

Summary of January 2021 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, January 11th via video conference. Regent Frances Wills began the session with some reflective thoughts on the current political and social unrest occurring across our nation. Regent Wills specifically noted the significant challenges presented to teachers and educational leaders with assisting students in understanding the issues which led to the recent attack on the U.S. Capitol. She went on to stress the need for educators to work together toward encouraging hope and optimism while also recognizing student fears and concerns.

During the meeting, the Board of Regents unanimously elected **Dr. Lester Young Jr.** as the new Chancellor. The first African American to serve in this position, Dr. Young succeeds Dr. Betty Rosa, who stepped down from her role as Chancellor in August to serve as the Interim Commissioner of Education. With over 50 years of public service to his credit, Dr. Young has been a member of the Board of Regents since 2008 and most recently, has been instrumental in establishing and overseeing the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Vice Chancellor Andrew Brown also announced that he would be leaving his role as Vice Chancellor to accept the position of president of the New York State Bar Association. It is anticipated that a new vice chancellor will be nominated at the February Board of Regents meeting.

The Board approved the appointment of **Sharon Cates-Williams** as the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Education. For the past ten years, Mrs. Cates-Williams has served NYSED as the Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Management Services.

Before moving into executive session for the remainder of the meeting, the Board extended several previously approved emergency amendments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board did not discuss or approve any new regulatory changes.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/121brca3.pdf>