

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of March 3, 2011

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Mary Frances Taymans, Vice Chair, David Alukonis, Lou Fabrizio, Alan Friedman, David Gordon, Kathi King, Tonya Miles, Eileen Weiser. Other Board Members: Shannon Garrison, Doris Hicks, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, Henry Kranendonk, W. James Popham, Susan Pimentel, Andrew Porter, Blair Taylor. NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Susan Loomis, Lawrence Feinberg, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris. IES: John Q. Easton. NCES Staff: Jack Buckley, Peggy Carr, Arnold Goldstein, Suzanne Triplett, Brenda Wolff. ETS: Jay Campbell, David Freund, Andreas Oranje, John Mazzeo, Amy Dresher. HumRRO: Laress L. Wise, Steve Sellman. Pearson: Brad Thayer, Connie Smith. Westat: Nancy Caldwell, Dianne Walsh, Chris Averett, Robert Patchen. NAEP ESSI: Kim Gattis, Cadelle Hemphill. Hager Sharp: Debra Silimeo, Siobhan Mueller. Measured Progress: Luz Bay. Florida Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services: Suzanne Dalton.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Driscoll congratulated Jack Buckley on his recent appointment as Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and welcomed him to his first Governing Board meeting. Mr. Driscoll also mentioned that newly appointed Board member Tom Luna, Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction, had planned to attend the Board meeting but was called to a special session of the Idaho State Legislature.

2. Governing Board Committee Updates

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

The Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology will receive four updates at this Board meeting. The first update will be a report on the design document for setting achievement levels for writing. The second will be a report on the status of preparing achievement level descriptions for writing. The third will be a report on the Board's program of research on 12th grade academic preparedness. The fourth will be a briefing by Gary Phillips on his proposal for linking NAEP 4th grade reading in 2011 with the 2011 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). The Committee also will discuss future agenda items.

Kathi King, Chair, Assessment Development Committee

Ms. King announced that the interactive Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment Framework is now available on the Governing Board website. The Assessment Development Committee reviewed 250 NAEP Long Term Trend reading and mathematics items, intended for

the 2012 assessment and the pilot for the 2016 assessment. The Committee will receive a demonstration of NAEP science Interactive Computer Tasks (ICTs) and the plans for reporting ICT and Hands-on Task results from the 2009 science assessment. The Committee also will be briefed on plans for reporting the meaning vocabulary results from the 2009 reading assessment.

David Alukonis, Chair, Nominations Committee

From November 2010 to January 2011, the Nominations Committee reviewed more than 150 nominations for Board appointments for terms beginning October 1, 2011. A slate of finalists in each open category will be presented to the Governing Board on Saturday, March 5, 2011 for review and action. The categories of vacancies to be filled are: chief state school officer, 12th grade teacher, local school superintendent, testing and measurement expert, curriculum specialist (2 slots), and state board of education member.

David Gordon, Chair, Reporting and Dissemination Committee

The Reporting and Dissemination Committee will review two recent releases: the 2009 national and state Science Report Card and the 2009 trial urban district assessment Science Report Card. The Committee will also review the schedule for upcoming releases for the remainder of 2011. The Committee will have three discussion topics: (1) changes in racial/ethnic categories under a directive from the Office of Management and Budget, and their impact on reporting student achievement trends; (2) NAEP background questions; and (3) the embargo policy for NAEP releases. The Committee will take action on release plans for the Mega States Report and the 2010 Civics Report Card.

3. Future of the Governing Board and NAEP

Chair David Driscoll said that the discussions begun at the May 2010 Board have produced many good ideas that are beginning to be translated into actions. These will be discussed in more detail during the March 4, 2011 plenary session. Mr. Driscoll said that the Board will continue to stick to its knitting—producing valid NAEP reports with rigorous technical quality. However, there will be a continuing focus on doing more to communicate the meaning of the results in ways that can impact student achievement. He said that this effort will involve all Board members and that he will challenge Board members to be more proactive. Mr. Driscoll cited the NAEP Parent Engagement Initiative as an example of exploring new ways to be more proactive and have greater impact. He thanked Tonya Miles for her willingness to lead this initiative.

4. NAEP Parent Engagement Initiative

Tonya Miles said that she had worked closely with Board staff and Chair Driscoll during the months since the November 2010 Board meeting in framing the mission statement, structure, and timeline for the NAEP Parent Engagement Initiative. The Executive Committee had reviewed an initial draft during its January 31, 2011 teleconference.

