

June 2010 Board of Regents Information

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Webcast 06/21/10 - 75 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_06212010edit.wmv/play.asx

Webcast 06/22/10 – 38 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_06222010edit.wmv/play.asx

For a complete listing of the reports and materials for the June Board of Regents Meeting, go to:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/June2010/0610monthmat.html>

Summer Reading Program at NYS Libraries

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/index.html>

NYS SED Budget/Funding

- There is still a deficit in the accounts for Teacher Tenure Hearings. Unless SED receives additional funding in the 2010-11 budget, there will continue to be large backlog of cases.
- SED has received \$20M in NYS funding to improve its data systems in order to better track students throughout their P-12 academic careers.
- **Assessments:** The Regents are concerned with an \$11.5M shortfall in the State assessments budget. They are anticipating \$7M in the new State budget but expect they will need to cut \$4.5 million. Because the budget has not yet been adopted, Deputy King also put together a \$6.15M list of assessment cuts that would be put into place if the State has not adopted a budget by August 1st or if the \$7M they expect is eliminated. Eliminated exams include 5/8 grade Social Studies and component retesting for high school Math and English. Other proposed eliminations include: 8th grade foreign language proficiency exams, August Algebra 2 and Chemistry Regents, foreign language Regents other than French and Spanish, translation of exams into languages other than Spanish, and all January Regents exams. The rationale was to protect Regents exams that affect high school graduation and cut from there. The question was asked about possible federal support to which the Commissioner responded that the US Dept. of Education will be making a large investment (\$350M over four years) in assessments to accompany the Common Core standards. This process will take four years and the US Dept. of Education is not interested in funding State shortfalls for tests that might ultimately be replaced. The assessment discussion then branched out into several different areas with concerns expressed about measuring student growth in areas that are not currently tested such as the arts.

Race to the Top: <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/>

- The Commissioner outlined New York's 1400 page Race to the Top application that was submitted on June 1st. It is expected that there will be 10 to 15 grant awards to the 35 or so states that filed an application for round two. He stressed the changes made after the first application including legislation to modify professional evaluation, increase in the charter school cap, contracts with Educational Partnership Organizations (EPOs) to help under-performing schools, and State grant funding for improvements in technical data systems that will ultimately make student available for use at many levels, from parent to school to State. *Note: This funding is above and beyond the \$20M already committed by NYS for data systems improvements.*

Charter Schools

- SED staff presented plans for addressing an expected increase in charter school applications. They envision an RFP type process that would require applicants to identify their intended student population and describe specific problems to be addressed within the school district in which they were located. The question was raised about how that would work when the charter school was located in one district but most of its students come from other districts.

Common Core Standards

New York must adopt National Common Core Standards by August 1st in order to be eligible for federal assessment funds and to avoid losing substantial points in RTTT scoring. *(It is expected the Regents will vote to adopt the standards at its July meeting.)* Commissioner Steiner has been working with a group of education executives in 26 states and is pleased with the work they have done. He described the standards as rigorous, not aimed at the least common denominator, and specific but definitely not a substitute for curriculum. He described state cultural differences as a negative in promoting common standards with common assessment and comparison as positives. Standards would be grouped as K-5 and 6-12. There would also be certain non-fiction text material that would be required reading, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address. Examples of exemplary works of fiction would be mentioned but not required. A follow-up discussion ensued around the 15% of standards that could be state specific. The 15% state option is meant to augment, not replace common core standards. New York expects to add standards at least in areas that address Pre-K instruction and English Language Learners. That work is expected to be complete by the end of this summer. There will be some additional variations. For example, some states teach math as an integrated topic in grades 9-12. Others teach a traditional sequence of algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Common standards will be developed for both approaches. While standards, and to some degree, assessments will be the same, "cut scores" determining passing or mastery may differ. The overall process is viewed as being long term, maybe ten years.

Other

- Regents Scholarship awards to children of SED employees were announced
- Regents committee assignments were made for 2010-11
- The Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Continuing Education Committee was renamed to the P-12 Committee