

# National Assessment Governing Board

## Executive Committee

### Report of May 12, 2011

**Attendees:** Mary Frances Taymans, Vice Chair (Acting Chair), David Alukonis, Lou Fabrizio, Alan Friedman, Kathi King, Tonya Miles. Other Board Members: Shannon Garrison, Hector Ibarra, Henry Kranendonk, W. James Popham, Susan Pimentel. 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, Andrew Kolstad, Suzanne Triplett, Brenda Wolff. ETS: Stephen Lazer, Jay Campbell, Andreas Oranje. HumRRO: Laress L. Wise, Steve Sellman. NAEP ESSI: Kim Gattis, Teresa Neidorf. Hager Sharp: Lisa Jacques. Measured Progress: Luz Bay. Fulcrum IT: Saira Brenner. AIR: George Bohrnstedt.

#### 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Mary Frances Taymans called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. She said that Chairman Driscoll was unable to attend the meeting because he had been subpoenaed to testify in a trial in Massachusetts. Consequently, she will be chairing the Board meeting on May 13, 2011 and Kathi King will be chairing on May 14. She then asked Executive Director Cornelia Orr to describe the process for the nomination of Governing Board Vice Chair for the term October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. Ms. Orr said that Chair Driscoll had asked Kathi King to lead the nominations process; that Ms. King would poll Board members and present a recommendation to the Executive Committee at the August 2011 Board meeting; and that the Board would vote on the nominee at the August 2011 Board meeting.

#### 2. Governing Board Committee Updates

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

The Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology will review four items at the May 2011 Board meeting. The first item is a report on the status of the development of achievement levels descriptions for writing, which are to be presented to the committee in August 2011. The second item is an overview of the achievement level-setting process for writing. The third item is a report on the Board's program of research on 12<sup>th</sup> grade academic preparedness, including a review of the SAT-NAEP statistical relationship study, now completed. The fourth item is a briefing by Steve Wise of the Northwest Evaluation Association, located in Portland, Oregon. He will describe his research on inferring motivation through response time analysis of student behaviors in computer-based assessments, an important consideration as NAEP moves toward computer-based testing.

Kathi King, Chair, Assessment Development Committee

The Assessment Development Committee (ADC) met in closed session on May 12, 2011 to review early work on items for the Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment. Intensive development work is continuing on the computer-based TEL tasks and items in preparation for the 2014 assessment. This assessment will be administered at the national level at grade 8.

The ADC spent nearly 5 hours reviewing and approving “task sketches” for TEL. These task sketches are brief descriptions of the interactive, computer-based assessment tasks.

The TEL development process differs in many ways from traditional paper and pencil item development. After ADC approval of the task sketches, they move into an intense item development process. This results in the production of detailed programming specifications for the computer-based tasks. These specifications are given to the software development team, which begins the iterative process of programming the tasks for delivery by computer. Reviews of the tasks are then performed for consistency with the TEL Framework, grade-level appropriateness, bias and sensitivity, and other factors. Cognitive labs are conducted to try out the tasks and items in a one-on-one setting using a think-aloud interviewer protocol. Small scale tryouts are held to further refine the tasks. This process results in a fully programmed version of the tasks which will be submitted for ADC review in 2012. There will be a small-scale pilot test of the TEL tasks in 2012, a large-scale pilot in 2013, and the operational administration in 2014.

On May 13, the ADC will receive a briefing on and work with the Science Hands-on Tasks, which will be the subject of an upcoming NAEP Report this summer. A briefing on preliminary findings of a feasibility study of the NAEP computer-based writing assessment at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be provided. The Committee will discuss prior NAEP development work in two subject areas – foreign language and world history – which are planned for conduct during the period 2018 through 2022.

David Alukonis, Chair, Nominations Committee

David Alukonis reported on the status of nominations for terms beginning on October 1, 2011. Following Board approval of the finalists at the March 2011 Board meeting, the slates of candidates along with the notebook of resumes was submitted to Secretary Duncan in early April. The categories for the 2011 cycle are: chief state school officer, local school superintendent, testing and measurement expert, 12<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, state board member, and curriculum specialist (two slots). The Secretary’s announcement of the Board appointments for 2011 is expected later this summer.

The nominations process for the 2012-2013 cycle is beginning. The Committee will be discussing an outreach plan and other details for seeking nominations in six categories for next year: state legislator (Republican), testing and measurement expert, local school board member, general public/parent, Republican governor, and non-public school administrator. The annual “call for nominations” for the 2012 cycle is scheduled for early August. All Board members will receive information on how to submit nominations in the coming months.

