

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting  
of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and  
the Board of Higher Education  
Tuesday, January 26, 2016  
8:35 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.  
Roxbury Community College, Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center  
1350 Tremont Street, Boston, MA**

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

**Paul Sagan**, Chair, Cambridge

**James Morton**, Vice-Chair, Boston

**Katherine Craven**, Brookline

**Ed Doherty**, Boston

**Margaret McKenna**, Boston

**Michael Moriarty**, Holyoke

**Pendred Noyce**, Boston

**James Peyser**, Secretary of Education

**Mary Ann Stewart**, Lexington

**Donald Willyard**, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Revere

**Mitchell D. Chester**, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Secretary to the Board

**Member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Absent:**

**Roland Fryer**, Concord

**Members of the Board of Higher Education Present:**

**Chris Gabrieli**, Chairman

**Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.**, Vice-Chair

**Nancy Hoffman, Ph.D.**

**Tom Hopcroft**

**Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.**

**J.D. LaRock, J.D., Ed.D.**, Community College Trustee Representative

**Dani Monroe**

**James Peyser, *Ex Officio***

**Fernando M. Reimers, Ed.D.**

**Henry Thomas III, J.D.**, University of Massachusetts Trustee Representative

**Paul F. Toner, J.D.**

**Owen Wiggins**, Student Member

**Member of the Board of Higher Education Absent:**

**Donald R. Irving**, State University Trustee Representative

Chair Sagan called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the

public. Roxbury Community College President Valerie Roberson welcomed board members to the campus.<sup>i</sup>

Chair Sagan invited Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago and Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester to present an overview of the proposed revised definition of College and Career Readiness, Incorporating Civic Learning. Commissioner Santiago said in March 2014, the Study Group on Civic Learning and Engagement of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) recommended including civic learning as an expected outcome for their students. He said the BHE later adopted a statewide policy directing public colleges and universities to incorporate civic learning as an expected outcome for undergraduate students.

Commissioner Chester noted that in 2013 the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the BHE came together to discuss, and each later adopted, the Joint Definition of College and Career Readiness, as part of the boards' ongoing collaboration. He said in 2015 the BESE endorsed the recommendation of its Working Group on Civic Learning and Engagement to add civic learning to the joint definition. Commissioner Chester said the two agencies have worked in partnership to address the recommendations of their working groups. Chair Sagan said the BESE has had several discussions on civic learning and has made clear that it is a priority.

Members of the two boards offered comments on the proposed revised definition. Secretary Peyser said an understanding of U.S. history is foundational to civic learning and engagement; he encouraged more articulation on this point within the revised definition, as well as a reference to respect for freedom of speech and thought. Mr. Johnson said the goal is for students to see themselves as participants in civic life and suggested the definition emphasize civic participation. Mr. Willyard said the State Student Advisory Council has participated in this work. Chair Sagan thanked members for their comments and said each of the two boards will continue the discussion and each will vote on the revised definition at one of their regular meetings.

BHE Chair Gabrieli introduced the topic of early college. He said the boards began a discussion on early college at their last joint meeting in March 2015, and the two departments have been collaborating to develop a policy framework to expand high school students' access to dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities. Commissioner Santiago outlined guiding questions for a policy discussion. Commissioner Chester said most high schools in Massachusetts offer some form of early college programming such as Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate, articulated coursework, and dual enrollment. He encouraged the boards to consider the goals of a state policy on early college.

Dr. Reimers said early college is a critical issue and should be expanded to as many high school students as possible, in partnership with industry to expand capacity. Mr. Morton said early college programs can have a transformative impact on students with the greatest challenges. Secretary Peyser said Governor Baker has announced the doubling of dual enrollment programs in the proposed FY2017 budget. He said they are looking for

high leverage, scalable models that integrate high school-college-career pathways. Chair Gabrieli said a working group of the board chairs, commissioners, and secretary will address these issues and report back to the boards later in this calendar year, if possible.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

**VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and Board of Higher Education adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m., subject to the call of the Chairs.**

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carlos E. Santiago  
Commissioner of the Department of  
Higher Education and Secretary of the Board

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<sup>1</sup> Several members were delayed in arriving. BESE: Katherine Craven arrived at 8:50 a.m., Donald Willyard arrived at 9:00 a.m., and Mary Ann Stewart arrived at 9:50 a.m. BHE: Henry Thomas arrived at 8:45 a.m., Nancy Hoffman arrived at 8:50 a.m., Dani Monroe arrived at 9:00 a.m., and Chairman Gabrieli arrived at 9:05 a.m.