

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 4, 2013

Cary Memorial Building, Estabrook Room

1605 Massachusetts Avenue

6:30 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome:

Public Comment – (Written comments to be presented to the School Committee; oral presentations not to exceed three minutes.)

6:35 p.m. School Committee Member Announcements:

6:40 p.m. Agenda:

1. Discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles and Proposed Amendment to Article 4 (20 minutes)
2. Discuss and Vote the School Committee's Position on Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) 2013 Resolutions (10 minutes)
3. Discuss and Vote the School Committee's Position on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Senate Bill No. 213 (5 minutes)
4. Discuss and Vote the School Committee's Position on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House Bill No. 457 (5 minutes)

7:20 p.m. The School Committee will remain in session and relocate to Cary Memorial Hall for the purpose of discussing Special Town Meeting Articles.

The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Offices Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue.

All agenda items and the order of items are approximate and subject to change.





TOWN WARRANT
Town of Lexington
Special Town Meeting

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Lexington

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Lexington qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet in the Margery Milne Battin Auditorium in Cary Memorial Building, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, in said Town on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., at which time and place the following articles are to be acted upon and determined exclusively by the Town Meeting Members in accordance with Chapter 215 of the Acts of 1929, as amended, and subject to the referendum provided for by Section eight of said Chapter, as amended.

ARTICLE 1

REPORTS OF TOWN BOARDS, OFFICERS, COMMITTEES

To receive the reports of any Board or Town Officer or of any Committee of the Town, or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 2

**AMEND FY2014 OPERATING, ENTERPRISE FUND AND
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGETS**

To see if the Town will vote to make supplementary appropriations, to be used in conjunction with money appropriated under Articles 4, 5 and 8 of the warrant for the 2013 Annual Town Meeting, to be used during the current fiscal year, or make any other adjustments to the current fiscal year budgets and appropriations that may be necessary; to determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, from Community Preservation funds or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: This is an article to permit adjustments to current fiscal year (FY2014) appropriations of the general fund, enterprise funds and Community Preservation budgets.

ARTICLE 3

APPROPRIATE TO AND FROM SPECIFIED STABILIZATION FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate sums of money to and from Stabilization Funds in accordance with Section 5B of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws for the purposes of: (a) Section 135 Zoning By-Law, (b) Traffic Mitigation, (c) Transportation Demand Management, (d) School Bus Transportation, (e) Special Education, (f) Center Improvement District; (g) Debt Service, (h) Transportation Management Overlay District (TMO-1), (i) Avalon Bay School Enrollment Mitigation Fund, and (j) Capital Projects/Debt Service Reserve/Building Renewal Fund; and determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: This article proposes to fund Stabilization Funds for specific purposes and to appropriate funds therefrom. Money in those funds may be invested and the interest may then become a part of the particular fund. The use of these funds may be appropriated for the specific designated purpose by a two-thirds vote of an Annual or Special Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 4

**APPROPRIATE FOR MODULAR CLASSROOMS
AT THE HIGH SCHOOL**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for modular classrooms at the High School; determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: This article would fund the purchase and installation of a number of modular classrooms at the High School to alleviate overcrowding in the existing classrooms.

ARTICLE 5

**APPROPRIATE FOR RENOVATIONS TO BUILDINGS TO BE
ACQUIRED AT 39 MARRETT ROAD**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to buildings at 39 Marrett Road to be acquired by the Town; determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, including the Community Preservation Fund, or by borrowing, or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: The closing date for the acquisition of the property at 39 Marrett Road is scheduled for December 3, 2013. The Town has engaged the services of an architect to work with the Community Center Advisory Committee to identify short term improvements needed to facilitate occupancy as soon as possible after closing and for long-term improvements to the property needed to support town programs to be housed at 39 Marrett Road. This article is to request funds for the short-term improvements.

And you are directed to serve this warrant not less than fourteen days at least before the time of said meeting, as provided in the Bylaws of the Town.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, on or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 7th day of October 2013.

Deborah N. Mauger
Peter C.J. Kelley
Norman P. Cohen
Hank Manz
Joseph N. Pato

Selectmen
of
Lexington

A true copy, Attest:

Richard W. Ham, Jr.
Constable of Lexington

Article 4: Amendment to the main motion

I, Patrick Mehr, Precinct 3 Town Meeting member, move that the following be added to the main motion:

"And that the Superintendent of Schools study the impact on school enrollments of changes in Lexington's housing stock, in particular single-family houses being demolished and replaced by new, generally larger, single-family houses ("tear-downs"), and present the results of the study to the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Appropriation Committee and Town Meeting at or before its annual 2015 session."



