

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

December 12, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting
Quinsigamond Community College
670 W. Boylston Street
Alfhors Hall – ALF107
Worcester, MA 01606

and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE or Board) was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in Alfhors Hall at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) at 670 W. Boylston Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01606 and remotely via teleconference (Zoom).

The following Board Members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair

Danielle Allen

Mary Burns (Remotely, via Zoom)

Harneen Chernow (Remotely, via Zoom)

Ann Christensen (Remotely, via Zoom)

Veronica Conforme (Remotely, via Zoom)

Alex Cortez (Remotely, via Zoom)

Cindy Mack, Voting Student Member, State University segment (Remotely, via Zoom)

Paul Mattera

Judy Pagliuca (Remotely, via Zoom)

Christina Royal

Patrick Tutwiler, Secretary of Education (Remotely, via Zoom)

Andrew Whitcomb, non-voting Student Advisor, UMass segment (Remotely, via Zoom)

Noe Ortega, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

The following Board Members were absent:

Bill Walczak

Sarah Alzate-Pérez, non-voting Student Advisor, Community College segment

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Chris Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m. after a short delay caused by technical difficulties. Department of Higher Education (DHE or Department) Assistant Commissioner Elena Quiroz-Livanis took roll call attendance (see above for attendance roster).

Chair Gabrieli introduced new BHE Members, Harneen Chernow, Danielle Allen, and Christina Royal and asked each to share more about their backgrounds. He then acknowledged a new approach that he and the Commissioner are trying for Board meetings, which involves having meetings begin with the Commissioner's Spotlight to provide an opportunity for deeper discussion on contemporary issues and opportunities. Chair Gabrieli concluded by introducing Commissioner Noe Ortega for the next section of the agenda.

II. COMMISSIONER'S SPOTLIGHT

List of Documents Used

[2023 Enrollment at Massachusetts Public Colleges & Universities](#)
[Commissioner's PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Commissioner Ortega stated that he plans to use enrollment reports from the FY23 February 14 BHE Meeting to provide context for his Commissioner's Spotlight. Associate Commissioner of Research and Planning Mario Delci and Assistant Commissioner for Analytics & Digital Services Office of Research & Planning Sarah Mealey will provide background on the enrollment report. The Commissioner will then return to provide additional information on the Massachusetts budget rollout and highlights from Summer 2023 work. Commissioner Ortega turned to Associate Commissioner Dr. Mario Delci to provide an enrollment update.

Associate Commissioner Delci stated that an early enrollment report is provided to the BHE each year with an estimate of enrollment for the current fall. Enrollment has been a focus in recent years because of the anticipated decline in college attendees and because of the impact of the pandemic on college enrollment. Enrollment trends are analyzed for program and policy impact and for understanding equity, access, and supporting the Commonwealth in producing an educated workforce. The early enrollment data lacks details about demographic characteristics such as race and income but it is useful for informing conversations about policy and programming.

This year's enrollment report varies from recent years which have shown a long, steady decline in undergraduate enrollment that was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, enrollments increased by 3% from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023 primarily as a result of enrollment increases at the Community College level. Recent enrollment trends have shown similar patterns of decline in all three segments but with more dramatic declines at the Community Colleges. Associate Commissioner Delci noted that the 8% increase from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023 in the Community College

segment is welcomed news, while enrollment at the State Universities and University of Massachusetts declined less than 1%.

Associate Commissioner Delci noted positive trends in new student enrollments, including both first-time and new transfer degree seeking students. The recent declines, especially during the pandemic, have been the most significant for this population with a 16% decline in new student enrollment from fall 2019 to fall 2020. While a 12% increase in Community College enrollment was the highlight of this data, Associate Commissioner Delci also noted that the 3% increase at the State Universities also reflected a reversal of recent trends.

