



## **December 2009 Board of Regents Information**

Submitted by Neil Johannning, NYS PTA Education Chairman

To view who the current Board of Regent members are and to see who represents your area, go to: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/members/>

The Board of Regents has Webcasts available each month. If you cannot attend in person, you can participate via webcast. Simply click on the webcast. You can participate live or view archival webcasts of previous meetings. Go to: <http://usny.nysed.gov/webcasts.html>

### **Webcast 12/14/09 – 22 minutes**

[http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED\\_12142009amedit.wmv/play.aspx](http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_12142009amedit.wmv/play.aspx)

### **Webcast 12/15/09 – 52 minutes**

[http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED\\_12152009amedit.wmv/play.aspx](http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_12152009amedit.wmv/play.aspx)

**For a complete listing of the reports and materials for the December Board of Regents meeting, go to:**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/December2009/1209monthmat-new.html>

## **The Full Board discussed the following:**

### **Education**

- Commissioner Steiner described the Regents' Strategic Vision and its alignment with the Race to the Top Federal Grant funding in the areas of:
  - Raising standards
  - Improving the funding for schools
  - Identifying/improving lowest performing schools
  - Teacher preparation effectiveness
  - Enhanced data systems for P-20
- Discussion of the federal evaluation criteria and weighting for the Race to the Top Grant proposals
- Common Core State Standards draft proposals, approval processes, and timelines
- Graduation Rates and potential changes to their measurement
- Strengthening state assessments
- Availability of good teachers, especially in high-needs districts
- Proposals for P-20 data system enhancements
- Proposed changes to the grade 3-8 State tests
- Proposed modifications to methods related to making up credit

### **Cultural Education**

- Discussion of the State Archives and the Protection of State electronic records in addition to the paper records

### **Audits**

- Discussion of the OSC audits being done on NYS school districts related to the scoring of the 2 million+ Regents exams being given/scored each year

### **Funding**

- Discussion of the budget proposal for 2010-11
  - Increase of 1.1% in Foundation aid
  - Increased funds for early education
  - High tax district aid – reduction by 50%
  - Modification of the BOCES funding allocations
  - Consolidation of some instructional aid categories
  - Consolidation of some building aid categories
- Discussion of the mid-year cuts by Gov. Patterson, especially for schools for disabled youth

### **Higher Education**

- Further discussions on the proposals for changes to the teacher preparation programs including enhanced mentoring programs and retention of teachers
- Programs to enhance leadership programs for administrators and lead teachers
- Expansion of the programs for veterans

### **Other**

- Approval of new/extensions of seven charter schools
- Appointed Frank Muñoz as Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Professions