**Board of Early Education and Care**

**February 21, 2023**

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Remote Meeting**

[https://www.youtube.com/c/EECMass](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https*3A*2F*2Furldefense.com*2Fv3*2F__https*3A*2Fwww.youtube.com*2Fc*2FEECMass__*3B!!CUhgQOZqV7M!mtJGkDA0V8yVgg2uKSG9uy90hzVOfMC6kxew8RLmPytYEKM5G63U2wNQX5lmit0oRma9LJJQvSy2Xg9khjIXdBkRMbjsJqM*24&data=05*7C01*7Cmike*40renvisioning.com*7Cfc2fcdfea44a4844760708da926316e2*7C804f5616b15149f0831435a91562ab97*7C0*7C0*7C637983251547746626*7CUnknown*7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0*3D*7C3000*7C*7C*7C&sdata=GfmZaBZpVTD29gjgCI6wqLvtPwwz9k3Ct84ytJS62uk*3D&reserved=0__;JSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUl!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nAONvpYnuUFeIIGmPyWAYzixbXXP4opicM2oKiaL2PxTSq3vmDXa1fDb49UwAzr-myowXZhp4oTO75KqUO9_ZCMBwQ$)

**Members of the Board of Early Education and Care Present**

Paul Belsito, Chairperson

Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, Secretary of Education

Amy Kershaw, Acting Commissioner

Jamella Lee

Maria Gonzalez Moeller

George Atanasov

Cheryl Travers

Carolyn Kain, J.D., Designee for HHS Secretary Kate Walsh

Linda D. Sagor, M.D., M.P.H

Nikki Ruiz de Luzuriaga

**MINUTES:**

**Welcome and Comments from the Chair**

Chairperson Belsito welcomed the Board and thanked them for their participation in this important meeting and vote. He indicated that, for the past eleven months, Acting Commissioner Kershaw had been leading the agency in an acting status. He noted that the Board had discussed the importance of stability, leadership, and vision, and that the Board was assembled to vote on the recommendation of Amy Kershaw as Commissioner of the Department of Early Education and Care. He reviewed that the Board’s role in the appointment of the EEC Commissioner is established in statute and that the Board is required to submit a recommended candidate to the Secretary of Education for approval and appointment. He stated that two-thirds of the Board’s members must vote to approve the recommended candidate and that the Secretary is responsible for making the actual appointment. Chairperson Belsito confirmed that the two-thirds of the Board were present.

**Motion and Vote – Recommendation of Amy Kershaw as Commissioner of the Department of Early Education and Care**

Chairperson Belsito moved to recommend Amy Kershaw as Commissioner of the Department of Early Education and Care and to authorize the Board Chair to negotiate and enter into an employment agreement with Ms. Kershaw. Board Member Carolyn Kain seconded the motion.

**After a roll call, the motion unanimously passed.**

Following the roll call, Amy Kershaw thanked the Chair, Secretary Tutwiler, and the Board. She recognized the EEC team for their hard work and dedication and also recognized the provider, educator, and stakeholder communities for the commitment they have the to the children and families they serve. She noted the alignment and momentum in the field, and how much she is looking forward to the next steps and the work ahead.

Next, Secretary Tutwiler provided remarks. He indicated his support for Commissioner Kershaw, and noted how much he has learned about her work and her leadership, including several priority initiatives, such as reimagining financial assistance for child care, workforce growth initiatives, modernizing procedures to protect children and educators, and strengthening the capacity of the agency. Secretary Tutwiler commented that Commissioner Kershaw had assembled a stellar staff, and recognized their efforts, commitment, and dedication toward these initiatives. He noted his appreciation for Commissioner Kershaw’s assistance during his transition, and that he looked forward to continuing the work together.

Following Secretary Tutwiler’s remarks, Board members Kain, Sagor, Lee, and Ruiz de Luzuriaga, and Chairperson Belsito offered congratulatory and supportive remarks.

Chair Belsito moved to adjourn the meeting, and Board Member Lee seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, during which Board Members Moeller and Travers offered congratulations, the motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:21.