

New York State Council of Educational Associations

Friday, February 2, 2007

Marriot Hotel, Wolf Road

Albany, New York

Call To Order

Colleen Corsi

Welcome

Roll Call

Joan Davidson

State Education Department Presentations

8:30 - 9:45 **James Viola**, Executive Director, Office of School Improvement and Community Services

Viola would like to tap into our expertise, during and in between meetings.
He would like to work with the Library Association.

Now that we have a new governor, discussions go on with SED and the Governor's office.
Governor is looking to make substantial changes in as short a time as possible.

Viola's Target areas within the proposed Regents Plan for the next stage of Education Reform:

STUDENTS

4. Set targets for high school graduation and attendance, and increase investment in programs that have been shown to remove barriers to graduation.

Viola has counterparts in the Big Five. He has to make sure that their plans are in sync with NYSED.

SYSTEMS

8. Advocate for a foundation formula to provide state aid that is adequate, sustainable, fair and commensurate with the cost of educational programs that enable students to meet the standards. ALL school districts will benefit.

9. Strengthen accountability by creating State Education Department capacity to audit school achievement, finance, staffing, violent incident and other data. Require an annual consolidated plan for the expenditure of state, federal, and local funds from all districts designated as low performing.

STRUCTURES

11. Reduce barriers to teaching and learning in high needs schools by creating a vision and leadership framework for an integrated education, health and mental health collaboration. Promote strategies found to be promising in resolving high incident health and mental health problems among children.

Viola's task

He likes to work across the USNY's offices

Has responsibility for Teacher Centers and SCDN. Looking for ways these networks work in more synergistic way.

School District on Long Island that has a high percentage of American and Hispanic students' - middle school not working. They asked for additional resources he found out that did not happen.

He thinks Library system is a tremendous resource for school reform. Next week he will be calling a meeting with people involved with the library and decisions will be made at the meeting.

Materials that are not contextually appropriate for the student population can be changed.

Asked for help with our Library people after the meeting.

AIS Plan Revised Bi-annually Section

Provides additional support for students at risk - to children not meeting standards so that they will meet standards. Intended to run from K-12. Determination based on local criteria procedures.

Not just for ELA and Math. It is also to support skills in Science and Social Studies.

Additional INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES has been the focus but can also provide additional SUPPORT services-, for example: study skills, health, and family support.

Approaches used:

In some school districts there is a schedule.

In other school districts there is an IEP approach.

Efficacy is uneven.

AIS is supported by Title I allocations and in some districts these allocations are going down. This puts a burden on other funding sources.

Given NCLB should AIS continue to be in place?

Is the Reg ok but the guidance not correct? The data from other states models will be examined.

AIS MODELS

Should there be different models depending on school district?

NYC, Big 4, Small Cities vs. Rural or Suburban

Group discussion

Viola question: Based on our experience and our school district how does AIS play out for K-2?

Pat Barbanell, New York State Art Teachers Association

The major problem is what happens to target standards AND the other standard areas.

When AIS kicks in -it takes time away from non-targeted standards.

Reduce but not eliminate-does not work for non-targeted standards.

Presently it reduces equity and access for the non-targeted standards.

Dennis Tosetto, Executive Director of Middle School Association, Pres-Elect of NYSCEA

What we are trying to do with AIS is great. How do we make the testing that is done by SED connect with these special services? Classroom teachers do NOT know how to use the data. He believes NYSCEA members can help him with this.

Viola's responsibilities: higher need and lower performing school districts. He stated that school projects are less because testing is the major activity. He believes that what is happening in other disciplines can support and enrich the problem areas.

Sue Bogdan -Ritty, NYS Reading Association

"It seems that NCLB focuses on the General Ed program and little on the special education/remedial program. I believe that the special education/remedial program should be congruent to the general education program - not separate, as it is in many cases for children in remedial programs. That way these children would have the same or similar program as the average student - not a completely different program.