Associate Commissioner Delci then discussed how complete enrollment data for Fall 2023 would provide more insight into the makeup of the enrollment changes. In the meantime, he would provide updates on enrollment by age, race and economic background through Fall 2022. Associate Commissioner Delci reported that the enrollment of students under the age 18 had increased substantially over the last ten (10) years. Most of this growth was at the Community Colleges but was evident in all three segments. Most of these students are reported as dual enrollment students, meaning they were still in high school at the time of enrollment. Associate Commissioner Delci reported this was likely due to the advent of Early College and other programs promoting dual enrollment. Associate Commissioner Delci then presented data showing an opposite trend for students aged twenty-five (25) years and older. The decline in enrollment of this population had been steeper than the overall declines in enrollment since 2013 and is more evident at the Community Colleges.

Associate Commissioner Delci then mentioned the Strategic Plan for Racial Equity and the importance of looking at the enrollment of students of color at public higher education institutions. He presented data provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) showing that college-going rates of recent MA public high school graduates had been declining for several years, especially for Hispanic and Black students with a sharp decline across all racial/ethnic groups during the first year of the pandemic. There has been some recovery post pandemic with the exception of a continued decline for Hispanic high school graduates. Associate Commissioner Delci then showed enrollment of first-time, degree-seeking students in MA public higher education by race/ethnicity. White student enrollment has declined steadily since 2009. Black and Hispanic student enrollment had climbed steadily for several years until Fall 2020, with some recovery since then but not to the level of pre-pandemic enrollment.

Associate Commissioner Delci concluded with a look at enrollment by Expected Family Contribution (EFC) levels and average debt at graduation both by race/ethnicity. He reported that enrollment of students in the lower EFC ranges had declined steadily in recent years and that students of color were more likely to have low EFC levels. He also reported that Black students were more likely to graduate with debt and higher levels of debt than other students.

Associate Commissioner Delci then turned the presentation over to Commissioner Ortega. The Commissioner highlighted the increasing equity gaps in higher education, particularly regarding affordability for students and families. During his remarks, Commissioner Ortega spoke about how the Strategic Higher Education Finance (SHEF) Framework (Framework) identified guiding principles for the system, as well as key goals and priorities.

In FY 2024, the BHE requested \$500 million in resources from the newly created Education and Transportation Fund for four priorities: expansion of financial aid, support for student success, investment in collaboration and innovation, and reliable funding for institutions. The final budget included \$229 million in investments in these key areas.

Commissioner Ortega then provided a detailed overview of investments in financial aid, which included the Department's efforts, in partnership with many stakeholders, to provide more support for low-income families. He outlined different programs, including MassReconnect and the MASSGrant Plus Expansion, and described how Massachusetts has made significant strides in making college affordable through its investments in financial aid.

Commissioner Ortega identified questions that the Board would have to contend with as it develops its multi-year strategy, including how to best support students from different income brackets and age groups, as well as how maximize local resources within the context of a changing federal landscape.

Chair Gabrieli expressed pride in Massachusetts' progress with adopting explicit financial aid promises. Before turning to the Board for questions, he spoke about the need to collaborate with partners to ensure that communities across the Commonwealth were aware of these new postsecondary opportunities.

Board member comments included: ensuring there was a robust marketing strategy; expanding the conversation to include success; broadening the definition of affordability beyond tuition and fees; long-term funding sustainability; and the role of other actors and partners.

Board Member Christina Royal inquired about the Board's approach to low-income student success and degree completion, including approaches such as establishing access to student emergency funds and childcare. She suggested addressing these issues while considering the impact and preservation of the return on investment (ROI) dollars invested in these communities. Member Royal also asked about financial projections for expanding to the middle-income population and addressing their needs. She questioned if there are financial projections for utilizing funds provided through the Fair Share amendment to ensure funding is not exhausted. Commissioner Ortega agreed and emphasized the importance of sustainability in education. Chair Gabrieli added that the SHEF Framework endorsed by the Board included five (5) prongs last year: Accessibility and Affordability (Financial Aid); Resources for Student Support and Success; Fostering Innovation, Infrastructure, and Collaboration; Accountability & Performance; and Financial Stability and Sustainability. The two

largest proposals were to double financial aid and allocate additional aid towards the poorest students and their attendance costs. The proposal also proposed \$2,000 per Pell-eligible student to every institution on a weighted basis for student success investment. The Board also addressed challenges in maintaining the system's sustainability at both campus and family levels.

