

**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
19 Park Avenue, Bridgewater, MA 02325**

Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Present:

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.