We need to do something to engage parents so that they buy into their child's program. How do we get parents to understand what their students are doing and need?

Viola: Students with disability are participating more in the General Education program than ever before. Special Ed students should get same content.

Joan Davidson, Secretary, NYSCEA

In AIS it is stated that only scientifically proven instructional strategies can be used to support students in Reading and Math. It has been demonstrated that the Arts, for a multitude of reasons, can be a major contributor to students improving their skills. However it is difficult to gather scientific evidence to show this. Many students learn in different ways and demonstrate what they know in different ways, the arts being one of them. What can be done to use the arts in an AIS instructional plan?

Viola: I agree that in many cases it is the arts that keep students in school and that make school fun for students. Efforts are being made to include the arts in AIS plans.

Sue Weber, NYS School Music Association, AIS Advisory Committee

Explained she is the representative of all the Arts on the committee.

Lorie Bargstedt, NY Association for Continuing/Community Education (NYACCE)

There is NOT funding support for 18-21 year olds. She suggested SED include young adults and parents of school children as we address the needs of children.

Joe Sugar, NYS Music Association

It is the responsibility of SED to enforce the regulations, AIS is a part of it. Certain specific subjects that are getting all of the lime light while other subjects that are part of the 28 standards are not being addressed.

Contact Steven Hill with further suggestions and questions. He has the lead responsibility in regard to the review and revision of Academic Intervention Services. He may be reached by telephoning (518) 474-5923 or be e-mailing shill@mail.nysed.gov

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10:30 **David Abrams**, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Standards, Assessment & Reporting
P-16 (PreK-16) Strategy

Curriculum and Instruction should be appropriate, rigorous, challenging and needs to engage the students.

Reading is first in the early grades. High School graduation rate is 64%. That 40% of high school students are NOT graduating gives policy makers reason to pause. Commissioner will be highlighting this issue and it will be the focus of the Deputy Commissioner who will soon be hired.

Post secondary - articulation in the two and four year program does not have a safety net. Students are not able to compete if they don't have the tools.

Office of Standards Assessment and Reporting standards (policies) base are not designed to be static-if students are doing well on Math standards the tests can be revised upward. Tests will be re-visited. People want to see Standards moving towards growth.

Evaluating Spec Ed populations are varied. The issue is how to make sure students get appropriate access to curriculum and opportunities to engage and learn.

Limited English Proficient Learning students –NYC has 69% of total population. There is a growing population on Long Island as they leave from NYC. Issues tend to be very localized. You have to weigh what is appropriate for specific populations - a differentiated testing policy has to be created.

ELA 3-8 Administration: Went smoothly Daily attendance rate 92% and above was credited with this. Scores will be returned late May

Math: Will be administrated in March – not a simple or slow process for results.
Math scores will be released by mid-June. More complex tests will be built for the future.

Administration of new Integrated Algebra testing program. Math Standards were re-done. Old Regents testing program gave a score quickly. New tests have to be standard set, validated and developed to withstand a legal challenge. Tests have to be examined to check if content was based on curriculum. Abrams has to protect the rights of each individual student. He must make sure they have equal opportunity to learn.

NCLB-people are not going to back off expectations. Advocacy groups want to retard pressure for accountability. NCLB guidelines need to be made more malleable in keeping with the concept of growth.

Discussion:

Sandy Morley-NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

What do you see as the impact of Governor Spitzer?

Abrams: State policy is set by the Board of Regents. Governor put members of the Board of Regents on his transition team. We will see an evolutionary change over the next four years.

Howard Goldsmith responding to question; Executive Coordinator, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support.

Article 7 of Governor's budget is the educational section. They are mandates-we do not know if they will become law. Governor and legislators have to act to make the budget become law. The Commissioner and Board of Regents set educational policy.

Dennis Tosetto ~ "When we do the testing I hear about the results-have you ever looked back to review how testing helps classroom instruction?"