Board Member Harneen Chernow highlighted the need to address living expenses for low and middle-income students, particularly first-generation enrollees from black and brown families. She expressed interest in a multi-year plan for debt-free investments and emphasized the importance of strategic planning around these funds--beyond tuition and fees--to ensure students graduate debt-free and to assist with building a college-educated workforce in Massachusetts.

Board Member Danielle Allen stated that sustainability in education goes beyond just achieving it; it also means preserving it since it is subject to state fiscal pressures and system changes. She asked what analytical and political capacity is needed for sustainability purposes. In response, Commissioner Ortega stated that in collaboration with Chair Gabrieli and the Executive Office of Education, the Department is working to enhance advocacy efforts across various agencies. He highlighted the importance of communication and addressing other aspects of affordability that extend beyond money invested in higher education.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Gabrieli reported that the Board did not receive requests for public comment.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Gabrieli asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the BHE meeting held on June 20, 2023. With no further discussion, the motion proceeded to a roll call vote and passed with one abstention, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – Yes
- Harneen Chernow – Abstain
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Yes
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Secretary Patrick Tutwiler – Yes

V. REMARKS & REPORTS

A. Chair's Remarks

List of Documents Used

[Charge: BHE Task Force on Nursing Education and Workforce Development](#)

Chair Gabrieli announced that he is forming a Task Force on Nursing Education and Workforce Development. He noted that the charge, a copy of which is provided in the Board materials, includes several tasks, including presenting recommendations on how to strengthen existing policies, procedures, and regulations to address the need for new and incumbent nurses with the aim of improving health outcomes for all residents and to enhance support for the Commonwealth's health care sector. The group will be co-chaired Board Member Bill Walczak, who has extensive experience in healthcare, and non-BHE-Member Dr. Francesca Purcell, who has a significant experience with higher education policy and is now at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The goal is for the Task Force to return to the BHE. by next fall, with a high-level look at what can be done individually and structurally to make a difference on this crucial issue. Chair Gabrieli then turned to Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler for the next item on the agenda.

B. Secretary of Executive Office of Education's (EOE) Remarks

Secretary Tutwiler reported that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established an Advisory Council for Advancing Representation in Education in reaction to the United States Supreme Court's decision to eliminate affirmative action in college admissions. The purpose of the Council is to provide advice and support to the administration on policy and practice issues to help increase and help alleviate any further decrease of historically excluded populations in our higher education institutions. The input of the Council has generated discussions around values and dedication to representation in post-secondary education, and how to connect families to evidence-based services. Secretary Tutwiler concluded his remarks by stating the Healey-Driscoll Administration has released the first-ever statewide guidance on the implications of the SCOTUS affirmative action ruling. The Healey-Driscoll Administration presented this guidance and practical recommendations during the Massachusetts statewide gathering of high school and higher education professionals at UMASS Boston in October 2023.

C. Reports from Presidents

State University Segmental Report

[For a copy of President Keenan's full remarks, please see:](#)

President John Keenan of Salem State University provided updates on the Massachusetts State University segment on behalf of the State University Council of Presidents.

Excerpt: The Massachusetts State Universities have seen positive developments in the first semester of the academic year. There has been historic investment in the state budget, including the expanding undocumented students' access to in-state tuition rates and financial aid programs. There has also been a significant investment in financial aid overall to support low-income and middle-income students. Fall enrollment numbers indicate stabilization and an increase in application numbers, particularly for first-time, full-time students. The diversity of student bodies is growing across all campuses. Despite declining enrollments in K-12 schools, the State Universities have maintained substantial enrollment numbers due to the value they offer. Efforts are being made to strengthen partnerships with Community Colleges through the MassReconnect program. Adequate funding for public higher education is crucial to maintain affordability and competitiveness. In addition, efforts are being made to fully fund campus collective bargaining agreements. The FY24 budget priorities include:

- An equitable share of Fair Share Revenue.
- A higher education bond bill for current and new projects.
- Sustained financial aid investment.
- Investment in student success initiatives.