(11/4/2013)

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 1—FUNDING FOR K-12 TRANSIENT STUDENT SUCCESS

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS municipalities in the Commonwealth have higher than average populations (20% or more) of mobile students, many of whom are also low income (50%), SPED (25%), and LEP (16% LEP); and

WHEREAS the public school districts in these cities and towns must properly assess these mobile students upon arrival in order to place them in appropriate classes and implement necessary support systems; and

WHEREAS many of these mobile student arrive in the school districts without proper academic, medical and behavioral records as well as with limited and interrupted schooling due to unrest in their countries of origin and/or housing and economic insecurity upon arrival.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC file or support legislation that will provide supplemental funding directly to affected school districts to help obtain academic records from schools in the United States and/or the countries of origin and to help provide the proper student supports to better integrate these mobile students into their current school districts.

RATIONALE: This resolution would assure that our schools receive the resources needed to teach properly this population of underserved students and to provide supports and services necessary for their academic achievement. At present, schools must often rely on hasty assessments based on insufficient and unknown data. This resolution with help improve school climate, increase the graduation rate, ensure equity within districts and across the Commonwealth, and alleviate the financial burden on school districts with high percentages of immigrant and mobile students.

RESOLUTION 2—PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved the participation of the state's public schools in the PARCC program as an iteration of the Commonwealth's testing and assessment system for students, representing an unfunded mandate for those districts that did not sign onto the Race to the Top Program and,

thereby, did not receive federal funding to prepare; and

WHEREAS in general, administration of the tests will require significant technological resources to be available in school districts to administer the tests; and

WHEREAS some regions of the Commonwealth lack wireless Internet service or the capacity to deliver Internet services sufficient for large numbers of students to take performance assessment tests at all; and

WHEREAS many of the state's public school districts do not have the Internet capacity to administer the PARCC assessment program at this time; and

WHEREAS the United States Secretary of Education has indicated that federal waivers may be granted for reasonable delays in implementation of the PARCC program upon request of states,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC call upon the Governor to petition the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and that MASC also petition the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to direct the Commissioner to allow sufficient time for educators to prepare students for the new testing system and for cities, towns and school districts to secure appropriate and adequate technology services and devices to administer the PARCC Program.

RESOLUTION 3—TEACHER EVALUATION

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS all teachers are entitled to thorough, complete and fair evaluations of their work by professional, experienced educators familiar with their work and qualified and trained to perform such evaluations, and

WHEREAS the time required to do such evaluations, including but not limited to pre/post observation conferences, formal observations and unscheduled classroom visits with timely feedback, the development of individual, annual goals and the documented strategies to achieve them, the review of applicable student achievement data, and the actual formative and summative evaluations is considerable, and

WHEREAS the cost of instructional leadership in the Chapter 70 formula is now limited to the principal and assistant principal positions or equivalent, and

WHEREAS how any service organization treats its "front-line" employees determines its success and there is no service more critical than the education of a community's children,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC supports enhanced leadership of all teaching staff to include trained and state administratively certified instructional leaders/department heads/supervisors with the responsibility for an appropriate number of teachers such that the heretofore mentioned supervisory and evaluative tasks can be effectively performed; and

An updated Chapter 70 formula to reflect the increased costs associated with this enhanced leadership/supervision of all teachers in Massachusetts.

RATIONALE: The educator evaluation regulations being implemented by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education increase the burden on school administration and fail to address the costs associated with yet another unfunded mandate. MASC believes this failure increases the likelihood that this critical effort to improve teacher evaluations will, therefore, not succeed. This resolution will correct that deficiency, provide an improved "career ladder" for teachers, and decrease the "trust gap" that currently exists in the evaluation of teachers.

RESOLUTION 4—EVALUATION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION (Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS all Massachusetts educators are required by law and regulation to undergo a comprehensive evaluation based on discrete standards, indicators and elements that encompass performance measures, and

WHEREAS all Massachusetts school committees must provide an annual evaluation of the superintendent based on state standards and criteria, and

WHEREAS no Massachusetts educator or school district administrator is exempt from the requirements of being subjected to a thorough and comprehensive evaluation, and

WHEREAS the new evaluation system will incorporate input from local stakeholders including faculty, parents and students who are subject to the authority of superintendents, principals and teachers, and

WHEREAS the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education is evaluated annually by the state

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education without any input or feedback from stakeholders such as school committee members, superintendents, teachers, students or citizens,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC supports the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education be requested to solicit and consider in the evaluation process for the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education meaningful input and comment from stakeholder constituencies including school committees, superintendents, parents and other stakeholders, and further, that aggregated comments and input from stakeholder constituencies be made available for public review.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that subsequent iterations of the teacher survey previously known as TellMass or Tells be revised to solicit feedback from educators about the performance of the Commissioner and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the impact of that performance on local district effectiveness, customer service performance, and morale.

