

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of May 13, 2010

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Amanda Avallone, Vice Chair, Lou Fabrizio, Alan Friedman, David Gordon, Kathi King, Mary Frances Taymans, Darvin Winick, Eileen Weiser. Other Board Members: David Alukonis, John Q. Easton (*ex officio*), Kim Kozbial-Hess, Doris Hicks, Henry Kranendonk, Tonya Miles, Sue Pimentel, W. James Popham. NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Susan Loomis, Lawrence Feinberg, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Munira Mwalimu. NCEC Staff: Peggy Carr, Suzanne Triplett, Arnold Goldstein, Andrew Kolstad, Holly Spurlock, Brenda Wolff. ETS: Jay Campbell, Mary Pitoniak, Andres Oranje, Nicole Beaulieu, David Freund, Greg Vafis, Stephen Szyszkiewicz. HumRRO: Laress L. Wise, Steve Sellman. Pearson: Connie Smith, Russ Vogt. AIR: George Bohrnstedt, Fran Stancavage. Westat: Nancy Caldwell, Keith Rust. NAEP ESSI: Kim Gattis. Hager Sharp: Lisa Clarke, Siobhan Mueller. McGraw-Hill Education: Larry Snowwhite.

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Governing Board Committee Updates

Kathi King, Chair, Assessment Development Committee

In its May 13, 2010 meeting, the Assessment Development Committee (ADC) reviewed about 500 NAEP mathematics items at grades 4 and 8 for the 2011 operational assessment, the 2013 pilot, and a special study; Committee action to approve the items will be taken on May 14. The Governing Board approved the Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment Framework at the March 2010 meeting. At the May 2010 meeting, the Governing Board will be asked to approve the specifications document for the Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment and the grade to be assessed. The very low performance of certain jurisdictions has created the need to address ways to increase measurement precision at the low end of the NAEP scale. The Committee will hear presentations on research planned to address this issue—the development and piloting of special blocks of grade 4 and 8 mathematics items targeted to the low end of the NAEP scale (referred to as Knowledge and Skills Appropriate (KaSA)) and a study employing multi-stage testing, a form of computer-adaptive testing, to be conducted in 2011. The committee also will hear presentations on student non-response to NAEP items and an update on the computer-based writing assessment.

Lou Fabrizio, Chair, Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology

The 2009 grade 12 mathematics assessment is based on a new assessment framework, but will continue the trend line begun in 2005. New achievement level descriptions are needed for reporting the 2009 grade 12 mathematics results. A procedure for drafting, vetting, and finalizing the new reading achievement level descriptions has been underway since November 2009. At the May 2010 meeting, the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM) will present grade 12 mathematics achievement level descriptions for 2009 for Governing Board approval. Gene Wilhoit, Council of Chief State School Officers Executive Director, will meet with the Committee to discuss the status of the Common Core State Standards initiative. A presentation will be made to the Committee on the design of the multi-stage testing/computer-adaptive testing study proposed for 2011, also to be discussed by ADC. COSDAM will also receive an update on the 12th grade preparedness research program, and a briefing on plans and options in 2011 for studies to link NAEP with TIMSS and PIRLS. In closed session, the Committee will receive an update on the status of the achievement levels to be set by the Board on the 2009 science assessment. One of the options under consideration is to delay action on the achievement levels to gather additional information.

David Gordon, Chair, Reporting and Dissemination Committee

Approval of the release plan for the 2009 Science Report Card is an action item at the May 2010 Board meeting. The Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R&D) will also review two of the NAEP 2011 background questionnaires: the core background questionnaire for teachers and the special supplemental questionnaire for charter schools. The Committee had met by conference call on May 3, 2010 to review the core background questionnaire for schools and made recommendations on 9 items for deletion, combining, or further study. The Committee also will receive an update on the planned Mega-States report.

Eileen Weiser, Chair, Nominations Committee

The letters of commitment and resumes have been received from all finalists for the five Board vacancies to be filled for terms beginning October 1, 2010. The notebook containing these materials will be assembled and delivered to Secretary Duncan by the end of May 2010.

3. Nomination of Vice Chair for Term October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011

Chair David Driscoll reviewed the procedures for nominating and electing the Vice Chair of the Governing Board. While the Secretary of Education appoints the Governing Board Chair, under the Board's by-laws the Board elects its own Vice Chair. The election is conducted each year at the August Board meeting for a 1-year term that begins the following October 1. The Executive Committee is responsible for nominating a candidate for Vice Chair. Amanda Avallone has served as Vice Chair since Oct. 1 2006; her second 4-year Board term ends Sept. 30, 2010 and she is not eligible for nomination. Mr. Driscoll said that he has asked David Gordon to work with Executive Committee members and Board members to put forward a nominee at the August 2010 Board meeting. Mr. Driscoll also stated that he will recuse himself from the nomination process.

