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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.

June 5, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to inform our member institutions of an important study that is being conducted by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and invite comment and input from the membership.

Ruth Simmons, NEASC President, recently established the Public Schools Commission Task Force with the charge to determine the feasibility of a single public schools commission within the association.

More specifically, the task force shall *assess and determine the feasibility of creating a single commission to conduct the work currently undertaken by the Commission on Public Elementary and Middle Schools (CPEMS), Commission on Public Secondary Schools (CPSS) and Commission on Career and Technical Institutions (CTCI). The assessment should include consultation with the membership throughout the region. If the merger of commissions is not feasible, the task force will report that conclusion and the reasons that support it. If a single commission is not feasible, the task force will make recommendations that will ensure all three commissions are increasingly robust, self-reliant, and meeting the needs of their constituencies.*

If the task force concludes that it is feasible to create a single commission from the three, then the following steps will be taken:

- Recommend a commission organizational structure that represents all of the constituencies involved.
- Recommend the services to be provided by the new commission, ensuring that members have an opportunity to request services not currently offered, that would not compromise the integrity of the association.
- Recommend a dues and fees structure that will support the work of the new commission.
- Recommend intermediate steps in the process and a timeline for establishing a single public schools commission with a completion date of June 30, 2011, approximately three years from the time the task force began its work.

The task force shall report on this initiative at every meeting of the Board of Trustees throughout the process.

The following individuals have been appointed to the Public Schools Commission Task Force.

Three individuals from the respective commissions:

- David Gowell, Retired Assistant Superintendent and Chair of Task Force, Newington Public Schools, Newington, CT (CPEMS)
- Joseph Crowley, Director, Warwick Area Career & Technical Ctr., RI (CTCI)
- Martin Gray, Principal, Central Middle School, East Corinth, ME (CPSS)

Four individuals at-large:

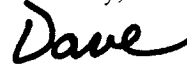
- Chris George, Principal, Dover High School and Reg. Voc. Ctr., Dover, NH
- Angela Avery, Superintendent-Director, Norfolk County Agricultural High, Walpole, MA (NEASC Trustee)
- June Doe, Superintendent, Dedham Public Schools, MA
- Paul Daigle, Retired Superintendent and Interim Principal, Sutton High School, Sutton, MA

The work of the task force will be greatly enhanced by input from member institutions and professional groups throughout the region served by NEASC. Letters to the task force addressed to NEASC, c/o Public Schools Commission Task Force, 209 Burlington Road, Suite 201, Bedford, MA 01730 or email messages to psctf@neasc.org will be acknowledged and carefully reviewed. The task force is scheduled to meet a number of times during the months of June, July and August but would find it extremely helpful to receive comments by **July 25th**.

Information regarding the work of the Task Force is available on the NEASC website (www.neasc.org). The site will be regularly updated with agendas, minutes, meeting information, and other developments. All meetings of the Task Force are open to the membership.

The task force thanks you in advance for your careful consideration of this letter and any comments you may provide.

Sincerely,



David Gowell, Chair
Public Schools Commission Task Force

Pc: Ruth Simmons, President
Daniel Fogel, President-elect
Paul Bento, Director, CTCI
David Flynn, Director, CPEMS
Pamela Gray-Bennett, Director, CPSS
Jacob Ludes, Executive Director/CEO, NEASC