

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**January 29, 2013
10:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**Bridgewater State University
Rondileau Campus Center, Large Ballroom
19 Park Avenue, Bridgewater, MA 02325**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

Beverly Holmes, Vice Chair, Springfield
Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, Milton
Ryan Casey, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Franklin
Harneen Chernow, Jamaica Plain
Gerald Chertavian, Cambridge
Pendred Noyce, Weston
Mathew Malone, Secretary of Education
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:
Ruth Kaplan, Brookline

Chair Banta called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., following the Board's joint meeting with the Board of Higher Education.

Chair Banta welcomed members of the Board and Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. She noted Governor Patrick's State of the State address calling for new revenue for education. Commissioner Chester updated the Board on the recently enacted background checks law and positive results in graduation and dropout rates. He noted that the state's four-year high school graduation rate improved for the sixth consecutive year and the annual dropout rate is the lowest overall rate in decades. Commissioner Chester said the Department continues to reach out to school officials and other agencies to address school safety and security concerns in the wake of the recent tragedy in Newtown, CT. The commissioner said in February the Department will launch the Sheltered English Immersion course for educators that is a key component of our RETELL (Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners) initiative. Commissioner Chester called attention to several reports in the Board's materials: the Level 4 district update, the Race to the Top Year Two report, the Board's FY2012 annual report, and a brief informational report on Expanded Learning Time.

Secretary Malone said he is pleased to join the Board and that he brings to his new position his experience as a teacher and school administrator for 19 years and as a school superintendent for 8 years. He commended the Department for being a great partner to superintendents and expressed appreciation to the Board for its policies addressing the needs of schools and students. Secretary Malone summarized the Governor's budget proposal for more investments in education.

Public Comment

1. Kitty Pell from the Conservatory Lab Charter Public School addressed the Board on the school's proposed expansion.
2. Carleen Tucker addressed the Board on the Conservatory Lab Charter Public School expansion.
3. Adrian Anantawan from the Conservatory Lab Charter Public School addressed the Board with a musical selection relating to the proposed expansion.
4. Scott Goldman from the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School addressed the Board on the conditions placed on the charter.
5. Krista Piazza from Seven Hills Charter Public School addressed the Board on the school's probationary status.
6. Julia Bowen from Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School addressed the Board on the school's major amendment request.
7. Dr. Lina Racicot addressed the Board on the status of the New Leadership Charter School.

Approval of the Minutes

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the December 18, 2012 regular meeting.

The vote was unanimous.

Regulations on Educational Collaboratives, 603 CMR 50.00

Commissioner Chester said the regulations being presented for a vote have been revised from the proposed regulations that were posted for comment in September 2012. The revisions, based upon the public comment, clarify several areas including: issues to be addressed in collaborative agreements, requirements for financial statements and surplus funds, steps for approving tuition rates, and fiduciary responsibilities of and training for collaborative board members. The Commissioner introduced Deputy Commissioner Jeffrey Wulfson; Jay Sullivan, Executive Director of School Finance and District Support; and Christine Lynch, Director of School Governance. Ms. Lynch said with the Board's approval of the regulations, the Department would continue to work with MOEC and other stakeholders on the model agreement, training materials, and procedural guides for collaboratives. Secretary Malone thanked the staff for their work on this and said it

will be helpful to local officials. Mr. Roach asked if the limit on surplus funds was still twenty-five percent. Mr. Wulfson said it is set at that level but a waiver will be available to address unique situations.

The commissioner noted the Board's influence in the collaborative reform legislation and said the Board's adoption of the regulations is the appropriate next step in the process.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 69, § 1B, and c. 40, § 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, and having solicited and reviewed public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. c.30A, § 3, hereby adopt the amendments to the Regulations on Educational Collaboratives, 603 CMR 50.00, as presented by the Commissioner.

The vote was unanimous.

Amendments to Regulations on Innovation Schools, 603 CMR 48.00

Commissioner Chester presented an overview of the amendments, which clarify the innovation schools approval and amendment process. He introduced James DiTullio and Bridget Rodriguez of the Executive Office of Education and Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang. Commissioner Chester said the comment that Boston Superintendent Carol Johnson submitted regarding absentee voting would be addressed in guidance materials.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 69, §1B, and c. 71, § 92, and having solicited and reviewed public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. chapter 30A, § 3, hereby adopt the amendments to the Regulations on Innovation Schools, 603 CMR 48.00, as presented by the Commissioner. The amendments clarify the innovation schools approval and amendment process, as outlined in the Commissioner's January 18, 2013 memorandum.