### Reporting and Dissemination Committee

Sr. Mary Frances Taymans provided the Committee update, on behalf of Chair David Gordon and Vice Chair Eileen Weiser. Both were not in attendance at the May 2011 Board meeting due to health-related matters. The Reporting and Dissemination Committee will have two action items. The first involves recommendations for changes to race and ethnic categories arising from a government-wide policy promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget, and the impact of these changes on NAEP trend reporting. The second action item involves the release plans for 2010 Geography, 2009 Science Hands-on Tasks and Interactive Computer Tasks, and the 2005 High School Transcript Study Mathematics Course Content Analysis.

The Committee will receive updates on plans for reporting on students with disabilities and English-language learners in 2011 NAEP Report Cards; the projected schedule of future NAEP reports; and a review of two recent NAEP releases—2010 Civics and the 2009 High School Transcript Study. The Committee will discuss proposed guidelines designed to expand access to embargoed NAEP data prior to public release, the goal of which is to increase dissemination and reach a broader audience. Finally, the Committee will begin consideration of the plans for reporting on the NAEP 12<sup>th</sup> grade preparedness research.

### **3. Making a Difference—Ways to Improve Achievement and Close Achievement Gaps**

Cornelia Orr directed Committee members to two documents that had been shared in advance of the Board meeting—one written by Chair David Driscoll and one by Board member Jim Popham. These documents were intended as prompts for the Board member discussion scheduled for May 13, 2011 on what Board members can do, within the boundaries of the Board's authority, to promote the improvement of achievement and the closing of achievement gaps. Ms. Orr said that Tonya Miles will also provide an update for the full Board on the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Parent Engagement.

### **4. NAEP Parent Engagement Initiative**

Tonya Miles reported on the first meeting of the AD Hoc Committee, conducted earlier in the day on May 12. She said that the committee first reviewed their mission statement, which 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 in the U.S. and the urgency to reduce the size of achievement gaps by race, ethnicity, and income levels.”

The focus of the meeting was on identifying steps the Governing Board can take to address this mission. Committee members shared personal stories about their experiences with parent engagement and why it is important to them. A live internet demonstration was provided, accessing the Board and NAEP websites, to examine materials present or not present for parents. This prompted an extensive brainstorming session on individuals, organizations, and strategies to consider as audiences and potential partners. Suggestions included developing a list of high visibility individuals to serve as champions—including Oprah Winfrey and First Lady Michelle Obama, and partnering with organizations such as the PTA, whose mission is directed at serving

parents, as well as organizations that have a parent outreach component. Governing Board and NCES staff will collaborate in planning for the August Board meeting, which will focus on what NAEP program representatives can do to address the mission.

#### **5. NAEP Program Effectiveness Measures under the Government Performance and Results Act.**

Peggy Carr presented seven indicators used to measure performance of the NAEP program—these include timeliness of reporting NAEP results, visits to the NAEP website, and the use of NAEP data in journals and other published articles.

#### **6. Proposed changes to the NAEP Schedule of Assessments.**

The Executive Committee reviewed a staff proposal to extend the NAEP Schedule of Assessments through 2022. Board policy is to have at least a 10-year outlook for the schedule. This is to assist states plan for participation and NCES manage the NAEP program. NCES Commissioner Jack Buckley conveyed uncertainty about the sufficiency of expected participation for the assessments scheduled for 2012—the long-term trend assessments in reading and mathematics at ages 9, 13 and 17 and Economics at grade 12. He said that he is exploring technically appropriate options to pursue should expected participation be insufficient. He added that decisions on whether to postpone the 2012 assessments need to be made prior to the August 2011 Board meeting.

**ACTION: Therefore, the Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution to request a delegation of authority from the Governing Board to act on its behalf prior to the August 2011 Board meeting regarding decisions needed with respect to assessments scheduled for 2012.**

#### **7. Status of FY 2011 Appropriations**

Ray Fields was invited to report on the FY 2011 appropriation for NAEP and the Governing Board. Mr. Fields said that the FY 2011 appropriations have been enacted and that funding for NAEP and the Governing Board are at the FY 2010 levels minus an across-the-board general rescission of .20 percent.

**CLOSED SESSION: 5:15 – 6:00 P.M.**

#### **8. 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.

*Mary Frances Taymans*

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Mary Frances Taymans, Acting Chair

5-19-11

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Date