

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of August 2, 2012

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Mary Frances Taymans, Vice Chair, David Alukonis, Lou Fabrizio, Alan Friedman, Tonya Miles, Susan Pimentel, Eileen Weiser. Other Board Members: Shannon Garrison, Hector Ibarra, Jim Popham, Andy Porter, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider, Leticia Van de Putte. NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Michelle Blair, Susan Loomis, Larry Feinberg, Stephaan Harris, Munira Mwalimu, Tessa Regis. IES: John Q. Easton. NCES Staff: Peggy Carr, Drew Malizio, Brenda Wolff, Holly Spurlock, Suzanne Triplett. ETS: Jay Campbell, Greg Vafis, Andres Oranje, Mary Pitoniak. HumRRO: Steve Sellman. Westat: Chris Averett. AIR: George Bohrnstedt, Kim Gattis. Optimal Solutions Group: Mark Partridge. Fulcrum IT: Scott Ferguson. Hager Sharp: Debra Silimeo. Pearson: Brad Thayer, Connie Smith. Widmeyer: Neby Ejigu, Jaqui Lipson. McGraw-Hill Education: Larry Snowwhite. CRP: Sondra Gains.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He mentioned that Governor Jack Markell has resigned from the Governing Board, citing his new role as Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) as the reason. Governing Board staff will be working with NGA to begin the process of identifying a candidate for the Democratic Governor vacancy Governor Markell's resignation creates to recommend to Secretary Duncan for appointment.

2. Continuation of the NAEP 12th Grade Preparedness Commission

Mr. Driscoll recounted Governor Ronnie Musgrove's presentation at the May 2012 Board meeting on the activities of the NAEP 12th Grade Preparedness Commission. He said that the Commission's work has been valuable in sharing information with and gaining input from leaders around the country on the NAEP 12th grade preparedness initiative. With the issuance of the Board's report on the first phase of the preparedness research expected in the fall of 2012, Governor Musgrove had closed his presentation with a request for guidance on whether the Governing Board would view the Commission as having fulfilled its charge or whether, with additional research planned for 2013, the Commission should continue. Mr. Driscoll asked the Committee members for their comments and there was general agreement that the Commission should continue. It was noted that Commission Chair Musgrove and Vice Chair Greg Jones have indicated that it would be an honor to continue to serve if asked.

It was moved that the NAEP 12th Grade Preparedness Commission continue its work. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Committee Issues and Challenges

Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM)

Lou Fabrizio, COSDAM Chair, said the Committee will address two main topics at the August 2012 meeting: reporting on the 12th grade academic preparedness research and an action item that will be brought to the full Board to update and clarify the Governing Board policy on the Trial Urban District Assessment program. In open session, the Committee will receive a briefing on NCES plans to link NAEP and PISA. In closed session, ETS will brief the Committee on the results of the NAEP Mathematics Computer Based study, which examined the feasibility of computer-adaptive testing in NAEP and also provides data that may be useful as an indicator of student engagement in testing. There will also be a briefing on the status of NCES plans for an independent evaluation of the NAEP achievement levels.

Assessment Development Committee (ADC)

Alan Friedman, ADC Chair, said the Committee had conducted five conference calls since the May Board meeting to review approximately 500 assessment items and background questions. The Committee met in closed session on August 2, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to about 3:30 p.m. to review and approve scenario tasks and discrete items for piloting for the 2014 Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment at grade 8. After the item review was completed, the Committee went into open session to discuss reporting on the 12th grade academic preparedness research. On August 3, the Committee will meet in a joint session with the Reporting and Dissemination Committee to discuss the recommendations of the Expert Panel on NAEP Background Questions. Following the joint meeting, the Committee will meet in closed session to receive briefings on the Knowledge and Skills Appropriate Study and on the preliminary results of the pilot for the 2011 NAEP Grade 4 Computer-Based Writing Assessment.

Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R & D)

Eileen Weiser, R & D Chair, noted the plan for a joint meeting with ADC to discuss the recommendations of the Expert Panel on NAEP Background Questions. With respect to upcoming report release plans, two action items are expected—one for the Meaning Vocabulary Report and one for the Board's report on 12th grade academic preparedness research. In addition to the release plan for the preparedness research report, the Committee will discuss the content and approach to be taken in reporting on the preparedness research, a topic being addressed by COSDAM and ADC as well. The Committee will also receive briefings on the outcomes of the Science in Action report release, the projected schedule for upcoming reports, and the implementation of the policy on including students with disabilities and English-language learners in NAEP.

Nominations Committee

David Alukonis, Chair of the Nominations Committee, said that the incoming Committee members (for the Board term beginning on October 1, 2012) will attend the August 4, 2012 Nominations Committee meeting. He said that announcements are imminent on the Secretary's appointments for terms to begin on October 1, 2012. The slots being filled are

- Local School Board Member
- State School Board Member

- Testing and Measurement Specialist
- Non-Public School Administrator
- Republican Governor
- Republican State Legislator

Mr. Alukonis stated that the cycle for nominations for terms beginning October 1, 2013 is underway. The five openings are in the following Board categories:

- General Public Representative (2)
- Elementary School Principal
- Testing and Measurement Specialist
- State Legislator (Democrat)

ACTION ITEM

4. Nomination of the Board Vice Chair for Election by the Board for the Term October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

The Secretary of Education appoints the Board Chair and the Governing Board elects its Vice Chair. The election of the Vice Chair occurs each August for the coming term—October 1 through the following September 30. At the May 2012 Board meeting, David Alukonis was appointed to handle the process of identifying a candidate for Vice Chair for nomination by the Executive Committee. He conferred first with Board members whose terms are ending, then with Executive Committee members, and then with the remaining Board members. He said that there was consistent support for one candidate. Then Mr. Alukonis moved that Susan Pimentel be nominated as the candidate for Vice Chair.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Susan Pimentel and will present the nomination for action by the full Board during the August 4, 2012 plenary session.