The vote was unanimous.

Virtual Schools: Report on New Legislation and Proposed Delegation of Authority to Commissioner

Commissioner Chester said on January 2, Governor Patrick signed into law "An Act Establishing Commonwealth Virtual Schools," which is responsive to the position the Board adopted in 2011: that the state should have a stronger oversight and consumer

protection role with respect to virtual schools. The commissioner gave an overview of the new law and steps the Department is taking to implement it. He said because the law took effect immediately upon signing, halfway through the school year, he is recommending that the Board authorize the commissioner to issue requests for proposals to open a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School and to evaluate all responses received, so he can present recommendations to the Board this spring. The commissioner introduced Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson, Senior Associate Commissioner Bob Bickerton, Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang, and Luis Rodriguez, Director of the Office of Digital Learning.

Deputy Commissioner Wulfson explained that there will be a cap of three virtual schools during the first few years and the Board will make the final decisions on award of a virtual school certificate. He said the first RFP, by statute, relates to the existing Greenfield virtual school, and the second RFP would be issued in the fall of 2013.

Chair Banta asked about the timing for the regulations and the request for proposals. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said any new schools that result from the fall 2013 RFP would open in 2014, and the regulations would be approved by then. Ms. Chernow asked how tuition would be handled if a student leaves halfway through the year. Mr. Wulfson said as with school choice, the funding goes by FTE and could account for enrollment for part of a year, though with virtual schools a student might be able to complete a full year's work in less than 10 months.

Secretary Malone left at 11:15 to attend the Board of Higher Education meeting. Mr. DiTullio joined the Board members as the secretary's designee.

Mr. Roach asked if the RFP for Greenfield would address the Board's concerns. Mr. Rodriguez said the existing Massachusetts Virtual Academy at Greenfield is grandfathered into the law as long as the school complies with the process, but the Board and Department could set performance expectations as part of the accountability system. Ms. Holmes asked about the maximum number of virtual schools. Mr. Rodriguez said from 2013 to 2016, three schools can be approved; from 2017-2019 three additional schools can be approved; and in 2020 four additional schools can be approved. Mr. Roach suggested consulting with social services/DCF about how the law on mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect would relate to children in virtual schools.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education authorizes the Commissioner, in accordance with General Laws c. 15, § 1F, paragraph 3, to act on behalf of the Board in issuing requests for proposals under G.L. c. 71, § 94 (b), inviting applicants that wish to open a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School. The Board further delegates authority to the Commissioner to evaluate all responses received and to present recommendations to the Board for

the issuance of certificates to establish Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools.

The vote was unanimous.

Update on the State Education Budget

Commissioner Chester said the Governor's budget focuses on innovation, investments in education, and investments in transportation. He said it is a quarter of a billion dollars above the current budget and is highly responsive to the Board's priorities, including accountability and targeted assistance and the RETELL initiative. Bill Bell, Chief Financial Officer at the Department, outlined the budget timeline and process.

Ms. Chernow made a motion for the Board to send a letter to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Education supporting the Governor's budget.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education send a letter to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Education in support of the Governor's budget.

The vote was 8-0-1. James DiTullio, designee for Secretary Malone, abstained.

Mr. Roach expressed concern about inadequate funding to support the Department's capacity to meet its responsibilities, especially with federal funding cuts likely. Commissioner Chester said he shares the concern, and while there is authority for staffing in program lines in the Governor's budget, he does expect cuts to federal accounts. Mr. Roach said staffing concerns should be part of our communication to the Joint Committee. Dr. Noyce and Dr. Calderón-Rosado voiced support for Mr. Roach's concerns.

New Leadership Charter School: Report on Probation and Commissioner's Recommendation on Charter Renewal

Commissioner Chester said the Board has had substantial concerns about this school over its 15 years; most recently, in 2011, the Board placed the school on probation with eight conditions. He said most of the conditions have not been met and academic achievement has continued to decline. Commissioner Chester acknowledged the dedication of the parents, students, founders, and leaders of the school. He said the school's board of trustees has voted to withdraw the school's application for renewal, and the charter will expire as of June 30, 2013.

Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said the school was given ample time to improve and has not done so. He said there is no process to convert a Horace Mann charter school to a Commonwealth charter school, though parents or others could apply for a

Commonwealth charter in the next application cycle. Commissioner Chester said the trustees have not come forward with any further plans.

Ms. Chernow said this is a difficult vote because no one wants to close a school, but if the school does not meet its goals, the Board has an obligation. She said the school has a long-standing history of poor achievement and a disconnect between parents and trustees. Commissioner Chester said that from preliminary conversations it seems that parents were not aware of the probationary status. He said in the future when the Board votes on charter probation, the Department will see to it that parents are notified. Ms. Holmes asked for clarification on the emergency authority being granted to the Commissioner. Mr. Wulfson said that when a school's charter is revoked or not renewed, if the school is not viable through the end of the school year, the Commissioner needs authority to move quickly and revoke the charter.

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; General Laws chapter 30A, section 13; and 603 CMR 1.00, hereby acknowledges that New Leadership Charter School has withdrawn its application for renewal of a charter. Pursuant to 603 CMR 1.12(4), the charter for New Leadership Charter School will expire on June 30, 2013.

Provided further, that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education authorizes the Commissioner, in accordance with General Laws c. 15, section 1F, paragraph 3, to act on behalf of the Board in suspending and revoking the charter of New Leadership Charter School on an emergency basis if the Commissioner determines that the health, safety, or education of the school's students is at immediate risk. Such suspension and emergency revocation shall be in accordance with General Laws chapter 71, section 89; General Laws chapter 30A, section 13; and 603 CMR 1.00. The Commissioner shall notify the Board in advance of his intent to take such action.

The board of trustees of New Leadership Charter School shall comply with all procedures and timelines established by the Commissioner to effectuate school closure by June 30, 2013 and, if invoked, suspension and emergency revocation.

The vote was unanimous.

Report on Conditions or Probation

1. Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence

Commissioner Chester said the school was put on probation two years ago and has met the three conditions. He said he is moving to remove the probation, acknowledge the progress the school has made, and add new academic conditions.

Vice-Chair Beverly Holmes stated that she is recusing herself from participating or voting on this matter because she was a founding member of the charter school.

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 removes Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence from probation because it has made progress in achieving the conditions imposed on its charter in January 2011. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education explicitly imposes a further set of conditions on the charter of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence:

- 1. No later than March 31, 2013, Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence shall submit to the Charter School Office a comprehensive evaluation of the school's English language arts program conducted by an external consultant.**
- 2. No later than May 15, 2013, Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence shall submit to, and receive approval from, the Charter School Office for an action plan that specifies the strategies to improve performance in English language arts. The action plan must address implementation of a proven curriculum and instruction program for English language arts. The action plan must include a timetable for the implementation of corrective actions, must set deadlines for the completion of key tasks, and must set clear and specific implementation benchmarks to allow the board of trustees of Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence and the Charter School Office to monitor implementation.**
- 3. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence must demonstrate that it is an academic success by December of 2014 by providing evidence that the school has met or is making substantial progress toward meeting benchmarks in its approved Accountability Plan and, in particular, has**

demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement in English language arts.

Absent further action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, failure to meet these conditions may result in placing Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence 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 8-0-1. Vice-Chair Holmes abstained.

2. Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Commissioner Chester presented an overview and said he is recommending the Board vote on a further set of conditions.

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 imposes conditions on the school's charter:

- 1. No later than March 31, 2013, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School shall submit to the Charter School Office a comprehensive evaluation of the school's mathematics program conducted by an external consultant.**
- 2. No later than May 15, 2013, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School shall submit to, and receive approval from, the Charter School Office for an action plan that specifies strategies to improve mathematics performance. The action plan must address implementation of a proven curriculum and instruction program for mathematics. The action plan must include a timetable for the implementation of actions, must set deadlines for the completion of key tasks, and must set clear and specific implementation benchmarks to allow the board of trustees of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School and the Charter School Office to monitor implementation.**

- 3. Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School must demonstrate that it is an academic success by December of 2014 by providing evidence that the school has met or is making substantial progress toward meeting benchmarks in its approved Accountability Plan and, in particular, has demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics.**

Absent further action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, failure to meet these conditions may result in placing Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter 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.

3. Seven Hills Charter Public School

Commissioner Chester said the school has been on probation with three conditions and he is recommending removal from probation along with a further condition to address continuing concerns relating to academic improvement.