Abrams- It has not been systemically studied.

Dennis: Do people need help in doing that?

Abrams: Yes, we need help. Parents always want to know how their child is doing. He compared the test score with what parents thought their child was doing and there was agreement.

Abrams: Advocacy groups want Criterion Reference Test (CRT) rather than norm reference tests. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment is a recursive process. Tests should be used to benchmark the system.

Gail Kelly – NYSCEA Past –President

Why is a Statistics course offered in the Master program and not in the BA program?

Abrams: It is measurement theory and assessment not just statistics. Question is how do you get people not to be afraid of learning about the making of a test and into conceptual thinking.

10:45-11:30 Howard Goldsmith, Executive Coordinator, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support

Hand-out: Update on OCIS Initiatives

Goldsmith thanked Colleen for talking about NYSCEA working together with SED. SED does need the expertise of the Association

Update on OCIS

Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support is made up of five units:

- Adult Education and Workforce Development –Tom Orsini
- Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies – Pedro Ruiz
- Career and Technical Education Konrad Raup
- Curriculum Instruction and Instructional Technology – Anne Schiano
- Summer Institutes – Mary Daley

www.emsc.nysed.gov/cis

Career and Technical Education

Key to success:

Increase student's attendance rate-by including all standard areas in the curriculum

Perkins IV

- Regents approval for CTE interim state plan.

- \$60 million in federal Perkins CTE funds.
- Available to eligible districts, BOCES and postsecondary institutions.
- Supports activities and more than 469,000 secondary and postsecondary students.
- Ties in with the P-16 initiative.
- Tech prep will develop career clusters and career pathways.

Career and Technical Education Resource Centers (CTERCs)

- Resource Centers have a five-year contract for statewide workshops and technical assistance. Services are spread across entire State but focus on high needs districts (Big 5 and Roosevelt School District)

Curriculum, Instruction and Instructional Technology (CIIT)

Integration of Middle Level Education into CIIT to enhance content area input and expertise.

- Literacy Initiative –statewide program to better integrate literacy into content areas. You need to teach to all standards AND provide testing skills. Every question on the test is aligned with the standards
- Plan for reviewing standards – action step 6 of P-16 Initiative.

Full P-16 initiative: Call for reviewing every standard

P-16 Focuses on Commissioner's action steps. Proposed Regents Plan for the Next State of Educational Reform (Pre-K-16.)

www.oms.nysed.gov/comm/2006/1006commrep.html

Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies (OBEFLS)

Primary target ELA.

ELA new standards must be prepared by June 2008

- Focus is to improve outcomes for LEP/ELLs, action step number 3 of P-16 initiative.
- Action steps: accountability for meeting improvement targets, increase monitoring, enhance bilingual and ESL teaching teacher professional development, and increase outreach to parents.
- Title I and Title III testing issues. We now have to use them each year to comply with Federal law. How we use that data is still to be decided. Proficient level is increasing. 92% are showing progress.
- NYS Summer Institutes (NYSSSA)
 1. Eight programs: ballet, dance, choral, orchestra, jazz, theater, visual arts, and media arts. (Mary Daly head that program)

Howard Goldsmith

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Pat Barbanell

When State is developing AIS if the ARTS are the ticket to success, can you enhance the presence of the arts in the AIS programs? She urged Goldsmith to bring that back to SED.

Goldsmith:

The Regents realize the ARTS are a focus. Better focus is to integrate the ARTS in reading than pull students out of Art for reading.

Barbanell:

What is the schedule for reviewing all the standards?

Goldsmith:

In Article 7 Bill, the Regents and Commissioner need to set u a schedule in June 2007.

Robin Young, School Library Systems Association of NYS.

No access to library resource in school. Services of a librarian are needed in all the schools.