The future of public higher education in Massachusetts looks promising, and the State Universities are committed to providing better access and programming for deserving students.

Community College Segmental Report

[*For a copy of President Vander Hooven's full remarks, please see:*](#)

President James Vander Hoover of Mount Wachusett Community College provided updates on the Massachusetts Community College segment on behalf of the Community College Council of Presidents.

Excerpt: Since the Board last met in June, the FY24 state budget was signed into law, resulting in significant investments in public higher education. The Tuition Equity law was celebrated, allowing undocumented students who meet specific criteria to be eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid. MassReconnect was launched, making Community College attendance free for students 25 and older who have not earned a degree. The program has already had a positive impact on enrollment, retention, and completion. The Community Colleges are also partnering with the Department to offer free Community College for nursing students. The MassGrant Plus Expansion program provided increased access to financial aid for students under the age of twenty-five (25). The Community Colleges support the Board's request to increase SUCCESS funding and expand MassReconnect. A draft report on implementing free Community College for all is due soon, and the Community Colleges are working towards a sustainable and stable model. Faculty salaries remain a concern, as they are lower than necessary to attract and retain quality staff. The Community Colleges are grateful for the opportunity to discuss their progress and are open to questions.

D. Report from Student Advisory Council

BHE Student Member Cindy Mack reported on the Student Advisory Council's (SAC) recent activity, including the election of its Executive Board Members during their October 12 meeting. The SAC elected Vice Chair Nikki Nguyen from UMass Boston, Parliamentarian Policy Chair John Morris from Bristol Community College, and Public Relations/Secretary Chair Kiara Rosario from Roxbury Community College. The SAC voted on a letter of support to Senator Joanne Comerford and Representative David Rogers in support of House Bill 3761, an Act Reducing the Cost of Attending College, which promotes the expansion of Open Education Resources (OER) at Massachusetts colleges and universities. The SAC also anticipates collaborating with the Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) and Boston Intercollegiate Government (BIG) to help support student initiatives. Student Member Mack turned to UMass Segmental Advisor Andrew Whitcomb, who reported that the SAC seeks to provide more student input on the BHE's initiatives and SAC requested to be included in the conversations as the Department establishes the Office of Student Success.

Member Judy Pagliuca referenced the recent national conversations related to the rise of antisemitic speech on campuses and asked about the student representatives' personal experiences on their campuses- and more specifically, whether students felt safe? Representative Whitcomb stated that at UMass Lowell, the student government is working on a neutral statement on the ongoing conflict between students' families impacted by the Middle East Crisis. He emphasized that these students still have a right to an education and feel safe on their campuses regardless of their opinions. Student Member Mack agreed and reflected positively on their experience at Bridgewater State University (BSU), stating that BSU is providing mental health and community support to students, involving frequent conversations with campus security, and allowing students to freely express their experiences. Student Member Mack turned to Chair Gabrieli for the next item on the agenda.

E. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ortega thanked the Board, Community College, State University Presidents, and students for a productive academic year. He recognized the financial contributions made to institutions of higher education and the opportunities they have afforded. In addition to expressing gratitude towards the Healey-Driscoll Administration for their support. He acknowledged the Administration's Tuition Equity law announcement and reported that the Department developed and issued implementation guidelines on the new law, including a uniform application and affidavit for students' ease of use. Commissioner Ortega stated that the Department actively encourages more students to pursue postsecondary opportunities to promote success as they transition into the workforce. He anticipates maintaining collaborations in the upcoming year and extended gratitude to everyone for their contributions. Commissioner Ortega turned the meeting to Chair Gabrieli for the next item on the agenda.

