

May 2011 Board of Regents Report

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Webcast 05/16/11 – AM session – 40 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_05162011amedit.wmv/play.aspx

Webcast 05/16/11 – PM session – 75 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_05162011PM_edit.wmv/play.aspx

Webcast 05/17/11 – 25 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_05172011edit.wmv/play.aspx%20

For a complete listing of the reports and materials for the May 2011 Board of Regents meeting, go to:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2011Meetings/May2011/511monthmat.html>

Meeting Summary:

- The Regents decided to forego a nationwide search for a new commissioner and instead appointed John King effective June 15. Dr. King has degrees from Harvard, Yale and Columbia. He comes from a family of educators. He is 36 years old and lives in the Albany area. He introduced his wife and two young daughters to those in attendance. He moves up from his role as Sr. Deputy after two years at NYSED. NYSED will start a search for the Sr. Deputy position right away.
- **APPR**
There was much discussion on this topic with not all of the Regents voting to support the final proposal. Draft regulations had been released during the April vacation week and didn't get a whole lot of attention until the Governor weighed in during the first week of May. See the Regents website for the entire list of recommendations:
<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2011Meetings/May2011/511bra4.pdf>.

There were several changes including the effort to speed up the implementation schedule and to make standardized tests a bigger part of the review picture, both initiatives of the Governor and NYC Mayor Bloomberg but also supported by Chancellor Tisch. These measures complete with changes were adopted. NYSUT immediately threatened to take the matter to court and stated its intent not to cooperate with NYSED on implementing new APPR requirements which are extensive and contain components that are not yet ready to go. NYSED has planned a team orientation session in mid-June at Cornell to bring teachers, administrators and Board members together to become familiar with new requirements.

Note: After the meeting, NYSUT reported: "NYSUT has suspended its collaboration with NYSED for the remainder of this school year while we reevaluate our relationship; we have pulled our support for NYSED's June conference on union/district collaboration; and, we are pursuing all available legal avenues."

- **Regents Examination System**

The Regents decided on:

- Eliminating the January administration of Regents exams.
- Postponing the development of ELA 9 and ELA 10.
- Continuing the elimination of Grades 5 and 8 Social Studies exams (eliminated in 2010-11).
- Eliminating the Regents Italian, French and Spanish exams.
- Piloting online testing to gauge the capacity of the Department and the field to administer exams electronically and to measure security risks.

- **Mandate Relief and Flexibility**

The Board approved the mandate relief and flexibility option recommendations, as described in Appendix A of the Regents item, several of which were reviewed at the February meeting. The Board also issued a vote of support for Department staff to seek further public comment on the special education options, as described in Appendix B of the Regents item. The Regents will continue this discussion in June.

See the [Regents item on Mandate Relief and Flexibility](#) for more information.

- **Common Core Transition Strategy**

The Board discussed strategies to revise the State’s assessment programs to ensure that they measure the knowledge and skills that are required for students to stay on track to college and career readiness from elementary school through graduation. The strategies discussed include:

- Possible revisions to the existing state standards in Science and Social Studies/History to ensure that they reflect rigorous expectations in each grade level and that they reflect a learning trajectory that ensures students graduate college- and career-ready.
- Creation of four domain-specific advisory panels and an implementation panel to provide advice on each step in the assessment design and validation process.
- Assessment design activities including conducting an analysis of the gap between the knowledge and skills currently measured by each NYS exam and the knowledge and skills our exams need in order to ensure students are on track for college and career readiness.
- Creation of an ongoing empirical validation strategy to collect a variety of evidence regarding our assessments to be used to evaluate the quality and improve the rigor of our assessments.
- Changing the score scale to one which is consistent with the 3–8 testing program scale and reports student performance as a performance category.

NYSED staff will begin the research and work necessary to build on this comprehensive assessment transition strategy and will return at a later date with a proposal for a coherent sequenced system that is aligned with the NYS Common Core Learning Standards.

- **Graduation Rate Reporting**

The Board discussed several approaches to developing valid and rigorous aspirational performance standards that are aligned with college and career readiness. Among the approaches discussed were the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, the ELA/Math Aspirational Performance Measure and using additional course and achievement differentiation for Math.

- **Laboratory Requirements for Qualifying to Take a Regents Exam in Science**
The Board discussed the current laboratory requirements necessary for students to qualify to take a Regents Exam in any of the Sciences and recent changes and proposed additions to regulations that allow students to demonstrate achievement of the NYS Learning Standards through alternate pathways beyond traditional coursework, including online and blended learning.
- **School Safety Plans**
The Board discussed proposed amendments to regulations relating to district-wide school safety plans and building-level school emergency response plans. Current regulations require that the district-wide school safety plans include the minimum requirements prescribed by law; plans of evacuation and sheltering; and information on school population, number of staff, transportation needs and the business and home telephone numbers of key officials of each educational agency within the district. Due to recent events surrounding safety and security, this confidential information will now be part of the building-level school emergency response plan, which is not shared with the general public. This proposed amendment will ensure that confidential information, including the home telephone numbers of local education officials and the tactical strategies for responding to critical events such as building evacuation and sheltering are not disclosed to the public. These proposed regulations will be presented to the Board at the July meeting for permanent adoption.