Literacy-Role of Librarian as an information literary teacher is omitted in solutions that are being developed. It would be helpful to include librarians service-the school library are right in the school and administrations don't understand the role of the Librarian

Goldsmith: Libraries and Museums need to be an essential part of increasing literacy.

Francine Stayter, NYS Reading Association

There is research base that is developing that when literacy specialist has expertise in reading more progress is made. Remember scholarship and expertise of reading specialist.

Goldsmith. We are not doing away from Reading Specialists

Dave Arnone, NYS Technology Education Association

1. We appreciate the Regional conferences being conducted by CTERC.
2. In order for Local School Districts to pursue certification of their CTE programs, there needs to be more flexibility. Most of our students are college bound and in some cases college credit may need to be used in lieu of industry Standard exams for commencement.
3. I am concerned that the Summer Institutes do not include Math, Science or Technology but only focus on the Arts.

Howard Goldsmith asked Dave to send him an E-mail on those issues.

4. When the MST & CDOS Standards are reviewed, will the field be included or will they be completed by SED staff?

Goldsmith responded: Yes, the field will be included.

NYSCEA Leadership Presentation

11:30 – 12:00 Dennis Tosetto, NYSCEA President-elect
2007 ~ 2009 A Vision for NYSCEA

Dennis distributed his proposal. He referred to letter he wrote, with our approval, to Jean Stevens

Pat Barbanell asked Dennis to summarize his Proposal for Change.

Dennis: Wants to develop a committee structure that will do research on responding to things we want to know

Things can be submitted to a group A synergy should be happening among us.

Pat: Set up a structure for study groups that would facilitate action

Dennis: we need to look at finances-we are deficit spending. What are our needs for the future. Do we want to do the Article Warehouse-does an organization want to work on it. Takes people or an organization to take this on. We need to figure out as a group what our needs are and then figure out how to implement that.

John Bailey, Math Supervisors

-We should make some phone calls and find out where hot buttons are and get people to present of those issues

Mary Ellen Colella explained that that is taking place currently.

John Bailey ~ We should consider scheduling our meetings for a day and a half – not just one day.

Joe Sugar ~ The Middle School has not had a chance to hit the ground.

Responded to Dennis' request to do things through our organization, Joe explained that our organizations are busy. Dennis explained he is just putting the idea out for us to think about.

Francine Stayter, Reading Association

Recommended SED people stay and we broke up in small groups to talk to them

David Ford, New York Counseling Association

What is the relationship of our organization to NYSCEA

He explained that people are here because of networking and what they get from SED and we should continue.

Pat Barbanell, NYSATA

Interprets Dennis's proposal as becoming more proactive. She thinks it is an idea to explore.

Rita Molloy, Nurses

It is important for us to have a forum with SED staff. Her organization is in financial difficulty because they have merged with the National organization. When we look at funding and revenue streams be mindful that some organizations are restricted. We may need more time at the meeting.

Dennis we may want to have more time, more e-mail communications. We may want to have a process that would allow it to percolate in the group.

George Ranieri, NYSCEA Historian and Nominating Chairperson

Commended Dennis for his proposal. Talked about a historical perspective. He spoke about 30 years ago . He explained that when we used to co-sponsor the Summer Programs at SPAC, we did monologues. We did things because we did it as a NYSCEA group. He explained that SED is skeletal now. It was NYSCEA that wanted to become a player in the field of education. We do have the Unions, the School Board Associations that help drive government. As we move forward, we not only have to speak to SED, and they appreciate it, but we have to be one of the

players and work with the power players. We have to walk the walk and do the talk. We should take advantage of meeting with the Regents.

We decided to think about our discussion over lunch and decide where we want to go with the ideas discussed.

Colleen commended Dennis for taking the time to think about how NYSCEA can be more effective. We have to think what are we doing right and how we can go forward. She encouraged people to stay for the business meeting.

Joe Sugar announced that it is the 75th anniversary of the Music Association.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Davidson

Secretary, NYSCEA