4. The Common Core State Standards Initiative and Race to the Top

Cornelia Orr said that Gene Wilhoit will be providing a report to the Board on May 14, 2010 about the Common Core State Standards initiative. She referred the Executive Committee to the three background documents in the Board briefing book and the “key takeaways” listed in those documents. Ms. Orr noted that the draft English language arts standards document refers to the NAEP reading and writing frameworks and their use in developing the draft standards. She reviewed key dates related to the development of the draft Common Core State Standards. College and Career ready standards were completed in November 2009; K-12 draft standards for mathematics and English language arts were made available for public comment in April 2010; and final K-12 standards are expected by late summer 2010. Turning to Race to the Top, Ms. Orr said that June 3, 2010 is the due date for grant applications for developing common assessments, with awards scheduled to be made in September 2010. The Phase I competition for Race to the Top grants yielded 41 state applications and two awardees: Delaware and Tennessee. Applications for Phase II of the competition are due June 1, 2010, with awards to be made in September 2010.

Chairman Driscoll said that there is wide interest and many questions about how NAEP will or should relate to the Common Core State Standards. He said that the Governing Board should address this topic. He added that individuals representing a wide range of perspectives should be invited to address the Board on this topic, including both supporters and critics. Mr. Driscoll said that it is important for the Board to “stick to its knitting,” on the one hand, but added that the Board has in its history and culture the habit of challenging itself, looking to the future, and acting boldly when it determines a course that will be beneficial to the nation and the nation’s students. He said there is time set aside on Saturday morning, May 15, for the Governing Board to begin this discussion.

5. Update on CCSSO Task Force and NAEP Business Policy Task Force

Mary Crovo said that the CCSSO Task Force conducted a meetings by WebEx in April and has an in-person meeting scheduled for late May. The issues the members have addressed include NAEP reporting, the implementation of the new SD/ELL policy, the communications audit, international linking studies, and 12th grade preparedness. There will be a forum at the annual CCSSO assessment conference in June 2010 on the use and misuse of NAEP data in which Task Force members will participate. The Task Force will make a presentation to the Board at the August 2010 meeting.

Ray Fields said that the NAEP Business Policy Task Force has now met three times, once in person and twice by WebEx, most recently on April 30, 2010. The Task Force is particularly interested in the Board’s work on 12th grade preparedness, the planned international linking studies, and the relationship between NAEP and the Common Core State Standards initiative. The Task Force members over their three meetings have made numerous suggestions for ways to disseminate NAEP data and related information to the business community. The Task Force members’ suggestions have been distilled by the Task Force support contractor into a draft

communications plan. Task Force Chair Phyllis Hudecki and Vice Chair Lloyd Jackson will present the draft communications plan to the Board at the August 2010 Board meeting.

6. Governing Board Personnel Matter: Evaluation Process for the Executive Director

David Driscoll said that, as Governing Board Chair, he is responsible for the annual evaluation of the Executive Director's performance. Mr. Driscoll said that he would like to do this with the involvement of all Board members. He said that materials will be provided to Board members to be completed and returned to him by June 1, 2010. He added that Board members should feel free to talk with him directly as well.

ACTION ITEM

7. NAEP Schedule of Assessments

At the March 2010 meeting, the Governing Board made three changes to the NAEP schedule of assessments:

1. Canceling the 2011 4th grade writing assessment at the national and state levels;
2. Adding in 2011 an assessment of science at grade 8 at the national and state levels; and
3. Postponing until 2014 the technology and engineering literacy assessment currently scheduled for 2012.

The primary reason for these changes was to enable the conduct of statistical linking studies in 2011 between NAEP and international assessments to be conducted the same year (i.e., the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 8th grade mathematics and science, and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) in 4th grade reading). The Governing Board had passed a resolution in November 2009 unanimously supporting the conduct of studies to link NAEP with international assessments.

When the schedule changes described above were presented in March 2010, Board staff reported that additional schedule changes would be needed to optimize opportunities for linking with international assessments beyond 2011. TIMSS is scheduled every four years, so it is expected to be conducted again in 2015 and 2019. Because these changes to the NAEP schedule would have ripple effects in other years and on other subjects, additional consultation with NCEES was necessary. Board staff indicated that these further changes would be proposed for action at the May 2010 Board meeting.

