**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 10:33 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**Malden Public Library, Maccario Room**

**36 Salem Street, Malden, MA**

**Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:**

**Katherine Craven**,Chair,Brookline

**James Morton**, Vice-Chair, Boston

**Ed Doherty**,Boston

**Amanda Fernandez**,Belmont

**Matthew Hills**, Newton

**Maya Mathews**, Student Advisory Council, Newton

**Margaret McKenna**, Boston

**Michael Moriarty**, Holyoke

**James Peyser**,Secretary of Education

**Mary Ann Stewart**, Lexington

**Martin West**, Newton

**Jeffrey C. Riley**,Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Chair Craven convened the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) meeting at 10:33 a.m. and members introduced themselves.

## Public Comment

Cecelia Doucette, Technology Safety Educator, addressed the Board on Wi-Fi technology concerns in schools.

**Comments from Chair Craven**

Chair Craven informed the Board that the meeting agenda is heavier in June and might require a special meeting on Monday evening. She said the Board would hold its regular meeting in June at a school, most likely in Revere or Holyoke. Chair Craven asked Vice-Chair Morton to report on the work of the committee conducting the annual performance evaluation of the Commissioner. Vice-Chair Morton noted that the committee, which he chairs, includes Chair Craven and Amanda Fernandez. He said the committee has met, most recently on May 16, to deliberate on the evaluation and will present its recommendation to the Board for discussion and vote at the meeting on June 25.

**Comments from Commissioner Riley**

Commissioner Riley highlighted teacher appreciation week, teacher signing day, and the announcement of the 2020 Teacher of the Year, Takeru Nagayoshi, an English teacher at New Bedford High School. He said he looks forward to having Mr. Nagayoshi present to the Board next year. The Commissioner gave an update on the proposed New Bedford-Alma del Mar partnership, noting that the New Bedford City Council approved the home rule petition, which Representative Chris Markey filed with the Legislature on May 2. Commissioner Riley reiterated the importance of having the necessary legislation enacted in time to allow families and students in New Bedford to plan for the new school year. He said he hopes for a decision one way or the other by the end of May, and said he will keep the Board informed.

Commissioner Riley concluded that for the past year he has spent his time on a listening tour across the Commonwealth, including visiting 100 schools and convening the Kairos conference in March. He said he would present a plan next month focusing on four themes that have emerged: promoting deeper, applied learning; replicating evidence-based best practices; providing holistic supports for every student; and having the state partner with districts. Commissioner Riley said he looks forward to discussing his plan with the Board at the June 25 meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**VOTED:** **that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting.**

The vote was unanimous.

**Educator Workforce Diversity**

Chair Craven invited Ventura Rodriguez, Senior Associate Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives; Shay Edmond, Director of Student Equity Initiatives; Cheryl Camacho, Special Assistant to the Commissioner; and Sandra Hinderliter, Lead for Educator Preparation, to discuss current initiatives the Department is leading to diversify the educator workforce in the Commonwealth. Commissioner Riley noted that 40 percent of our students are students of color, compared to 8 percent of our teaching force. He said recruiting and retaining a diverse and effective educator workforce is one of the Department’s strategic initiatives to address educational inequities.

Mr. Moriarty arrived at 10:55 a.m.

Mr. Rodriguez presented an overview of the work the Department is doing in this area under the Commissioner’s leadership. He said since he assumed this role in November, he has focused on educator diversification as an explicit strategy that works in concert with the Department’s ongoing strategies to prepare all students for success after high school.

Ms. Edmond listed four Department initiatives to increase the diversity of teachers and administrators in the Commonwealth: the Teacher Diversification Pilot Program, the Commissioner’s college visits, the InSPIRED Fellowship, and Influence 100. She said the Teacher Diversification Pilot Program has allocated $2 million to support 14 districts’ efforts to strengthen and diversify their existing teacher recruitment and retention programs. She added that the Commissioner’s college visits have enabled many students to connect with him to discuss careers in K-12 education.

Ms. Hinderliter briefed the Board on the InSPIRED Fellowship, which stands for **In**-**S**ervice **P**rofessionals committed to **I**ncreasing the **R**acial and **E**thnic **D**iversity of the Commonwealth’s teacher workforce. She explained the fellowship was launched in January 2019 to provide an opportunity for current educators to recruit students and young adults from underrepresented communities at the high school, community college, or undergraduate level into the teaching profession. Ms. Hinderliter said the 35 fellows are working with one another and with educator preparation providers to support and guide prospective teachers to enroll in a teacher preparation program.

Ms. Camacho provided an overview of Influence 100, a new pilot program aimed at increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of superintendents in Massachusetts, creating more culturally responsive districts and leaders across the state, and promoting better outcomes for students. She said there has been a lot of interest in the program across the Commonwealth.

