**Minutes of the Special Meeting**

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

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**
**Monday, November 18, 2024, 5:02 p.m. – 6:57 p.m.**

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

**Katherine Craven**,Chair,Brookline

**Matthew Hills**, Vice-Chair, Newton

**Ioannis Asikis,** Brookline, Student Member

**Ericka Fisher,** Worcester

**Farzana Mohamed,** Newton

**Michael Moriarty,** Holyoke

**Dálida Rocha,** Worcester

**Mary Ann Stewart,** Lexington

**Patrick Tutwiler**, Secretary of Education, Andover

**Martin West,** Newton

**Russell D. Johnston,** Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Chair Craven called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m., and members introduced themselves. She announced that today’s Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) special meeting, like all open meetings of the Board, is being [livestreamed and recorded](https://vimeo.com/user217853291).

Chair Craven announced that she is appointing a subcommittee to further investigate this topic. She said the subcommittee will be led by Member West and will include Member Fisher, Vice-Chair Hills, and Member Rocha. Vice-Chair Hills made a request to the Chair and Acting Commissioner that the subcommittee be given sufficient time to review the issues and the data, adding that everyone on the Board is committed to increasing equity.

**Career Technical Education (CTE) Admissions Study Session: Session 3**

Acting Commissioner Johnston introduced the agenda for today’s special meeting that includes presentations from interested parties in CTE across the state.

The first presentation was from **Steve Zrike**, Superintendent, and **Johanna Rodriguez**, City Connects Coordinator at Collins Middle School, Salem Public Schools. Superintendent Zrike described CTE programming available to Salem Public Schools students as well as data from 2023-24 showing the disaggregation of CTE attendees by student group. Ms. Rodriguez presented on the admissions process for CTE that she has experienced as a middle school coordinator. Superintendent Zrike closed the presentation with reflections on the opportunities available to Salem Public Schools students who seek to participate in CTE programming.

The second presentation was from **Holly McClanan**, Superintendent, Southeastern Regional Technical School District and **Karen Maguire**, Superintendent, Tri-County Regional Technical School District and Chair, CTE Advisory Council. Superintendents Maguire and McClanan briefly described the history of CTE programming in Massachusetts over the past 50 years including the growing interest and rising number of applicants. They also reviewed the concept of regional district agreements and the components they contain including funding allocations, seat allocations, capital cost requirements, admitting or declining member communities, among others. Superintendent McClanan presented on Southeastern Regional’s demographics including the sending communities and enrollment from various student groups. Superintendent Maguire then presented on Tri-County Regional’s demographics. Next, the superintendents discussed challenges that CTE schools face in accessing middle school students as well as the participation criteria that are utilized in their districts.

The third presentation was from **Julie Spencer-Robinson**, Parent Representative, CTE Advisory Council and member of the Board of Trustees, Northampton Smith Vocational and Agricultural School. Ms. Spencer-Robinson spoke about the CTE admissions process from the parent perspective.

The fourth and final presentation was from **Adriana Estevez**, School Counselor, Leonard Middle School, and **Brittany Lynch**, Director of Behavioral Health, Lawrence Public Schools. Ms. Estevez spoke about her experience as a school counselor helping students in the Lawrence Public Schools apply to high school, including CTE high schools. Ms. Estevez described the awareness activities her school implements to support students and their families in their decisions about high school. Ms. Lynch highlighted the work that Ms. Estevez and other school counselors across the Lawrence Public Schools do to support students and their families in the high school application process.

Acting Commissioner Johnston and the panelists then responded to questions from Board members. Chair Craven and Secretary Tutwiler thanked the panelists and DESE for putting together a great panel.

Chair Craven noted that the Board would reconvene in person in Holyoke tomorrow morning, November 19, 2024, for the regular meeting. She called for this special meeting to adjourn. Hearing no objection, she declared the meeting adjourned.

**The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.**

 Respectfully submitted,

Russell D. Johnston

Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

and Secretary to the Board