RESOLUTION 5—CONFIRMING ACTIONS FROM 2012

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee. See rationale and explanation on the following page.)

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY – 2012

RESOLUTION 1: Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for the Study of Mandated Reports and Data Submissions for School Districts

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

Now, therefore be it resolved that MASC file legislation which would have the effect of establishing a special commission of the Legislature, the purpose of which will be to determine the extent to which public school personnel are required to prepare and submit reports and data that are mandated by state and federal laws, agency regulations, and past practice notwithstanding whether the reports and data are a valuable part of improving student achievement. The commission will identify mandated reports and required submissions of data mandated by law, regulation or administrative directive, and it shall examine their value to benefit student achievement, identify those which are duplicative or redundant, and propose recommendations that may, but are not restricted to, eliminate, modify or otherwise revise them.

Further, be it resolved that the commission shall require that there be a financial and programmatic audit of any proposed regulations or agency directives that shall include a determination of the amount of time deemed to be necessary for compliance with regulations and directives and estimates of all the expenses required for local agencies, including local and regional school districts, charter schools and educational collaboratives, to fulfill the requirements of the regulations and directives on an annual basis before any regulations, directives or mandates are imposed, and further, that no regulations shall be prom-

ulgated by these agencies unless the costs of compliance, administration and implementation are provided to local education agencies, including school districts, charter schools and education collaboratives. The commission will have a year to complete and report their findings to the legislature.

RESOLUTION 2: Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula
(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

Now, therefore be it resolved that MASC file legislation which would have the effect of modifying the Special Education Circuit Breaker so that the Legislature would assist school districts by helping to fund more of the cost burden of educating students in out-of-district placements, the cost of which is \$125,000 or more by increasing the Special Education Circuit Breaker funding to districts from 75% of the cost after 4 times the foundation formula to 100% of the cost after 4 times the foundation formula.

RESOLUTION 3: Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in School
(Submitted by the Brookline School Committee)

Be it resolved that MASC supports House Bill H1531 (2012 Session) or any other proposed legislation which would require all government and private health insurers to cover medically necessary expenses for children and young adults with educational deficits and/or learning disabilities from 3 years of age to 22.

RESOLUTION 4: Funding for Educator Evaluation System
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

Therefore be it resolved that MASC bring to the attention of the Auditor of the Commonwealth that the implementation of a statewide educator evaluation system represents an unfunded mandate under the law, and, further, that the Auditor of the Commonwealth be requested to identify for the General Court the cost of the unfunded mandates related to educator evaluation so identified so that the legislature may appropriate such local financial aid as may be required.

RESOLUTION 5: Relative to an Adequacy Study
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

Be it resolved that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees reaffirms its advocacy positions on funding of the public schools by calling upon the General Court to take steps necessary to determine the appropriate funding level for public schools and to make such adjustments in the Foundation Budget and Chapter 70 funding formulas as may be required:

- The legislature should ensure that all districts receive sufficient state financial assistance so that all municipalities and regions receive adequate funding, meaning that all districts are able to budget public

schools at or above the state's foundation budget.

- That the foundation budget should be adjusted to meet the true costs of providing an adequate public education for all students.
- In order to make an accurate determination of adequacy, the legislature should authorize a formal "adequacy study" to determine the true cost of providing an appropriate current education.

