

JUNE 2009 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

REGENTS EMSC/HIGHER EDUCATION/VESID JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

June 23, 2009

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Grades 3-8 Testing – The Regents continued their policy discussion regarding changes to the scheduling of the Grades 3-8 mathematics and English Language Arts examinations. Senior Deputy Commissioner Johanna Duncan-Poitier discussed input from the field on two surveys that were conducted and discussions with education groups. The Regents endorsed changing the testing schedule so that both the math and ELA examinations are given in May beginning in the 2009-10 school year.

Policy Issues Concerning Graduation Rates – Part I: Establishing a Graduation Rate and Annual Targets for Accountability – The Regents continued their discussion on policy issues and key policy questions concerning the graduation rate. The Regents discussed the most recent graduation rate data, trend data and information on New York State's performance under the current accountability graduation rate goal. The Regents requested that a list of additional policy questions be prepared for their consideration over the next several months as well as timelines for submission of information to USDOE. The Regents also asked for additional data to help inform the policy decisions they will need to make over the next several months.

REGENTS EMSC COMMITTEE

June 23, 2009

ACTION ITEMS

Physical Education, Coaching Requirements and Extension of Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics

The Board of Regents amended subparagraph (i) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) and paragraph (7) of subdivision (c) of section 135.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to Physical Education, Coaching Requirements and Extension of Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics, effective July 16, 2009.

Charter Schools

The Board of Regents approved and issued the charter of the Albany Leadership Charter High School for Girls as proposed by the Trustees of the State University of New York, and issues a provisional charter to it for a term of five years.

The Board of Regents approved and issued the second renewal charter of the Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School as proposed by the Chancellor of the city school district of the City of New York, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term of five years up through and including August 10, 2014.

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Charter School Review Process – In recent months, the Chancellor and the Board of Regents have made recommendations to streamline the way the Department processes charter schools. Staff will come back in the fall with suggestions relating to simplifying the process, possible legislative changes and policy questions for the Board to consider as we move forward.

Incarcerated Youth – Senator Velmanette Montgomery and Assemblyman William Scarborough talked with the Committee to request that a roundtable discussion be scheduled in September that will focus on issues related to the education of children in Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) facilities around the state. Suggestions were made that the Department of Health, the Office of Mental Health, Family Court, school leaders and other stakeholders be part of this roundtable discussion. Staff will work with OCFS and the Legislators to arrange this meeting.

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Progress made to Create a Cohesive School Leadership System for New York State – Committee members discussed the Department's progress in creating a statewide system for professional development for school leaders. The Rochester City School District, with the support of the Wallace Foundation, is the first urban area in New York State to introduce and implement this model using professional development strategies to prepare school leaders in urban settings. Dr. Sam Walton, Dean of Executive Education Programs at St. Johns Fisher College and Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard of the Rochester City School District provided updates on work underway on the Rochester program, which will begin this July.

Teachers of the Arts – Due to time constraints, an update on a recent meeting held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) with teachers of the arts has been deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