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 removes Seven Hills Charter Public School from probation because it has made progress in achieving the conditions imposed on its charter in February 2011. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education explicitly imposes a further condition on the charter of the Seven Hills Charter Public School:

Seven Hills Charter Public School must demonstrate that it is an academic success by December 2014 by providing evidence that the school has met or is making substantial progress toward meeting the benchmarks in its approved Accountability Plan and, in particular, has demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement.

Absent further action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, failure to meet this condition may result in placing Seven

Hills Charter Public School on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

Seven Hills 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.

Major Amendments

1. Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School

Commissioner Chester said 18 charter schools requested major amendments; some are on the agenda this month and others will be presented in February. He said BART's expansion request is for 55 students and to add the town of Pittsfield. Commissioner Chester said although the mayor and superintendent have objected, he is recommending the request because Pittsfield students are already enrolled in the school and this vote would provide transportation reimbursement. Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said Pittsfield is still under the charter school cap. Ms. Chernow said the letter from the city and school officials was thoughtful on how the expansion could disrupt the district. Dr. Calderón-Rosado asked how transportation works for the school. Mr. Wulfson said currently BART voluntarily transports students from Pittsfield; the vote would make it mandatory and provide reimbursement. He clarified that only the district where the school is located is obliged to provide transportation for its students.

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:

Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School (enrollment increase from 308 to 363 students; addition of Pittsfield to the school's region)

Location:	Adams
Districts in Region:	Adams-Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Lanesboro, Mt. Greylock, North Adams, Pittsfield, Savoy, Williamstown

Maximum enrollment: 363
Grade levels: 6-12
Effective year: FY2014

The vote was 8-1-0. Harneen Chernow voted in opposition.

2. Christa McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School

Commissioner Chester presented an overview of the amendment request, which relates to an increase in enrollment.

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:

Christa McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School (enrollment increase from 306 to 396 students)

Location:	Framingham
Districts in Region:	Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkington, Marlborough, Natick, Southborough, Sudbury
Maximum enrollment:	396
Grade levels:	6-8
Effective year:	FY2014

The vote was unanimous.

3. Foxborough Regional Charter School

Commissioner Chester said the school is asking to expand by 100 seats. Mr. DiTullio asked if this was the typical number of seats requested by charter schools. Mr. Chuang said this is a modest request for “right-sizing” with no new programs being added.

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:

Foxborough Regional Charter School (enrollment increase from 1,200 to 1,300 students)

Location:	Foxborough
Districts in Region:	Attleboro, Avon, Brocton, Canton, Easton, Foxborough, Mansfield, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, North Attleboro, Norton, Norwood, Plainville, Raynham, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, West Bridgewater, Wrentham
Maximum enrollment:	1,300
Grade levels:	K-12
Effective year:	FY2014

The vote was unanimous.

4. Rising Tide Charter Public School

Commissioner Chester said the school is requesting to expand to a regional school. Mr. Wulfson said the amendment would reduce the financial impact on Plymouth.

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:

Rising Tide Charter Public School (become a regional school)

Location:	Plymouth
Districts in Region:	Barnstable, Bourne, Carver, Duxbury, Falmouth, Lakeville, Marshfield, Mashpee, Middleborough, Old Rochester, Pembroke, Plymouth, Sandwich, Silver Lake, Wareham
Maximum enrollment:	700
Grade levels:	5-12

Effective year:

FY2014

The vote was 8-0-1. Harneen Chernow abstained.

Information on New Charter Applicants

Commissioner Chester said the Department is in the final stages of review for the 11 applicants and recommendations will be forwarded to the Board soon. Commissioner Chester said Boston is a large focus because applications are being considered at the same time as expansion requests. Dr. Calderón-Rosado asked if any other cities are close to the charter cap. Mr. Wulfson said no other city is at 18 percent; Springfield and Lawrence are closer to 9 or 10 percent. He reminded the Board that all applicants in these districts must be proven providers. Commissioner Chester said all charter applicants must clear a high bar. Mr. Roach noted that legislation has been proposed to raise the charter cap.

Chair Banta thanked Vice-Chair Holmes for chairing the special meeting and thanked Board members, Commissioner Chester, and staff for organizing the joint meeting with the Board of Higher Education.

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.