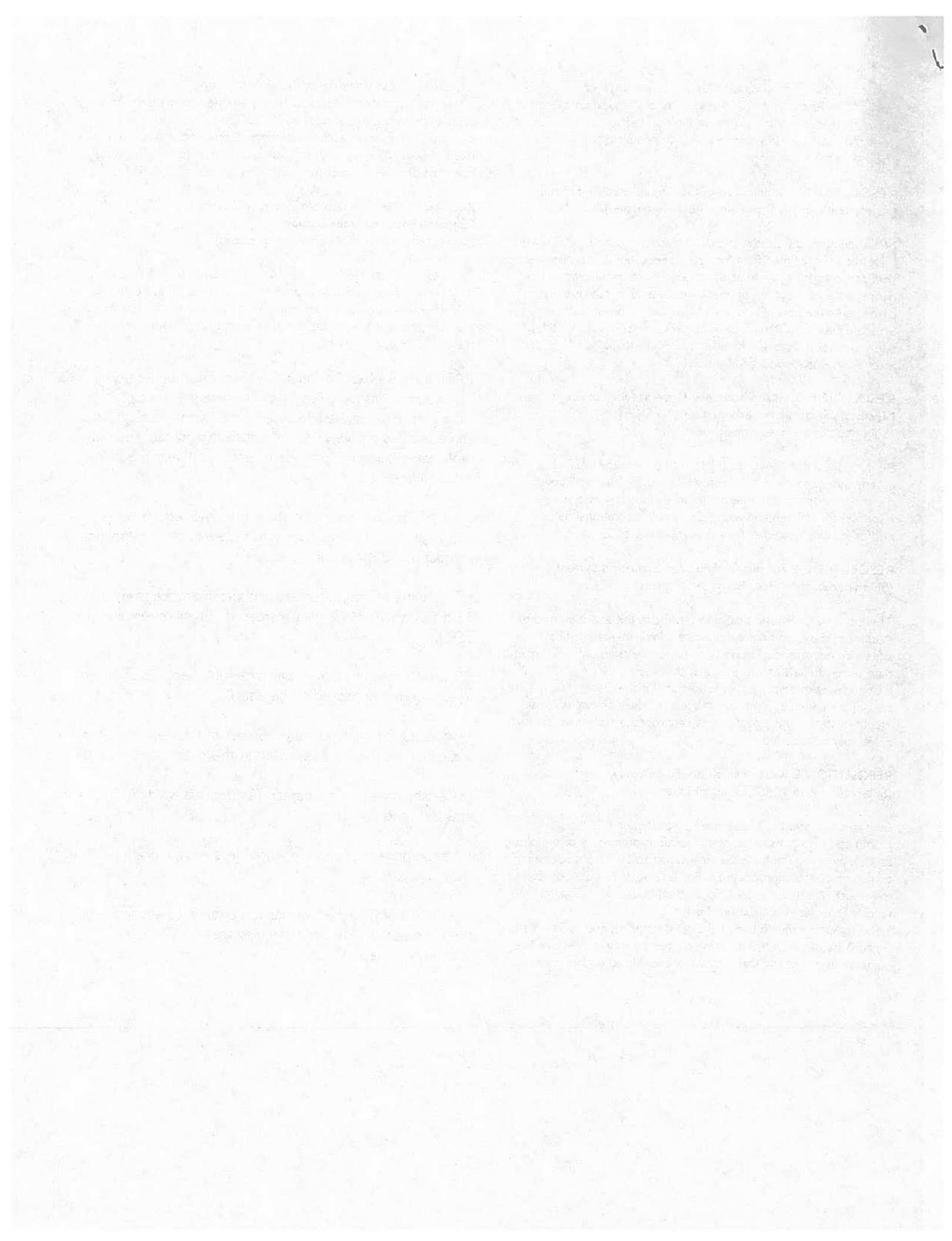
RESOLUTION 6: Election of Governing Boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

Be it resolved that MASC file legislation to require that all members of governing boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools be elected by elected or appointed representatives of the elected or appointed member communities or appointed by elected representatives of member school committees.

RATIONALE: MASC develops its association public policy around priorities identified by the Delegate Assembly. Often these issues are addressed once by the Assembly, but some matters evolve or are of sufficient significance to warrant reaffirmation in subsequent years. Last year, the delegates affirmed:

- (1) a special commission to study the time requirements and local cost of compliance with state education reporting mandates and regulations (pending);
- (2) raising the circuit breaker reimbursement for cases over \$125,000 to 100% (funding increased but share remains at 75%);
- (3) private insurance coverage for eligible services provided in school (not approved at this date);
- (4) funding for implementing the cost of the new educator evaluation system (not approved at this date);
- (5) establishment of a Chapter 70 adequacy study (not enacted); and
- (6) appointment of charter school trustees by local officials (not enacted).

The Board of Directors wishes to continue to advocate for these issues with the understanding that the Delegate Assembly agrees.



SENATE No. 213

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Katherine M. Clark

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act concerning media literacy in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

SENATE No. 213

By Ms. Clark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 213) of Katherine M. Clark, David M. Rogers, William N. Brownsberger, Tricia Farley-Bouvier and other members of the General Court for legislation concerning media literacy in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1956 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act concerning media literacy in schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 1N the following section:-

3 Section 1O. To equip students with the knowledge and skills for accessing, analyzing,
4 evaluating, creating and participating in the 21st century media culture, and to ensure students
5 develop the independent thinking and critical analysis skills needed to navigate the messages of a
6 media-saturated world, the department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize
7 and assist in the implementation of programs on teaching media literacy. The components of
8 media literacy covered in the program shall include: Accessing and evaluating information from
9 a variety of internet and other media sources; Analyzing how media messages, including
10 advertising, are constructed and for what purposes; Evaluating media's explicit and implicit
11 messages, how messages can be interpreted, how values and points of view are included and
12 excluded, and how media can influence ideas and behaviors; Creating media and messages using
13 a variety of media tools, including the use of words, images, sound and other multi-media tools;
14 Participating in a global media culture.