Changes to the subjects to be assessed are proposed in 2013, 2015, and 2017. In addition, in 2014, the possibility of adopting new frameworks for U.S. history and civics was indicated previously, because both frameworks have been in place for more than 10 years. However, only minor updates will be needed for these two frameworks. With the proposed changes, reading and mathematics will continue to be assessed every two years. Science and writing, once the schedule becomes regularized, will continue to be assessed every four years in alternating odd-numbered years.

Specifically, the proposed changes to the subjects to be assessed are as follows:

In 2013:

- Add writing at grade 4 (national) with the expectation that it will be computer-based
- Add reading at grade 12 (state)
- Add mathematics at grade 12 (state)
- Postpone science at grades 4, 8 and 12 (national)
- Postpone science at grades 4 and 8 (state)
- Postpone the High School Transcript Study

In 2015:

- Add reading at grade 12 (national and state)
- Add mathematics at grade 12 (national and state)
- Add science at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national and state)
- Add the High School Transcript Study
- Postpone writing at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national) and at grades 4 and 8 (state)

In 2017:

- Add reading at grade 12 (state)
- Add mathematics at grade 12 (state)
- Add writing at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national and state)
- Postpone science at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national and state)
- Postpone the High School Transcript Study

CLOSED SESSION: 5:30 – 6:00 P.M.

8. Contract Costs FY 2010-2012

The Executive Committee met in closed session from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Peggy Carr and Cornelia Orr discussed contractor costs and contract options under NAEP and Governing Board contracts.

The meeting was conducted in closed session because the disclosure of technical and cost data would significantly impede implementation of the contract awards and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(C) of Title 5 U.S.C.

OPEN SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

At 6:00 p.m., Chair David Driscoll declared the meeting open. At that time, discussion returned to the NAEP schedule of assessments.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend that the National Assessment Governing Board approve the NAEP schedule of assessments as it appears on the attachment. The specific amendments to the current schedule are as follows:

In 2013:

- Add writing at grade 4 (national) with the expectation that it will be computer-based
- Add reading at grade 12 (state)
- Add mathematics at grade 12 (state)
- Postpone science at grades 4, 8 and 12 (national)
- Postpone science at grades 4 and 8 (state)
- Postpone the High School Transcript Study

In 2015:

- Add reading at grade 12 (national and state)
- Add mathematics at grade 12 (national and state)
- Add science at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national and state)
- Add the High School Transcript Study
- Postpone writing at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national) and at grades 4 and 8 (state)

In 2017:

- Add reading at grade 12 (state)
- Add mathematics at grade 12 (state)
- Add writing at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national and state)
- Postpone science at grades 4, 8, and 12 (national and state)
- Postpone the High School Transcript Study

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David P. Driscoll, Chair

May15, 2010

Date

NAEP Schedule of Assessments (with proposed revisions displayed)		
Year	National	State
2005	Reading MATHEMATICS Science High School Transcript Study	Reading (4, 8) MATH (4, 8) Science (4, 8)
2006	U.S. History Civics ECONOMICS (12)	
2007	Reading (4, 8) Mathematics (4, 8) Writing (8, 12)	Reading (4, 8) Math (4, 8) Writing (8)
2008	Arts (8) Long-term trend	
2009	READING Mathematics* SCIENCE High School Transcript Study	READING (4, 8, 12) Math (4, 8, 12) SCIENCE (4, 8)
2010	U.S. History Civics Geography	
2011	Reading (4, 8) Mathematics (4, 8) Science (8) WRITING (8, 12)	Reading (4, 8) Math (4, 8) Science (8)
2012	Economics (12) Long-term trend	
2013	Reading Mathematics WRITING (4)	Reading (4, 8, 12) Math (4, 8, 12)
2014	U.S. History Civics Geography TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING LITERACY**	
2015	Reading Mathematics Science High School Transcript Study	Reading (4, 8, 12) Math (4, 8, 12) Science (4, 8, 12)
2016	Arts (8) Long-term trend	
2017	Reading Mathematics Writing	Reading (4, 8, 12) Math (4, 8, 12) Writing (4, 8, 12)

*New framework for grade 12 only.

**Grade(s) to be determined.

NOTES:

- (1) Grades tested are 4, 8, and 12 unless otherwise indicated, except that long-term trend assessments sample students at ages 9, 13, and 17 and are conducted in reading and mathematics.
- (2) Subjects in **BOLD ALL CAPS** indicate the year in which a new framework is implemented or assessment year for which the Board will decide whether a new or updated framework is needed.
- (3) In 2009, 12th grade assessments in reading and mathematics at the state level will be conducted as a pilot in 11 volunteering states.
- (4) The Governing Board intends to conduct assessments at the 12th grade in World History and Foreign Language during the assessment period 2018-2022.