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Summary of May 2024 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, and Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Regent Roger Tillis opened the meeting by recognizing the month of May as **Jewish Heritage Month** when we pay tribute to the Jewish Americans who helped form the fabric of American history, culture and society. Regent Tillis reflected on the idea of Jewish values as they relate to humanitarian values in general. He went on to share that, although it has been a difficult year for the Jewish Community, he is very proud of the actions the Board of Regents has taken in recent years to confront anti-Semitism.

Regent Shino Tanikawa also recognized the month of May as **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**. She offered some reflective thoughts on the historical and cultural contributions that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to our country.

Chancellor Lester Young also acknowledged **May 6th as National Nurses Day** and the week of **May 6 through May 10 as Teacher Appreciation Week**.

P-12 related topics covered during the March meeting and summarized in this report include:

- **Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures Update**
- **Enacted State Budget Update**
- **Proposed Amendment Relating to the Awarding of Posthumous Diplomas**
- **Proposed Amendment Relating to Mixed Competition and Extra Class Activities**

- **Graduation Measures Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) Update**

Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle introduced the opening presentation which included an update on the work of the **Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures (BRC)**. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the project timeline, the goals and priorities, and updated Board members on the progress to date.

With regards to future work, it is anticipated the Board will receive another progress update at the June Board of Regents meeting, with specific policy recommendations scheduled to be announced in the **Fall 2024**.

The link below includes the slides used during the presentation. They include an overview of the specific priorities being considered by the BRC that could be useful to share with staff, as a frame of reference to have, before the final recommendations are released.

https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20New%20York%20State%20Graduation%20Measures%20Initiative_0.pdf

- **Review of Enacted State Budget**

State Aid Subcommittee members updated the Board on the 2024-25 Board of Regents Budget Proposal as it relates to the recently enacted budget approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

Several items approved in the enacted budget that were in the Board of Regents proposed budget were highlighted. They include:

- Funding to support consolidating three statewide **Early Learning Programs** to improve enrollment flexibility and access.
- An approved **APPR** policy which focuses on a model that promotes teacher and administrator professional growth. The bill also allows for certification flexibilities to address the teacher shortage.
- Funding to support the development of a statewide **Financial Literacy Curriculum**.

With regards to budget requests that were not approved, Commissioner Rosa expressed specific frustration that the legislature did not support the Board's proposal to fund an extensive study/review of the **Foundation Aid Formula**. The Commissioner feels that failing to take this step will only continue the annual inconsistencies and inequities that occur each year with Foundation Aid funding during the budget process.

The link below includes a detailed comparison of the Board's proposed budget and the actual enacted budget.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/SA%20-%20Regents%20Priorities%20and%20the%20Enacted%20Budget.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to the Awarding of Posthumous Diplomas**

The Board approved an amendment to allow school districts, nonpublic schools and charter schools, at the request of a parent or person in a parental relation, to confer a high school diploma on a deceased student if the student was enrolled in the school or district at the time of death. The amendment becomes effective May 7, 2024.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/524p12a1revised.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to Mixed Competition and Extra Class Activities**

The Board discussed amendments that provide parameters for male and female students to participate on the same interschool athletic team (Mixed Competition), when a school does not offer separate male and female teams.

Based upon a review of the law, research, and stakeholder feedback, the amendment proposes that the department is committed to providing athletes of all genders the opportunity to play and participate in extra class athletic activities. This includes promoting process equality between separate male and female athletic programs and encouraging mixed gender teams.

Key components of the proposed amendments include:

- Requiring that in instances where a school employs a selection process for student athletes to participate on a team, eligibility should be determined during the tryout process. This allows school staff to determine whether a prospective student athlete has sufficient related skills, knowledge of the sport, motivation, and the appropriate cognitive, motor, and social development to successfully participate on a particular team.
- Updated terminology that includes gender neutral and gender inclusive language, and updates to language that has been previously used to reference students with disabilities.
- Clarification of the Athletic Placement Process for districts to allow students in grades 7 and 8 to play up to high school level teams or for students in grades 9-12 to play down at the modified level.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the September 2024 Board of Regents meeting after the expiration of the 60-day public comment period.

The link below includes the specific provisions and new terminology included in the proposed amendments.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/524p12d1.pdf>