

September 2009 Board of Regents Information

Submitted by: Neil Johanning, NYS PTA Education Chairman

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

<http://usny.nysed.gov/webcasts.html>

September 14, 2009: 74 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_09142009edit.wmv/pla y.asx

September 15, 2009: 19 minutes

http://pointers.audiovideoweb.com/stcasx/va91win1520/SED_09152009_edit.wmv/pl ay.asx

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/>

For the Commissioner's September Report to the Board of Regents, go to:

<http://oms32.nysed.gov/comm/2009/0909commrep.htm>

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

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/September2009/0909monthmat-new.html>

The Full Board discussed the following:

Education

Approved the acceptance of a \$6,000,000 Four-Year Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Support the Creation of approximately 11 Smart Scholars Early College High Schools throughout the State of New York

Strategic Plan for 2010-2011 School Improvement System (PMO) – The committee is focusing on P-12 education, reorganization of State Education Department (SED) staff, and improving services/relationships with school districts.

The Regents are studying graduation rates and considering proposals related to the extension of the time to earn a local diploma, extended year measurement, and cohort definitions. No decisions have been made yet.

Funding

Race to the Top – The State Education Department (SED) is continuing its work to apply for these grant funds (\$4.4B). Applications will be due in December. Initial funding is scheduled to be distributed to states in the spring of 2010, with the second round being distributed in December 2010 or early 2011. The regents are pushing SED to look outside its comfort zone in coming up with proposals focusing on: standards and assessments, teacher quality and training, strengthening BOCES, and school improvement/turnaround. Stakeholder meetings are continuing around the state

The Regents recognize that next year will be a tough budget year and are building a draft 10-11 budget including proposals for Pre-K in all schools and increased building aid. They caution that some of the funds are part of the AARA stimulus funds and are scheduled to go away.

Health

Commissioner Richard F. Daines of the NYS Department of Health (DOH) described the efforts of the partnership of DOH and SED to get the latest information regarding the H1N1 flu to the school districts and the general public. The latest information is always on the DOH website at www.nyhealth.gov.

Cultural Education

The Regents mentioned the 1609 exhibit at the NYS Museum celebrating the Dutch heritage of the Hudson Valley region on the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage.

The National Library Services is implementing a new digital talking books program.

Higher Education

There will be an increased examination of the teacher preparation program at colleges and universities in NYS.

In closing, Chancellor Tisch and Commissioner Elect Dr. David Steiner (sworn in 10/01) thanked outgoing interim Commissioner Carole Huxley for her service. She in turn thanked the Regents and all the SED staff for their excellent work and assistance.