



March 2010 Board of Regents Information

Submitted by Neil Johanning, 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 03/08/10 – 55 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_03082010edit.wmv/play.aspx

Webcast 03/09/10 – 77 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_02092010edit.wmv/play.aspx

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

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/March2010/0310monthmat.html>

March 9th press release on Graduation Rates

http://www.oms.nysed.gov/press/2009_Grad_Rates03092010.html

The Full Board discussed the following:

Education

- A very lengthy discussion on graduation rates, especially surrounding student with special needs. There was a slight improvement, but nowhere near where the Regents want New York to be. Some of the proposals in the RTTT application are target toward improving graduation rates. SED is starting to develop data systems that will assist in better tracking students to determine what programs work best for which students. See the link above for the press conference.
- Assessment for alternative pathways to credit recovery
- Because of the Budget shortfalls, the elimination of some Regents exams is being considered (January and August exams, some language, some science, some math).
- The Early Childhood Workgroup is researching various international models and looking at data related to success of early learners related to the type of setting they are in.

Race To The Top (RTTT)

The federal RTTT Grant site is:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase1-applications/index.html>

New York State reached the finals for the first round of RTTT funding. The Regents will continue to seek legislative changes necessary to help win the grant. NYS will be making its RTTT presentation to the US Secretary for Education in late March.

Cultural Education

- The Regents are encouraging increasing awareness of library summer programs.
- The State Archives is in need of additional space to store documents that need to be retained for long periods of time.
- Some discussion related to the NYS Archives Geological Map Program and NYS Museum renovations.

Audits

- The Comptrollers audit general findings were discussed. The audits made many recommendations including: tightening computer security controls, appropriate use of reserve funds, and training for Board of Education members as well as all school district staff.
- Audits related to the use of AARA (Stimulus) funds are starting

Funding

- Lengthy discussion at the main meeting and at committee meetings related to the governor's proposed 2010-11 proposed NYS budget and its impact on SED, local school districts, vocational rehabilitation programs, state archives, and libraries. The Regents only have flexibility with a very small part of the budget because of the shrinking state funding and federal funding being targeted for specific programs. The Commissioner also noted that the Department's staff has been reduced significantly over the last few years.
- NYS has received a \$9.5M Broadband grant through the AARA funding to increase Internet connectivity, especially in rural areas.
- Alternate funding sources are also being investigated.

Higher Education

- Further discussion on the teacher preparation proposed changes included in the RTTT application
- On-line learning options at colleges

Other

- Meryl Tisch was reelected as Chancellor of the Board of Regents through March 2013
- Milton Cofield was reelected as Vice Chancellor of the Board of Regents through March 2013
- Based on the results of the Strategic Planning effort, several changes in the overall SED organization have started, including the formation of the P-12 office. SED will be organized around the following goals:
 1. Aligned Rigorous Standards, Curriculum and Professional Development
 2. World Class Formative and Summative Assessments
 3. Improved Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness
 4. Turning Around or Replacing Failing Schools
 5. Raising Graduation Rates for At-Risk Students Through Secondary School Redesign

6. Improved School Leader Preparation and Effectiveness
7. Organizational Redesign: Service Orientation
8. Comprehensive P-20 Data System (including instructional reporting system)
9. Expanding and Improving Early Childhood Education

SED will be implementing the following Board of Regents recommendations.

1. Integration of General Education and Special Education
2. Integration of Workforce Development, Adult Education and Vocational Rehabilitation (VESID)