

# **National Assessment Governing Board**

## **Executive Committee**

### **Report of December 1, 2011**

**Attendees:** Mary Frances Taymans, Acting Chair, David Alukonis, Lou Fabrizio, Alan Friedman, Susan Pimentel, Tom Luna, Tonya Miles, Eileen Weiser. Other Board Members: Andrés A. Alonso, Shannon Garrison, Hector Ibarra, Dale Nowlin, Cary Sneider. NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Susan Loomis, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Larry Feinberg. IES: John Q. Easton. NCES Staff: Jack Buckley, Peggy Carr, Brenda Wolff, Drew Malizio, Steve Gorman, Andrew Kolstad, Suzanne Triplett. ETS: Jay Campbell, David Freund, Amy Dresher. HumRRO: Steve Sellman. Pearson: Connie Smith, Bread Thayer. NAEP ESSI: Kim Gattis. Westat: Nancy Caldwell, Chris Averett. Measured Progress: Luz Bay. AIR: Fran Stancavage. Data Recognition Corporation: Elham-Eid Alldredge. Hager Sharp: Debra Silimeo, Lisa Jacques.

#### **1. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Mary Frances Taymans called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. She stated that Chair David Driscoll was absent due to the death of his brother and expressed the sympathy of the Board for Mr. Driscoll's loss. She welcomed new Committee Chairs Alan Friedman (Assessment Development Committee (ADC)), and Eileen Weiser (Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R&D)); new Committee Vice Chairs Susan Pimentel (ADC) and Tom Luna (R&D), and new Board members present, Andrés Alonso, Dale Nowlin and Cary Sneider.

#### **2. Executive Committee Discussion of November 9, 2011**

Acting Chair Taymans reviewed the items discussed by the Executive Committee on November 9, 2011, directing Committee members to the report in the Board briefing book. The purpose was to consider the overall functions, organization, and activities of the Board. The Executive Committee members discussed

- How the Board does its work
- The NAEP Assessment Schedule
- The "Making a Difference" initiative
- The outlook for NAEP reauthorization
- NAEP in relation to the Common Core State Standards and Assessments

No formal actions were taken during this discussion.

### 3. Committee Issues and Challenges

Acting Chair Taymans invited the Chairs of the Board's standing committees to describe the issues and challenges their committees will be addressing.

Alan Friedman, ADC Chair, discussed the new Technology and Engineering Literacy assessment (TEL), a completely computer-based assessment, with pilot testing scheduled for 2013 at the 8th grade, and operational testing to occur in 2014. Only national-level results will be available from this first TEL assessment. Some of the challenges in developing the TEL assessment relate to the cross-curricular nature of the innovative TEL Framework. The content and skills specified in the framework are not taught in a single class. This is very different from other NAEP assessments. For example, the TEL content may be covered in science, engineering, information technology, or even history courses. Given the richness and complexity of the assessment tasks envisioned, there are issues that will need to be addressed with respect to how student performance will be put on a scale and how results will be reported. Executive Director Cornelia Orr cited this as an example of issues meriting discussion by the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM), and the R&D Committee.

Lou Fabrizio, Chair of COSDAM, discussed issues related to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP preparedness research. The Committee has been reviewing the research results and is beginning to grapple with defining a process for determining whether the research results support statements about 12<sup>th</sup> grade academic preparedness, what the specific statements should be, and how a coherent validity argument in support of those statements should be fashioned.

Eileen Weiser, Chair of the R and D Committee, addressed the importance of the "Making a Difference" proposals reflecting the Board's collective sense of urgency over the need for improvement in student achievement and the appropriate role of NAEP in addressing this sense of urgency. Considerations include whether the proposals deal with information that aligns with NAEP goals and priorities, and whether any of these proposals have a potential to backfire with the public, educators or policy makers. Another set of issues relate to the Committee's initiative to make NAEP background variables more useful and relevant. The challenge is to accomplish this while keeping the number of questions reasonable and not implying that causality exists when it is correlations that are being reported.

