Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 71, section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00 and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Update on State and Federal Education Budget**

Chief Financial Officer Bill Bell said the Department is waiting for the next step in the budget process, which is the release of the House Ways and Means budget recommendation and subsequent floor debate of the budget. Mr. Bell said the federal budget for FY14-15 shows modest growth to district accounts. He said that among the Board’s priorities are continued support for turnaround work, RETELL, and the option for districts to choose MCAS or PARCC. Mr. Bell said the technology bond bill is still in the Senate Committee on Bonding.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm, subject to the call of the chair.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell D. Chester

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

and Secretary to the Board

**Minutes of the Special Meeting**

**of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**Monday, March 24, 2014**

**5:07 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

**Maura Banta**,Chair, Melrose

**Daniel Brogan**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Dennis

**Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, Milton

**Harneen Chernow**, Vice-Chair, Jamaica Plain

**James DiTullio**,Designee of the Secretary of Education

**James O’S. Morton,** Springfield

**Pendred Noyce**,Weston

**David Roach**, Sutton

**Mitchell D. Chester**, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Secretary to the Board

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:

**Karen Daniels,** Milton

**Ruth Kaplan**, Brookline

Chair Banta called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

**Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE) Educational Benchmarking Study and Policy Report**

Chair Banta welcomed Board members. Commissioner Chester said it is a real pleasure to have the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE) at the meeting to present its benchmarking study. The Commissioner said it is phenomenal that MBAE took on the task of looking at where education in Massachusetts stands and where we can move forward. MBAE Chair Henry Dinger and Executive Director Linda Noonan were joined as the presenters' table by the two authors of the report, Sir Michael Barber and Simon Day from Brightlines.

Mr. Dinger thanked the Board for opportunity to present their report “The New Opportunity to Lead: A Vision for Education in Massachusetts in the Next 20 Years.” Mr. Dinger gave the Board an overview of MBAE’s history starting with its establishment by Jack Rennie, role in helping to develop the Education Reform Act of 1993, and now as an education partner across the Commonwealth. Mr. Dinger said there is a disconnect between what students are learning and what employers and higher education expect and need.He said MBAE focused on where education in Massachusetts stacked up internationally, and what it would take for Massachusetts to become the best in the world. Ms. **Noonan** introduced a new poll of business executives conducted by MassINC Polling Group for MBAE, Associated Industries of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Business Roundtable. She said the poll included in depth interviews, focus groups, and a survey. The survey found that found that 69% of employers have difficulty hiring employees with the right skills to fill positions and 84% say the state's schools need moderate or major change.

Sir Michael Barber said it is a pleasure reviewing and working with a strong well led education system in Massachusetts. Mr. Barber said the report has a long term vision looking forward to 2030. He said Massachusetts is a high performing state that is pushing forward to become even better. Mr. Day said although Massachusetts is a top performer internationally, there are wide gaps between Massachusetts and the highest performing nations, such as Shanghai. Mr. Day said the six gaps outlined in the report are: employability, knowledge, achievement, opportunity, global, and top talent. Mr. Barber said two visions for Massachusetts are being a global leader in educational achievement and equity, and young people graduating from high school genuinely college and career ready with the knowledge, skills and competencies needed for lifelong learning and active citizenship in the 21st century. He said there is much more knowledge on how to approach reform, including the importance of the capacity to innovate and fidelity of implementation. Mr. Barber said you can mandate adequacy; you can’t mandate greatness. It has to be unleashed. Mr. Day and Mr. Barber gave an overview of the report’s recommendations around world class standards, curriculum, assessment, and student pathways; a future delivery system; world class teachers and leaders; unleashing innovation; closing the opportunity gap; and funding.

Dr. Calderón-Rosado said Massachusetts has not been complacent in moving education and achievement forward. Rather, she said reform has occurred at a whirlwind pace that is difficult for teachers and administrators. Dr. Calderón-Rosado asked if the business community would be willing to pay for increased attention to resources. Mr. Barber said the report recognizes that Massachusetts is not complacent. He said many would like to slow down the pace of reform; however, it is not the time to step away. Mr. Dinger said business leaders are willing to invest strategically toward initiatives that have a proven track record and are allocated transparently. Chair Banta said she is interested in the funding topic and getting funds closer to students is a goal shared by many. Mr. Day said incentives should be built into funding to reward success. He also noted that schools do not have control of their budget, but are held accountable for results. Chair Banta said Lawrence is a great example of the value of school level decision making and the redesign of the central office’s role.

Dr. Noyce said many recommendations require legislative changes. She asked what recommendations the Board could specifically do. Mr. Day said the Board and the state should continue discussions on what it would take for Massachusetts to be at the top internationally. He said students need a broad range of real world skills and abilities, and many of the recommendations will support and drive that goal forward. Ms. Noonan said MBAE is going to analyze current statutes and assess how the recommendations can be brought to life. Vice Chair Chernow said some initiatives highlighted in the report have seen mixed results, and a strong district could lead to equity and opportunities for students. Mr. Day said programs with wrap around services were included within the report, referring one such program, CityConnects.

Dr. Calderón-Rosado left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Roach said the historic purpose of schools has always been to develop effective citizens. Mr. Barber said the fundamental goals of education go hand in hand with citizenship and employability. Mr. Roach noted a recent visit to an alternative school where many students have social emotional needs and unstable home lives. Mr. Barber said social challenges are broadly defined in the report, but are an integral part of addressing a student’s needs. Ms. Noonan said it is time to reassess the role of schools in the community. She said schools are expected to do things they were not designed to do. Mr. DiTullio said many of Massachusetts schools specifically address social needs such as innovation schools and districts with family engagement centers. He said universal pre-kindergarten was strongly promoted by the Governor because it addresses achievement gaps and social-emotional needs of children early on. Ms. Noonan said Brightlines and MBAE recognize that one initiative isn’t going to change the education system, but intertwined goals and initiatives that yield results will.

Commissioner Chester thanked MBAE, Sir Michael Barber, and Mr. Day for their presentation to the Board. He said the report is very provocative, and smart to challenge Massachusetts on where they should go from here.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm, subject to the call of the chair.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell D. Chester

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

and Secretary to the Board