**Minutes of the Special Meeting**

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

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**  
**Monday, February 10, 2025, 5:34 pm – 7:00 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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Vice-Chair Hills called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., as Chair Craven joined in transit, and members introduced themselves. He 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).

Vice-Chair Hills thanked the Commissioner for organizing this special meeting about the Competency Determination (CD) and the potential changes to regulations that the Board will see in February for a vote to solicit public comment.

**Competency Determination: Continued Discussion of Possible Competency Determination Regulations — Discussion**

Acting Commissioner Johnston opened the topic. He stated that the presentation tonight focuses on potential ideas to be included in draft regulations that will be presented to the Board at the regular meeting in February for a vote to solicit public comment. Acting Commissioner Johnston then introduced Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability, to begin the presentation.

Mr. Curtin reviewed the language of the CD statute as amended and the principles and assumptions that have guided the development of the ideas being presented today. He listed goals for new CD regulations: aligning to the new statutory language, defining terms to provide clarity, covering the interim period while the new Statewide Graduation Council completes its work, establishing minimum requirements to earn the CD, which could include additional areas determined by the Board such as U.S. history, offering options to provide a pathway for all students, and requiring districts to inform the public of new CD policies. Mr. Curtin then presented issues that could be addressed through regulatory changes, potential solutions to those issues, and initial considerations. He also reviewed possible non-regulatory steps including public posting of district policies and local graduation requirements, public reporting of performance in school courses in relation to other outcome measures, and review of local graduation policies in DESE’s district review process. Lastly, Mr. Curtin outlined potential next steps: propose regulations at the regular February meeting for a Board vote to solicit public comment, adjust the proposed regulations based on public comment, and then return to the Board in the spring for a vote on the new regulations.

Acting Commissioner Johnston and Mr. Curtin then responded to questions and comments from Board members.

Chair Craven thanked Board members and the Acting Commissioner and called for today’s special meeting to adjourn. Hearing no objection, she declared the meeting adjourned.

**The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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