Vice-Chair Morton commended the Commissioner and panel on the work they are doing and said this may be the next frontier to improve student performance. He suggested considering how college debt might discourage some graduates from going into teaching, and also considering ways to encourage mid-career professionals to move into teaching. Mr. West commended the Commissioner and Department for making this a priority and suggested ways to review student data in relation to the teachers they have had. Ms. Fernandez said she is grateful for this initiative and for the focus on equity and cultural competency. She encouraged the Department to reach out to nonprofits and other providers, as well as educator preparation programs, to assess gaps and opportunities. Ms. McKenna suggested reviewing the experience of various programs; she added that one effective strategy is to guarantee a teaching job in the district to successful program completers. Ms. Stewart applauded the effort and encouraged the team to work with families and also learn from what some districts are doing now. Mr. Moriarty suggested Massachusetts districts should consider recruiting more teachers from Puerto Rico and other states with large latino populations. Chair Craven thanked the Commissioner and panelists and said this initiative is meaningful to the Board and all the students we serve.

**Update on Department Support for History, Social Science, and Civics Education**

Heather Peske, Senior Associate Commissioner for the Center for Instructional Support, brought forward a panel of educators to share their experiences implementing the new standards that the Board adopted in June 2018. Ms. Peske introduced Michelle Ryan, the Department’s History and Social Science content support lead, who provided a brief overview of the Department’s work in this area with educators and schools. Ms. Ryan reviewed the three pillars of the framework, briefly summarized the key implementation supports the Department has provided this year, and then asked the educator panel to speak about how the 2018 History and Social Science Framework has affected teaching and learning in their district, and how the Department could continue to support implementation of the framework. Ms. Ryan introduced the educator panelists: Patrick Daly, assistant superintendent, North Reading Public Schools; Jenny Chung, Cambridge Public Schools K-8 History instructional coach; and Natacha Scott, Boston Public Schools director of History and Social Science. The educator panelists shared their experiences implementing the standards in their respective districts and responded to questions.

Mr. West asked the panel about student assessment in these subjects, including alternative forms of assessment. Mr. Daly responded that he has discussed various ideas with other educators, including project-based assessments, and people are willing to try different approaches. Ms. McKenna said teachers have welcomed the opportunity to bring civics back into the curriculum and that she hopes the Department will help teachers find the curriculum resources they need. Ms. Ryan said the top priority in phase two of this work is addressing the need for high-quality curriculum materials, using the Curate system. Mr. Moriarty thanked the educators for their very encouraging presentation. He suggested they reach out to civic organizations in their communities for additional resources and support. Chair Craven thanked the Department and panel members for the informative presentation.

**Update on FY2020 State Education Budget**

Chair Craven introduced Bill Bell, Senior Associate Commissioner/CFO; Julia Jou, Budget Director; Rob O’Donnell, Director of School Finance; and Rob Hanna, Senior Analyst for School and District Finance. Mr. Bell noted the full Senate is now debating the budget that the Senate Ways and Means (SWM) Committee released two weeks ago. He noted that SWM’s proposal included a $268.4 million increase to FY2020 Chapter 70 funding over FY2019. Mr. O’Donnell provided an overview of the SWM proposals for Chapter 70 and charter tuition district reimbursement funding.

Mr. Bell noted the proposed increase to the Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursement account and to Regional School Transportation funding over FY2019 and the level funding of reimbursement for homeless transportation and non-resident vocational school transportation. Mr. Bell said while the School and District Assistance account maintains the FY2019 increased level of $12.5 million for Targeted Assistance going into FY2020, the SWM budget did not support the Governor’s initiative to provide multi-year funding so it will not fully meet all the Department’s needs for the innovation work. Mr. Bell concluded by noting the increases to the Teacher Certification Retained Revenue and Adult Basic Education accounts.

Secretary Peyser said funding for school improvement and targeted assistance, either through the existing line item or the Governor’s proposal, is of tremendous importance. He added that the Department needs resources to support the currently identified districts and also to support a broader range of schools and districts across the Commonwealth to jumpstart reforms and innovate. He said this is a top priority, along with the new enrollment category for Early College and Career Pathways. Secretary Peyser said he hopes these loose ends can be tied off in the next few weeks.

**Proposed Schedule for Regular Board Meetings through June 2020**

Chair Craven asked members to review the proposed schedule and contact her or Commissioner Riley with any questions or concerns about the meeting schedule, which the Board will vote on at the June meeting.

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

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.**

The vote was unanimous.

 Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

and Secretary to the Board

*Revised June 25, 2019*