



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: MaryEllen Elia
SUBJECT: Appointment of Alison B. Bianchi as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs
DATE: July 11, 2016
AUTHORIZATION(S):

Executive Summary

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Alison B. Bianchi as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs?

Reason for Consideration

Required by Regents Rules.

Proposed Handling

The Board of Regents will discuss this appointment in Executive Session on Monday, July 11, 2016. It will then come to the Full Board later that day for action.

Procedural History

Richard Trautwein, Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs, will retire effective July 13, 2016. As of July 14, 2016, the position of Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs will be vacant.

Background Information

The appointment of Alison B. Bianchi as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs will provide continuity and leadership in the Office of Counsel. Ms. Bianchi brings extensive knowledge, distinguished experience, and a commitment to the important work of the Office of Counsel. Since July 2011, Ms. Bianchi has served as Deputy Counsel where she has provided legal advice and counsel to the Board of Regents, Commissioner and Department staff on critical policy matters and key initiatives. She is intimately familiar with the work of the Office of Counsel, having managed the day-to-day operations of the office as Deputy Counsel, and having previously served in several other capacities in the State Education Department since 2004, including the Office of Counsel and the Office of State Assessment. I am confident that Ms. Bianchi will continue to build on the Office of Counsel's record of success and tradition of providing the highest quality legal services to the Regents, Commissioner and Department.

Recommendation

Accordingly, I recommend that you take the following action.

VOTED, that the Board of Regents accept the appointment of Alison B. Bianchi as Acting Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs, effective July 14, 2016.

Timetable for Implementation

The appointment will be effective July 14, 2016.