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
and the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education**

**January 29, 2013
8:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Bridgewater State University
Rondileau Campus Center, Large Ballroom
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Maura Banta, Chair, Melrose
Beverly Holmes, Vice Chair, Springfield
Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, Milton
Ryan Casey, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Franklin
Harneen Chernow, Jamaica Plain
Gerald Chertavian, Cambridge
Pendred Noyce, Weston
Mathew Malone, Secretary of Education
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:

Ruth Kaplan, Brookline

Members of the Board of Higher Education Present:

Charles F. Desmond, Ed.D., Chairman
Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chair, State University Trustee Representative
David J. Barron
Gianni Falzone, Student Member
C. Bernard Fulp
Nancy Hoffman, Ph.D.
Matthew Malone, Secretary of Education
Keith J. Peden
Tina Sbrega, Community College Trustee Representative
Henry Thomas III, University of Massachusetts Trustee Representative
Paul F. Toner

Non-Voting Student Advisors

David Chapin, Community College Student Representative
Nathan Gregoire, State University Student Representative

Member of the Board of Higher Education Absent:
Fernando M. Reimers

Board of Higher Education Chairman Charles Desmond welcomed all members and guests to the joint meeting to discuss the proposed definition of college and career readiness. Board members introduced themselves. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Chair Maura Banta thanked President Dana Mohler-Faria for hosting the two boards at Bridgewater State University. Chair Banta said she is proud of the work being done by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) and the Department of Higher Education (DHE). She also welcomed Secretary of Education Mathew Malone.

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, President of Bridgewater State University, welcomed Board members to the campus.

Secretary Malone said he was glad to be part of this historic joint meeting. He said he shares the sense of urgency to close achievement gaps and identify what it means to be ready for college and careers.

Commissioner Chester thanked President Mohler-Faria and gave an overview of the special meeting that the Board of ESE held on Monday night on this topic. He said students are still being placed in non-credit bearing higher education courses and that Massachusetts needs to signal to young people what they need to succeed in post-secondary life. He said the state English language arts and mathematics frameworks incorporating the Common Core State Standards, MassCore, the recommendations of the Task Force on Integrating College and Career Readiness (ICCR), and the PARCC consortium are all part of the work ESE is doing in partnership with DHE to further college and career readiness for all high school students.

Commissioner Freeland thanked President Mohler-Faria and Bridgewater State University for hosting the meeting. He said college and career readiness is a joint responsibility, not just a K-12 issue. Commissioner Freeland said the discussion of the proposed college and career readiness definition at today's meeting is expected to lead to both boards voting on a common definition. Commissioner Freeland added that he anticipates a similar joint discussion by the two boards in the future about the PARCC assessments.

1. Progress Report on Initiatives to Promote College and Career Readiness

Paolo DeMaria, principal at Education First and policy leader of the Core to College network, addressed the boards on the national significance of the proposed college and career readiness definition. He said it sends a clear signal to students and parents about what it means to be prepared. Dr. DeMaria said Massachusetts is leading the way on collaboration and alignment from prekindergarten through higher education.

The board chairs invited members to comment. Dr. Calderón-Rosado suggested that a comprehensive definition should include social-emotional needs and should connect to early education and care. Dr. Hoffman said research has not shown Accuplacer to be the best predictor of college success. Dr. DeMaria responded that some states are piloting alternatives and looking at other factors. Mr. Barron asked about other states' experience with Accuplacer. Dr. DeMaria said all states are struggling with these questions.

Chairman Desmond introduced Pati Gregson, Associate Commissioner at ESE, and Susan Lane, Senior Director at DHE. Dr. Lane presented an overview of the process of drafting the college and career readiness definition. Mr. Riccardi asked if the curriculum frameworks are integrated with higher education. Commissioner Chester said the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks are connected to teacher preparation as well as expectations for students. Commissioner Freeland added that Fitchburg State University President Antonucci is leading the initiative to align teacher preparation with the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks.

Mr. Chertavian commended the leadership that ESE and DHE have shown, noting that the proposed policy changes are critical because the economy has changed and everyone needs some form of post-secondary education. Mr. Fulp asked about involvement of employers. Ms. Gregson said employers were heavily involved with the ICCR Task Force, which includes an advisory board and employer champions.

Chairman Desmond, Chair Banta, and Commissioners Chester and Freeland thanked members of both boards for joining together for the meeting. Chairman Desmond noted this will be an ongoing conversation.

The joint meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.