*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

February 11, 2020

School & Main Institute

Gregg Weltz, Executive Director

225 Friend Street

Boston, MA 02114

Re: Paul A. Dever Elementary School

Dear Mr. Weltz:

I am writing to you regarding my decision to appoint School & Main Institute (SMI) as the receiver for the Paul A. Dever Elementary School (Dever), pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(r). I understand that SMI has hired Dr. Fran Roy to assist with this work.

In October 2013, pursuant to G.L. c. 69, §1J, Commissioner Chester declared the Dever to be chronically underperforming under the state accountability system. In August 2017, Acting Commissioner Wulfson and then Superintendent Chang renewed the Dever’s turnaround plan for an additional three-years. Subsequent modifications to the turnaround plan have been made. A copy of the renewed and updated turnaround plan can be found here: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/level5/schools/dever.html>.

In November 2019, Michael Contompasis indicated his intent to retire as the current receiver of the Dever School, effective June 30, 2020. Effective July 1, 2020, SMI, with the assistance of Dr. Fran Roy, will be responsible for the management and operation of the school, and the implementation of the renewed turnaround plan. The Dever remains in state receivership and is not under the authority of the Boston School Committee. SMI will have authorities of a receiver for a chronically underperforming school and will report to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. Prior to July 1, 2020, SMI and Dr. Roy will serve in an advisory capacity to Mr. Contompasis and will engage in planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

I look forward to working with you. Using the authorities and opportunities that the chronically underperforming designation provides, I believe we will continue to substantially improve educational outcomes for students.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER RILEY**

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Cc: Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent, Boston Public School

Michael Laconto, Chair, Boston Public Schools School Committee

Russell Johnston, Senior Associate Commissioner, Elementary and Secondary Education

Mayor Martin Walsh, City of Boston