

October 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 10/18/10 – 45 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_10182010edit.wmv/play.aspx

Webcast 10/19/10 – 33 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_10192010edit.wmv/play.aspx

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

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/October2010/1010monthmat.html>

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

- For most of the first day's meeting, the Regents discussed how Race to the Top will enable the Regents to meet their reform agenda developed and refined over the last year. They will turn the RTTT agenda into New York's reform agenda for improved standards based curriculum, revised assessments, improved accountability of teachers and administrators, and improved data systems.
- A draft schedule of implementation milestones was discussed.
- The allocation of funds will be 50% to local districts based on the Title I formula; 32% to SED to implement the new standards, assessments, accountability measures, and data systems; and 18% to local districts through a grant program (to be developed).
- Guidelines have been provided to districts regarding applications for funding. See <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/> for more information.
- Concerns were expressed that the arts and social studies work was not scheduled to start until the second half of the four year program
- Concerns were expressed with the lack of computer and network infrastructure in many areas of the state that would limit the ability to offer new computer based assessments

NYSED Fiscal Report/Budget

- There is still a shortfall for funding of the teacher tenure hearings.
- There is still a shortfall in the budget for statewide assessments. Three options being considered are: special \$15M appropriation from the legislature; severely cutting back on the Regents exams being offered, and implementing a \$5 per pupil charge to districts for the exams.
- The Regents reviewed a preliminary budget proposal; there will be further action in November.

- The Regents noted that some districts may not be financially viable in 3-5 years if the current reduced levels of funding continue.

Other

- Provided the option for districts to extend the age eligibility for special ed students in non-contact sports
- Provided a one year reprieve for districts that need to offer additional AIS services because of the change in the grade 3-8 cut scores
- The Regents have implemented a comment period for the Common Core State Standards proposal for both ELA and Math
- The Regents are working to restructure the Special Education certifications for new teachers
- Appointed Ken Wagner as the new Asst. Commissioner for Data Systems
- Appointed Sally Bachofer as Asst. Commissioner for Innovative School Models
- Appointed Kevin Smith as Deputy Commissioner for Adult Education and Workforce Development
- Appointed Deborah Brown-Johnson as Asst. Commissioner for Adult Education and Workforce Development