15 The department shall develop standards and objectives for media literacy for grades
16 kindergarten to 12, inclusive, within the existing curriculum. The department shall make
17 available to school districts a list of resources to aid in the selection of materials and resources

18 that contain substantive provisions on media literacy, and will ensure that approved media
19 literacy training opportunities are made available for professional development points within the
20 teacher recertification program.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
5800 S. UNIVERSITY AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

HOUSE No. 457

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch and Jason M. Lewis

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act reviving the foundation budget review commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Steven M. Walsh</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Carlo Basile</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>

<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>John D. Keenan</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Christopher G. Fallon</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>

<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Gale D. Candaras</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Daniel B. Winslow</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>John P. Fresolo</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Geoff Diehl</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 457

By Representatives Peisch of Wellesley and Lewis of Winchester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 457) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others relative to improving the quality of education by reviving the foundation budget review commission. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act reviving the foundation budget review commission.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 70 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by striking out Section 4, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:-

4 Section 4. There shall be a foundation budget review commission to review the way in
5 which foundation budgets are calculated and to make recommendations to the general court
6 regarding such changes as may be appropriate. In conducting such review, the commission shall
7 seek to determine the educational programs and services necessary to achieve the
8 commonwealth's educational goals, including those necessary to fully implement state
9 curriculum standards and to prepare students to achieve passing scores on the Massachusetts
10 Comprehensive Assessment System examinations. The review shall include, but not be limited
11 to: class size; special education programs, including programs for English language learners;
12 preschool programs for all 3 and 4 year-olds and full-day kindergarten; additional resources
13 necessary to assure educational opportunity for low-income students; salaries necessary to attract
14 and retain high quality professionals; extracurricular programs; remedial programs for students at
15 risk of failing to satisfy graduation requirements; books and other curriculum materials;
16 equipment for science lab programs; and technology. In addition, the commission shall seek to
17 determine how resources can be used in the most effective manner. In carrying out the review,
18 the commission shall examine relevant data and any reports on education funding produced
19 within the 10 years preceding the issuance of a commission report. The commission shall include
20 the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, who shall serve as co-chairs, the
21 secretary of education, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, the speaker of
22 the house of representatives or a designee, the president of the senate or a designee, the minority

23 leader of the house of representatives or a designee, the minority leader of the senate or a
24 designee, the governor or a designee, the chair of the house committee on ways and means or a
25 designee, the chair of the senate committee on ways and means or a designee and 1 member to
26 be appointed by each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts Municipal Association,
27 the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, the Massachusetts Association of School
28 Committees, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts
29 Teachers Association, the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, the Massachusetts
30 Budget and Policy Center, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts
31 Parent Teacher Association, Stand for Children, the Massachusetts Association of Vocational
32 Administrators and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools. Members shall receive
33 no compensation for their services but may receive reimbursement for the reasonable expenses
34 incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as members of the commission. The department
35 shall furnish reasonable staff and other support for the work of the commission.

36 Prior to issuing its recommendations, the commission shall conduct not fewer than four
37 hearings to receive testimony from members of the public. The hearings shall be held in
38 locations that provide opportunities for residents from all geographic regions of the
39 commonwealth to testify.

40 It shall not constitute a violation of chapter 268A for a person employed by a school
41 district to serve on the commission or to participate in commission deliberations that may have a
42 financial impact on the district employing that person or on the rate at which that person may be
43 compensated. The commission may establish procedures to ensure that no such person
44 participates in commission deliberations that may directly affect the school districts employing
45 those persons or that may directly affect the rate at which those persons are compensated.

46 The commission's recommendations, together with any proposed legislation, shall be
47 filed every four years with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives who shall refer
48 such recommendations to the appropriate committee of the general court. Within 30 days after
49 such filing, the committee shall hold a public hearing on the recommendations.

50 SECTION 2. The foundation budget review commission established in section 4 of
51 chapter 70 of the General Laws shall file its initial recommendations with the clerks of the senate
52 and house of representatives under said section 4 of said chapter 70 not later than December 31,
53 2013; provided, however, that the commission may issue an initial interim report before that
54 date.