The mission of the Parent Engagement Initiative is

“to develop recommendations describing steps and strategies the Governing Board and representatives of the NAEP program can take directly, and/or to support the efforts of others, to increase parent awareness about the urgency to improve the levels of student achievement...and...reduce the size of achievement gaps between students of different racial and ethnic groups and income levels.”

Ms. Miles noted that the recommendations will be explicit about the limits on the Board’s role, so that all appropriate options are considered, while ensuring that the Board’s authority under law is not exceeded. She said that the initial structure will be an ad hoc committee comprised of Board members, but that after the committee is appointed, the members will decide on the structure most appropriate for involving individuals external to the Board.

Ms. Miles invited all Board members to share their suggestions and indicate their interest in membership on the ad hoc committee. Under the timeline for the initiative, the Board Chair is to appoint the ad hoc committee members by March 10, 2011. The target date for the ad hoc committee’s report is March 2012.

5. Updates: CCSSO Policy Task Force, NAEP Business Policy Task Force, NAEP 12th Grade Preparedness Commission

Mary Crovo said that the CCSSO Policy Task Force is now in its fourth year. Its mission is to provide input to the Board on a range of policy issues. Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Commonwealth of Virginia, is a new member, serving as Co-Chair with Joe Wilhoft, who will transition off the Task Force due to his appointment as Executive Director for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. One of the issues the Task Force has addressed is the embargo policy for NAEP data releases, a topic that is presently before the Reporting and Dissemination Committee.

Ray Fields said that the NAEP Business Policy Task Force is now in its second year. Its mission is to provide input on NAEP policy from the perspective of business and to improve the reach of NAEP to the business community. The Task Force had recommended two audience targets as a starting point. The initial audience targets are the business community in (1) the 11 states that participated in 12th grade state NAEP and (2) the districts that participate in the trial urban district assessment (TUDA). A webinar for the business community in the 11 states was conducted on December 8, 2010. A webinar for the business community in the TUDA cities is planned for March or April 2011. The Task Force will be addressing the Board Chair’s challenge: how to convey the urgency of improving achievement and narrowing achievement gaps to the business community.

Ray Fields said that, with the preparedness research beginning to yield results, the NAEP 12th Grade Preparedness Commission had determined that the time is appropriate for conducting events to share the research with stakeholders and receive their input. The Executive Committee had reviewed a draft of the Commission’s plan in early February 2011. Comments received

from Executive Committee members were incorporated in the version included in the Board briefing book.

Mr. Fields distributed an updated version of the Commission plan that incorporates comments received after the briefing book went to press. There were four main changes: (1) the activities will be referred to as outreach events; (2) clarification was made that the research should focus on academic preparedness; (3) clarification was made that background material will be sent to invitees in advance of the meeting, with a solicitation for comments on the potential relevance and utility of the research for local and state efforts; and (4) the initial outreach event is proposed for California. Mr. Fields noted that the Commission's plan provides a role for Governing Board members in the outreach events. As a first step, Mr. Fields invited Board members from California to participate in a conference call during the week of February 7, 2011 to begin planning for the outreach event in their state.

6. Status of FY 2011 Appropriations

Ray Fields reported that the FY 2011 appropriation has not yet been enacted. Currently, the federal government is operating under a Continuing Resolution through March 18, 2011. Under the Continuing Resolution, NAEP and the Governing Board are supported at FY 2010 levels (\$130.1 million for NAEP and \$8.7 million for the Board). Peggy Carr, NCES Associate Commissioner, stated that the President's request for FY 2012, which is now public, includes an increase for NAEP of \$5 million above the FY 2010 level, to \$135.1 million.

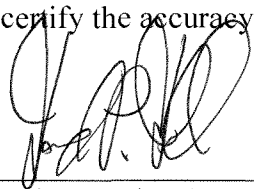
CLOSED SESSION: 5:15 – 6:00 P.M.

7. Contract Costs FY 2011-2012

The Executive Committee met in closed session from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Peggy Carr, NCES Associate Commissioner, discussed contractor costs and contract options under NAEP contracts for FY 2011 and FY 2012.

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.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David P. Driscoll, Chair

03/04/11

Date