



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
From: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner
Date: November 9, 2021
Subject: Briefing for the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

The next regular meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be on **Tuesday, November 16, 2021**, at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden. The meeting will start at **9:00 a.m.** and should adjourn by **11:30 a.m.** The Board will meet in person, following the Commonwealth's current health and safety guidelines, and the meeting will be live-streamed. Helene Bettencourt and Courtney Sullivan will assist with all arrangements; please email or call them if you have any questions.

OVERVIEW

I will update the Board on actions the Department has taken and is taking to support schools, students, and families with in-person learning, as well as current data on school enrollment in Massachusetts. We will hear from the Board's Budget Committee and the Board will discuss and vote on priorities for the FY2023 state education budget. I will present for discussion my recommendations for phasing out, as of spring 2024, two of the four MCAS high school science and technology/engineering subject tests. The Board will also get an update on our initiatives to diversify the educator workforce in the Commonwealth.

REGULAR MEETING

Statements from the Public

Comments from the Chair

Chair Craven will report on current issues and activities.

Comments from the Commissioner

Vocational school admissions policies. Districts with Chapter 74-approved career vocational technical education (CVTE) programs are currently in the process of submitting their admissions policies to the Department, in accordance with the new regulations on CVTE admissions. The

policies that districts have submitted to date are posted on the Department's CVTE Admissions [webpage](#). Given the timing of the regulatory change, a number of districts requested an extension to submit their policies by mid-December. I will report to the Board in January on the status of the admissions policies.

Comments from the Secretary

Secretary Peyser will report on current issues and activities.

Routine Business: Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting

The Board will vote on approval of the minutes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Update on Action Steps to Support Schools, Students, and Families – Discussion

I will update the Board on the Department's recent and ongoing actions to provide support for schools, students, and families, as well as our latest data on school enrollment in Massachusetts.

2. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education FY2023 Budget Proposal and Report from the Board's Budget Committee – Discussion and Vote

The Board's budget committee, chaired by Matt Hills, will report at our November 16 meeting. Based on the committee's recommended priorities, the Board will discuss and vote on its FY2023 education budget proposal. Consistent with Mass. General Laws c. 69, § 1A, I will transmit the Board's recommendations to the Secretary of Education, who "shall then prepare and submit a budget request on behalf of the department to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on education, and the secretary of administration and finance."

3. High School Chemistry and Technology/Engineering Assessments – Discussion

I will present my recommendations for phasing out, as of spring 2024, two of the four MCAS high school science and technology/engineering subject tests that are currently available to students to meet the competency determination requirements for graduation. The memorandum in your materials provides details. Rob Curtin, chief officer for data, assessment, and accountability, along with Associate Commissioner Michol Stapel and Lucy Wall of our legal staff, will be available to answer your questions.

4. Educator Diversification Update – Discussion

The Department is continuing our initiatives to diversify the educator workforce in the Commonwealth, and we are pleased to be working with the Board's Educator Diversification

Committee, chaired by Amanda Fernandez. At the meeting on November 16, Regina Robinson, Deputy Commissioner and Shay Edmond, Acting Senior Associate Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives, will discuss the Department's educator diversification initiatives and answer questions.

OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5. Report on Grants Approved by the Commissioner

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

6. Charter School Authorizing Activities for 2021-2022

Between now and June 2022, the Board will take a number of votes related to its statutory role as a charter school authorizer. Similar to prior years, the enclosed memorandum summarizes the statutory framework for charter schools and the Board's responsibilities as the state's sole charter school authorizer and provides a schedule of charter school items for the year.

7. Report on Scheduling of Comprehensive Audits and Reviews

The enclosed memorandum explains how the Department is addressing the provisions of M.G.L. c. 15, section 55A, regarding the scheduling of major reviews to reduce administrative burdens on schools and districts. The Board voted in December 2010 to delegate this scheduling task to the Commissioner, and I am submitting this report for FY2022 comprehensive audits and reviews in accordance with that vote.

8. 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Educational Personnel Advisory Council

Enclosed is the 2020-2021 annual report from the Educational Personnel Advisory Council, adding to the FY2021 reports from various statutory advisory councils that the Board received in September.

If you have questions about any agenda items, please call me. I look forward to meeting with you on November 16.