

JANUARY REGENTS MEETING

January 13, 2009

EMSC COMMITTEE

Strategies to Improve the Graduation Rates of Black Males – Dr. John H. Jackson, President and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education discussed policy strategies related to the graduation rate and performance of Black and Latino males. He provided a well-informed, dynamic presentation that focused on what every child needs – early childhood education, highly qualified teachers, a college-bound curriculum, and resource accountability. According to the Schott Foundation report, *Given Half A Chance*, graduation and achievement gaps reflect the differences in the quality of available opportunities, not the differences in the student's ability. Dr. Jackson answered questions from the Regents on the role of the community school movement, curriculum needs of Black males, and the correlation between the educational attainment of students and the economic state of the community they live in.

Revised No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Recommendations – The Committee discussed suggested revisions to the Regents priorities for NCLB relating to K-12, to coincide with recent political changes and the Regents increased focus on school improvement, educator development, growth models, graduation rates and other key issues. Suggested changes and additions were considered. The Committee agrees that the suggested revisions to the Regents priorities for NCLB need to be discussed in more detail at a future meeting, but are broad enough in scope at this time to allow New York State to be an early participant in the process. The actual reauthorization of NCLB will not occur until 2010. [BR (A) 3]

Grades 3-8 Testing Policy Overview – the Committee discussed a report on possible changes in the Grades 3-8 Testing Program. The Committee also discussed the purpose of the tests, the types of tests that are given and options for moving the tests to later in the year including advantages and disadvantages related to the possible options and actions that would need to take place to implement those options. The sentiment of the Board is to pursue a later testing date for the Grades 3-8 exams. Staff will solicit feedback from the field, prepare a cost benefit analysis and follow-up with the Regents at a future meeting. [EMSC (D) 2]

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Revised No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Recommendations – The Committee discussed suggested revisions to the Regents priorities for NCLB relating to higher education, to coincide with recent political changes and the Regents increased focus on school improvement, educator development, growth models,

graduation rates and other key issues. Suggested changes and additions were considered. The Committee agrees that the suggested revisions to the Regents priorities for NCLB need to be discussed in more detail at a future meeting, but are broad enough in scope at this time to allow New York State to be an early participant in the process. The actual reauthorization of NCLB will not occur until 2010. [BR (A) 3]

Office of Teaching Initiatives: Proposals to Focus Resources on Core Mission – The Committee discussed a report that identifies planned changes in the Office of Teaching Initiatives that would create greater efficiencies and increased revenue during a time of reduced resources. Some of the recommended changes would require amendments to regulations and include: limiting the evaluation services provided for applicants for certification, restoring the fee for issuance of an internship certificate, modifying time extension requirements, and exploring alternatives to the reissuance of Initial Certificates. The Committee is interested in hearing more regarding the proposed changes for time extensions and the individual evaluation process, as well as other proposals. Detailed discussions will take place at future Regents meetings for possible amendments to regulations. [HE (D) 3]