

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**September 5, 2008**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Higher Education was held on September 5, 2008 in the Cafeteria Conference Room at One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts. The following members were present:

Frederick W. Clark, Jr., Chairman  
Peter Alcock, Vice Chairman  
Jeanne-Marie Boylan  
C. Bernard Fulp

Dr. Nancy Harrington  
Kathryn Quigley  
Paul Reville  
Henry Thomas

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Frederick W. Clark, Jr., called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**MOTION**

Chairman Clark thanked Aundrea Kelley for allowing her name to be brought forward for consideration as Commissioner of Higher Education. He informed the Board that the Executive Committee had reached agreement with Ms. Kelley on the terms of her contract and that she had been gracious during the entire process. He reminded the Board that under the recent reorganization of public higher education the role of the Board of Higher Education is to recommend a candidate for appointment to Commissioner to the Secretary of Education, who then may approve or disapprove the recommendation.

Paul Reville, Secretary of Education and Board member, told the Board that Ms. Kelley is a “work horse,” who has brought honor and distinction to the Board of Higher Education through her work with both private and public higher education institutions. Further, she is exactly the right person to bridge to the next Commissioner. He encouraged Board members, DHE staff, and campus leadership involvement in working as a team with Ms. Kelley to move forward public higher initiatives. He also asked Ms. Kelley to let the Board know when she needed assistance. He then brought forth the following motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously:

**BHE 08-20 RECOMMENDATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AUNDREA E. KELLEY AS COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MOVED:** That the Board of Higher Education submit to the Secretary of Education the recommendation that Aundrea E. Kelley be appointed Commissioner of Higher Education (Acting), said appointment to become effective September 1, 2008, for a period of six months or until such time as a new Commissioner is appointed, whichever comes first, and authorize the Executive Committee of said Board to enter into an agreement regarding the terms and Conditions of employment of said Commissioner.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 6

**Contact:** Peter H. Tsaffaras, Director of Employee Relations and Benefit Administration

Secretary Reville stated that Ms. Kelley’s appointment occurs during a time of need, transition, and opportunity and that he had every confidence that Ms. Kelley has the necessary skills to fulfill the position of Commissioner. Thanking her for stepping forward to help, he told the Board that he and Ms. Kelley have worked together on difficult issues, and in each instance he has been impressed by her focus upon the needs of students. He concluded his remarks by stating that Ms. Kelley is an asset to the Board of Higher Education and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Henry Thomas told the Board that he has been impressed by Ms. Kelley’s unequivocal standards of excellence, the exactness of her work, and her effective communications and listening skills. Jeanne-Marie Boylan added that she appreciates the energy put forth into higher education on a daily basis by Ms. Kelley. She told Ms. Kelley that because of her commitment, she is a “show horse.”

Dr. Harrington added that, when she served as President of Salem State College, she interacted with Ms. Kelley on a regular basis and found her to excel in program development and academic review. Dr. Harrington told the Board that Ms. Kelley is universally respected by the public college presidents and likened her to a “thoroughbred.”

Peter Alcock told the Board that Ms. Kelley will be a breath of fresh air and someone who is really concerned about the quality of higher education. He said that he is thrilled to have her in the position of Commissioner.

Ms. Kelley thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Commissioner and that she will try her best to serve the Commonwealth to the best of her ability. She commended the entire Department of Higher Education staff by describing them as a hard-working, creative, and committed team. Ms. Kelley told the Board that this is an exciting time in the Commonwealth, especially with the establishment of an Executive Office of Education and that the state has a rich mosaic of higher education institutions, both public and private. She reminded the Board of former Chairman Aaron Spencer’s motto, “Never a problem; always an opportunity.” In that spirit, she said, she would lead as Commissioner. She acknowledged the presence of the DHE senior staff members and introduced its newest member, Dr. Michael Hoyle, Associate Vice Chancellor of Fiscal Policy.

Chairman Clark told Ms. Kelley that although Board members, John Brockelman and James Coyle, were not present for the vote, they are both supportive of her appointment as Commissioner.

At 12:25 p.m., Mr. Reville left the meeting.

#### **UPDATE ON COMMISSIONER SEARCH**

Chairman Clark told the Board that in June the Commissioner Search Task Force announced that the search would recess in the summer and would reconvene in the fall. With the Task re-convening within the next few weeks, Student Board member, Kathryn Quigley, will be replacing former Student Board member, Jake Oliveira. Chairman Clark recapped some the Task Force’s actions during the spring:

- The search included advertising in national media.
- Email and hard-copy notices have been sent to local, regional, and northeastern cities.
- Task Force members have met with educational and business leaders in an effort to generate interest in the Commissioner position.
- The Task Force has interviewed about twelve of the 30 to 40 applicants that applied, some of whom are still in contention for the position.

Chairman Clark reported plans to hire a national search firm to assist in the search for a Commissioner.

Once three suitable candidates are identified by the Task Force, the names will be submitted to the full Board for approval for recommendation to Secretary Paul Reville. Chairman Clark invited Board members to serve on the Commissioner Search Task Force.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:30 p.m.