Given time constraints, Gabrieli anticipated that there would be abbreviated reports from the advisory councils and noted that more detailed updates were provided at the Executive Committee meeting.

VI. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

A. Evidence Based Policymaking

Member Alex Cortex reported that the Evidence Based Policymaking (EBPM) Advisory Council will convene on December 14, 2023, to discuss long-term measures for postsecondary pathways. The council will explore measuring value from earnings, economic mobility, and true ROI, considering costs and institutional level versus individual degree pathways. They will also consider demographics and non-monetary measures to assess value. The focus will be on transparency in information to help individuals make informed choices about pathways, supporting institutions in continuous improvement, and supporting policymakers. The council will also consider monetary measures and non-monetary measures to assess value, ensuring transparency in information for individuals, supporting institutions in continuous improvement, and supporting policymakers. The council's goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the value of post-secondary pathways.

B. Finance and Administrative Policy

No report.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & MOTIONS

A. Executive Committee Report

No report.

B. Motions

List of Documents Used

[BHE 24-22](#): Approval of Board of Higher Education Motions 23-18 through 22-20 on a Consent Agenda

[BHE 24-18](#): Approval of Letter of Intent of Bridgewater State University to Award the Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Justice and Authorization for Fast Track Review

[BHE 24-19](#): Approval of Letter of Intent of Massachusetts Bay Community College to Award the General Studies Certificate in Automotive Technology and Authorization for Fast Track Review

[BHE 24-20](#): Approval of Letter of Intent of Middlesex Community College to Award the Practical Nursing Certificate and Authorization for Fast Track Review

[BHE 24-21](#): FY25 Budget Recommendations and [Attachment A to FY25 Budget Motion](#)

Chair Gabrieli asked for a motion to approve **BHE 24-22**, *Approval of Board of Higher Education Motions 23-18 through 22-20 on a Consent Agenda*. He said the motion includes three institutional Letters of Intent (LOIs) to offer new programs from Bridgewater State University (BSU), Massachusetts Bay

Community College (MBCC), and Middlesex Community College (MCC), respectively, consolidated on a consent agenda. Chair Gabrieli stated that the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend all three proposals during their last meeting. He continued, indicating that the Board approves all new programs offered by public higher education institutions and also thanked MassBay Community College for providing the requested supplemental information. Chair Gabrieli turned to the Board for questions.

Member Chernow noted the importance of creating LPN programs as a stackable credential leading to the RN program, allowing LPNs to continue their education without starting over again. She highlighted the correlation between student success in nursing programs and the diversity of faculty, which is challenging in a state with a low percentage of nurses of color working in the industry, as well as the need for culturally relevant student supports. Member Chernow recommended that college presidents encourage employers to join advisory council meetings, and invited unions representing workers in their sectors, as they provide valuable knowledge and connections, ensuring that nursing students enter and stay in the field.

Without further discussion, Chair Gabrieli turned to Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis for the vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 24-22 was approved by all members present through a roll call vote, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – Yes
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Departed meeting early due to a previous commitment.
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Secretary Patrick Tutwiler – Yes

**BHE 24-22 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MOTIONS 23-18 THROUGH 22-20
ON A CONSENT AGENDA**

VOTED: The Board of Higher Education approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

BHE 24-18 Approval of Letter of Intent of Bridgewater State University to Award the
Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Justice and Authorization for Fast
Track Review

BHE 24-19 Approval of Letter of Intent of Massachusetts Bay Community College to Award the General Studies Certificate in Automotive Technology and Authorization for Fast Track Review

BHE 24-20 Approval of Letter of Intent of Middlesex Community College to Award the Practical Nursing Certificate and Authorization for Fast Track Review

Authority Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

Contact Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D., Senior Associate Commissioner for Strategic Planning & Public Program Approval

