

The Empire State Supervisors and Administrators (“ESSAA”) had its monthly Stakeholder Meeting with Commissioner of Education, MaryEllen Elia and Senior Deputy Commissioner for Educational Policy, Jhone Ebert Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

Present at the meeting for ESSAA were: Carol Conklin-Spillane, ESSAA Member, Tarrytown School District; John Rickert, ESSAA Member, Niskayuna School District; Shireen Fasciglione, ESSAA Member, Niskayuna School District; Rick Kimble ESSAA Vice President, Corning School District; Michael McDermott, ESSAA Vice President, Scarsdale School District; Michael A. Starvaggi, ESSAA Executive Director, Matthew Kravatz, ESSAA Member, Monroe Woodbury; David Wagner, ESSAA Liaison and Ryan Schoenfeld, ESSAA Vice President, Lockport School District.

The topics discussed were as follows:

### **Value Added Model**

We asked for the Commissioner’s perspective on the review of the Value Added Growth Model, particularly in light of the recent court decision in Lederman. The Commissioner believes that Lederman has limited precedential value. However, she stressed that, while the APPR statute mandates the use of a growth score, it does not mandate the use of a value added method and she left open the possibility that the ultimate measure may or may not have the value added component.

### **Feedback on Administration of State Tests**

We informed the Commissioner that we believe there should be feedback on the experiences of building leaders as to the impact that recent developments (opt-outs, untimed testing) have had on the administration of the exams. The Commissioner said that SED would be sending a survey to ask for feedback on that issue before the end of the school year and will base recommendations and best practices on the results of the survey. It will go out before the end of the school year.

### **Curriculum Standards Review**

Over 2,500 people have volunteered to participate in recommendations for curriculum standards review. Those who are not chosen to be on committees will have the opportunity to provide input online. NYSED’s plan is to work with

committees this summer and make recommendations in the early Fall. Allowing time for further review and comment, they expect to have final standards ready at the end of 2016 or in early 2017. As to the “name change” (avoidance of the term “Common Core”) Deputy Commissioner Ebert pointed out that the review goes beyond ELA and math and is therefore broader in scope than the Common Core.

### **Graduation Alternatives**

The Commissioner discussed some of the alternative paths to graduation including the Seal of biliteracy, AP/IB and 4+1/ Ms. Conklin-Spillane asked about the use of local assessments for the “plus one” component and the Commissioner said that any such assessments must be submitted to SED for approval. ESSAA believes that the use of a foreign language regional exam is a desirable option that supports the goal of biliteracy. We encourage support from SED and our membership in implementing this policy.

### **APPR**

Deputy Commissioner Ebert confirmed that the most recent Regents Rules changes were intended to make scoring of principals’ building visit category a cumulative, year-long process. She also confirmed that year-end meetings can be used as a “natural conversation” during which principals can present evidence to “fill in the gaps” on any elements of the rubric that were not observed during the yearly visits.

These statements aligned with ESSAA’s model APPR forms and we were pleased that our recommendations were consistent with the Regents’ modifications.

Deputy Commissioner Ebert **stated that, as of today, 124 3012-d plans had been approved and 39 more have been submitted for approval.**

### **New PD Requirements**

The new 100 hour PD cycles begin on July 1, 2016. The Commissioner made it clear that anyone can pre-register, i.e. you do not have to wait until your birth month to register but the five-year cycle will become effective as of your birth month. She also said that administrators are encouraged to keep their teaching certificates current. SED will inquire into “bundling” the registration so that, for anyone holding multiple certifications, the renewal of all certifications are viewed under one profile.

### **Absenteeism**

We discussed the issue of student absenteeism. The Commissioner feels strongly that attendance is a key component to learning. We asked about the role of DSS and other agencies in this process and the Commissioner agrees that each agency must be held accountable for their role in this process. She stated that the newly re-established Office of Family and Community Engagement (see below) will be a significant actor in dealing with absenteeism.

### **New Offices**

The Commissioner also informed us that SED is re-establishing the Office of Family and Community Engagement as well as titles to act as liaisons for the State's non-public schools.

### **ESSA Think Tank**

ESSAA has been invited to participate in the State's Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA") Think Tank. This assembly will review and make recommendations for the implementation of ESSA, which gives significant leverage to each state to make determinations on how schools are rated.

Please feel free to send any feedback you may have about these issues to [info@essaa.org](mailto:info@essaa.org).