David Alukonis, Chair of the Nominations Committee, said that there are five Board vacancies for the term beginning October 1, 2012. These are

- General Public
- Local School Board Member
- Testing and Measurement Specialist
- State Legislator
- Non-Public School Representative

At the March 2012 Board meeting, the Committee will present slates of 6 candidates for each vacancy for Board consideration to recommend for submission to Secretary Duncan.

#### **4. ACTION ITEMS: NAEP Schedule of Assessments**

Mary Crovo provided background on the need to take action on the NAEP Schedule of Assessments. In November of 2009, the Governing Board unanimously passed a resolution in support of conducting linking studies in 2011 between NAEP and the international assessments—Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). This presented a unique opportunity, since all three of these assessment programs were to be administered in 2011.

The Governing Board concluded that linking NAEP with these international assessments would serve the public good by enabling states to interpret their 2011 NAEP results in an international context. Consequently, the Governing Board also changed the schedule of assessments, adding 8<sup>th</sup> grade science at the national and state levels in 2011, and moving NAEP science assessments from its previous four-year schedule to align with the four-year cycle of TIMSS testing (e.g., 2011, 2015, 2019, etc.).

The Department of Education had requested an additional \$5 million for NAEP in FY 2011 and again in FY 2012 to support the linking studies, and additional funds for the NCES division that oversees TIMSS and PIRLS, for the same purpose. Congress did not provide these funds in FY 2011. The respective House and Senate bills for FY 2012 recommend funding for NAEP at the FY 2011 levels; thus it appears unlikely that the additional \$5 million will be appropriated in FY 2012.

The Governing Board in previous meetings has been briefed by NCES on non-schedule related NAEP program activities that have been adjusted or postponed to absorb some of the costs related to the linking studies. The Governing Board also has discussed options for amending the NAEP Schedule of Assessments under the scenario in which Congress did not provide additional funds for the linking studies by the December 2011 Board meeting. While none of the options were considered desirable, the option that was proposed is to postpone the 4<sup>th</sup> grade writing assessment in 2013, which currently is scheduled at the national level only.

Action is needed at the December 2011 Board meeting because December 2011 is when NCES begins the planning process with its contractors for the 2013 assessments and must know what subjects and grades will be assessed and what the sampling requirements will be, i.e., whether assessments will be conducted at the national, state, and Trial Urban District levels.

Consequently, the following resolution was passed unanimously, for consideration by the full Board

**The Executive Committee recommends that the National Assessment Governing Board revise the NAEP Schedule of Assessments by postponing the conduct of the 2013 4<sup>th</sup> grade writing assessment at the national level.**

Following this discussion and action, Ray Fields presented a second issue, having to do with the process for identifying volunteers for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade state assessments in reading and mathematics scheduled for 2013. Governing Board staff and NCES staff have been discussing the needed steps and timeline. The identification of states that will participate at 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 2013 is an important factor in planning for the next phase of the NAEP 12<sup>th</sup> grade preparedness research. There is a consensus that the 11 pioneering states that volunteered in 2009 should be given an opportunity to participate in 2013. Three additional states have been identified that have been working on postsecondary academic preparedness and whose participation would be beneficial to the Board's program of preparedness research: California, Michigan, and Tennessee. These states have indicated some interest in volunteering for 2013. A limiting factor is that no additional funds are expected to be appropriated for expanding the number of states participating at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 2013.

Consequently, the Executive Committee unanimously passed the resolution at Attachment A for consideration by the full Board.

## **5. Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Parent Engagement**

Tonya Miles reported on the December 1, 2011 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Parent Engagement. Ms. Miles began by stating the Committee mission—

to develop recommendations 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.