Chair Gabrieli turned to the next agenda item, a motion to approve **BHE 24-21**, *Approval of Board of Higher Education Fiscal 2025 Budget Recommendations*. He summarized the motion, and noted that BHE 24-21 instructs the Commissioner and his team to develop a budget memo for submission to Secretary Tutwiler, focusing on three main categories:

- Embracing annual, recurring items
- Maintaining support levels for early college
- Advocating for all five elements of the SHEF guide framework approved last year

The budget memorandum should include recurring items that need to be maintained and increased to reflect increasing environmental costs, such as support for various campuses. The motion also requests the Commissioner to work with the FAAP AC to address these budgetary issues in a different timeframe and approach next year.

Without further discussion, Chair Gabrieli turned to Assistant Commissioner Elena Quiroz-Livanis for the vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 24-21 was approved by all members present through a roll call vote, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – did not vote; stepped away from the meeting
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Departed meeting early due to a previous commitment.
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Secretary Patrick Tutwiler – Yes

VIII. BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

List of Documents Used

[BHE 24-23](#)

Renewal of BHE Motion 20-15: Delegation of Authority for Collective Bargaining

Chair Gabrieli turned to the next agenda item, a motion to approve **BHE 24-23**, *Renewal of BHE Motion 20-15: Delegation of Authority for Collective Bargaining*. Chair Gabrieli asked Chief Legal Counsel Dena Papanikolaou to summarize the motion. Attorney Papanikolaou stated that the Board is the employer of record for employees in the State University and Community College segments for collective bargaining purposes. In May 2020, the Board sought to clarify and formalize its delegated authority to the Commissioner to engage in collective bargaining on the Board's behalf, per the labor relations statute. The prior motion, which expressly delegated the Board's authority to the Commissioner, expires on December 31, 2023. The Department is in the process of negotiating three contracts and the expiration of the delegated authority in the middle of those negotiations would be problematic. The Department, therefore, needs the extension, and is also seeking the extension indefinitely to avoid it expiring in the future during negotiations. However, she advised that the motion can be called back or reevaluated, if necessary. She turned to Chair Gabrieli to facilitate any questions and the Board vote.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli turned to Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis for the vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 24-23 was approved by all members present through a roll call vote, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – did not vote; stepped away from the meeting
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Secretary Patrick Tutwiler – Yes

BHE 24-23 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

VOTED: The Board of Higher Education (the Board), as the employer of record authorized pursuant to Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws to negotiate collective bargaining agreements with certain employees of the State Universities and Community Colleges, hereby extends BHE Motion 20-15 and delegates its authority to negotiate

such collective bargaining agreements to the Commissioner, consistent with the following procedures:

1. The Commissioner is authorized to delegate to the State University and Community College Presidents and their designees authority to negotiate a tentative agreement, with the participation of Commissioner's representative.
2. In negotiating a tentative agreement, the Presidents, their representatives, and the Department's representative shall ensure that the agreement is within applicable economic parameters established by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (ANF), and with technical assistance from the Department, the Office of Employee Relations, and ANF as needed to confirm that such agreement is within applicable economic parameters.
3. When a tentative agreement is reached, the Commissioner shall brief the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Education, and the Office of Employee Relations on the terms of the Agreement.
4. The Agreement shall be submitted to the union for ratification subsequent to confirmation that the Agreement is within economic parameters.
5. The Agreement is signed by Commissioner.
6. In accordance with Section 7c of Chapter 150e of the Massachusetts General Laws, and within thirty days after the date on which the collective bargaining agreement is executed by the parties, the agreement shall be submitted to the Governor with a request for an appropriation necessary to fund such incremental cost items contained therein as are required to be funded in the then current fiscal year.

Authority M.G.L. c. 150E, §§ 1 and 7; M.G.L. c. 15A, § 6 and 9; BHE 20-15 (May 5, 2020)

Contact: Matthew Cole, Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Finance and Operations
Constantia T. Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Noe Ortega, Ph.D.
Commissioner and Secretary to the Board*