Ms. Miles said that Brenda Wolff made a presentation on the work NCES has done since the August 2011 meeting to make the NAEP website more accessible to parents and to develop a wide range of NAEP-related materials targeted for parents. Committee member Blair Taylor presented a proposal for a business/community pilot project in Los Angeles, through the Los Angeles Urban League, for reaching parents and community leaders directly. Representatives of the Public Education Network (PEN), Amanda Brown, Adam Brown, and Arnold Fege, introduced their organization to the Committee as a first step toward identifying opportunities for collaboration. Amy Buckley presented a draft PowerPoint presentation for parents. Lou Fabrizio led a discussion to explore whether opportunities exist to assist states in using NAEP data as a part of state report cards required under Title I. Finally, the Committee reviewed its preliminary recommendations and approved their presentation as preliminary recommendations to the Governing Board. The preliminary recommendations are:

- Specify the Target Audience
- Establish Relationships with Interested, Recognized Parent Organizations
- Develop Parent Pages on the Governing Board and NAEP Websites
- Develop Presentations/Materials Targeted to Parents for Use by Board Members and Others
- Enlist Champions and Implement a Related Communications Strategy
- Conduct Community/Business Pilot in Collaboration with the Los Angeles Urban League

## 6. Staff Updates

Mary Crovo provided a brief update on the Governing Board/CCSSO Task Force, referring Committee members to the briefing book tab for the presentation to be made in plenary session on December 2, 2011 by Task Force Chair Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ray Fields reported that all 21 of the districts that participated in the 2011 Trial Urban District Assessment program submitted signed agreements to participate in 2013. Because there is no need to decide on replacement districts for 2013, no action is required by the Governing Board.

Mr. Fields stated that FY 2012 appropriation bills for education have been reported out of the respective House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Both bills would provide level funding at the FY 2011 levels of \$129.1 million for NAEP and \$8.7 million for the Governing Board.

Mr. Fields reported on the activities of the Board's NAEP 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Preparedness Commission. On April 25, 2011, Governor Musgrove and Eileen Weiser made a presentation on the NAEP 12<sup>th</sup> grade preparedness research at the Michigan Governor's Education Summit. They also had meetings with Governor Snyder and his education advisors, and with members of the Michigan State Board of Education and staff. Governor Musgrove and Commission Vice Chair, Greg Jones, made a presentation to the California State Board of Education on May 11, 2011. In addition, three regional symposia have been conducted: on June 20, 2011 in Sacramento, California; on October 24, 2011, in Boston, Massachusetts; and on November 18, 2011 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Fields played a video of the address to the Nashville symposium made by Senator Lamar Alexander. Senator Alexander's address highlights his long support for NAEP and its rigorous standards and the connection between bi-partisan policy for ESEA reauthorization that fosters "college and career ready" as a goal for all high school students and the Board's academic preparedness initiative.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



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Sr. Mary Frances Taymans, Acting Chair

December 7, 2011

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Date

## **Resolution for a Delegation of Authority to the Executive Committee**

Whereas, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) conducted in 2009 a pilot of the first ever state-level assessments at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in reading and mathematics;

Whereas, 11 states volunteered in 2009 to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade state pilot;

Whereas, the NAEP Schedule of Assessments provides for the conduct of state assessments at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in reading and mathematics in 2013;

Whereas, the National Assessment Governing Board is conducting a program of research to make NAEP an indicator of academic preparedness for college and job training;

Whereas, an essential aspect of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade preparedness research involves collaborative relationships with states that will enhance the preparedness research;

Whereas, the National Center for Education Statistics will begin planning for the 2013 assessments in December 2011 and needs decisions on the states that will participate in 12<sup>th</sup> grade state NAEP before the March 2012 Board meeting; and

Whereas, the addition of state volunteers at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade will have implications for the NAEP budget and the NAEP Schedule of Assessments;

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board:

1. Requests the National Center for Education Statistics to take immediate steps to:
  - a. determine whether the 11 states that volunteered for 12<sup>th</sup> grade state NAEP in 2009 will participate in 2013;
  - b. identify, in consultation with the Governing Board, other states to participate in 12<sup>th</sup> grade state NAEP in 2013, conditioned upon the availability of funds to support their participation;
  - c. develop options for the NAEP budget providing for the addition of these other states in 12<sup>th</sup> grade state NAEP in reading and mathematics in 2013; and
2. Delegates authority to the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Governing Board before the March 2012 Board meeting in making decisions about the budget and Schedule of Assessment options developed by the National Center for Education Statistics in 1.c above.