5. Governing Board 25th Anniversary Planning

Mary Crovo, Deputy Executive Director, said that possible dates for the Governing Board 25th anniversary commemoration are December 2013 or March 2014, and that the event would be conducted in connection with the Board quarterly meeting. She reviewed the planning process and agendas for the 10th and 20th anniversary commemorations. The 10th and 20th anniversary commemorations were planned, respectively, by committees composed of then-current and former Board members. Ms. Crovo said that there was interest in taking a different approach than had been taken in the earlier events, which had involved commissioned papers, a conference structure, and presentations. She said that the Chair would appoint a committee of current and former Board members to begin the planning process.

6. Plans for an Executive Committee Retreat in September 2012
Updating Governing Board Policy: Reviewing the Past, Looking to the Next 25 Years

Chairman David Driscoll said that there is a “perfect storm” of events and issues that indicate a need for a day-long Executive Committee meeting to consider the long-range policy matters facing NAEP. These include, but are not limited to the loss of many veteran Board members over the last three years, the impact of the financial crisis on the NAEP budget, the debate on ESEA reauthorization, the need to revisit and review Board policies for NAEP, the attention to international assessments, the challenge to “make a difference” to help foster improved achievement and the closing of achievement gaps, and the 12th grade preparedness initiative. Mr. Driscoll proposed September 5, 6, or 7, 2012 as the date for the meeting and asked Committee members to let Ray Fields know their availability on those dates.

7. Committee Discussion: NAEP and Common Core State Standards and Assessments

Cornelia Orr, Executive Director, said that the Board and staff continue to receive questions about the relationship between NAEP and the Common Core State Standards and Assessments. The Governing Board began a discussion of this issue at the May 2012 meeting, where a challenge was made to Board members to develop a concise, one-page statement that could be used with the public. Ray Fields has prepared a discussion draft of such a document, incorporating ideas from the May 2012 Board discussion. Ms. Orr said that there would be a full Board discussion on this topic during the plenary session on August 4, 2012.

8. Committee Discussion: Considerations in Assessing 8th and 12th Grade Civics and U.S. History at the State Level

Cornelia Orr referred Committee members to the background information in the briefing materials related to the continuing congressional interest since 2004 for NAEP to conduct state-level assessments in civics and U.S. history. She said that the presentation at the May 2012 Board meeting on changes in demography suggest that it was never more important to measure and report on student knowledge about U.S. history and civics and that having state-level results could be beneficial in shining a light on achievement in these subject areas. She described the steps that have been taken since the Executive Committee authorized staff to explore the feasibility of obtaining external funding for this purpose during the Committee’s June 27, 2012 conference call. She also discussed the pros, cons and potential impediments of obtaining external funding, and in doing so in time to conduct state-level assessments in connection with the 2014 national assessments in civics and U.S. history. Ms. Orr said that firm commitments for funding would probably be needed by December 2012, to provide time for operational planning and for identifying potential volunteer states. She asked for the Committee’s guidance on whether state-level assessments in civics and U.S. history would be useful to conduct and whether staff should continue to identify options for non-federal funding. The Committee members’ discussion included the following points: that assessing civics and U.S. history is valuable to the nation; that a state-level pilot would be worthwhile to conduct if feasible financially; that staff should continue to identify options for funding and, if external funding is

sought, that it is essential to consider the source of that funding; that there may be resistance from the field to increased testing; and that using non-federal funds to carry out this pilot could be viewed as a precedent with unintended negative consequences for regular funding. Ms. Orr said that staff will follow this guidance and report on progress at the Executive Committee retreat and, if necessary, via a specially scheduled conference call.

9. Committee Discussion: Making a Difference and Parent Engagement

Chairman Driscoll said the August 1, 2012 outreach meeting with parent leaders and representatives of parent organizations was candid and substantive. The individuals present were from both national and grass-roots local organizations from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. The attendees were supportive and appreciative of the Board's efforts to reach parents. They viewed the NAEP data as a source of truth about student achievement, provided many useful suggestions for improving the parent pages on the Board website, and challenged the Governing Board to provide the data in ways that the attendees and their counterparts could use in a positive, productive way to challenge the status quo.

10. Status of FY 2013 Appropriation for NAEP and the Governing Board

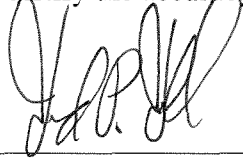
Ray Fields, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, said that preliminary action on the FY 2013 appropriation has been taken by the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education. The House and Senate versions are different, which means that the NAEP and Governing Board appropriation levels would be subject to a conference committee resolution of the differences. The Senate bill provides the levels in the President's request: \$124.6 million for NAEP, a \$5 million reduction from FY 2012, and \$7.7 million for the Governing Board, a \$1 million reduction. The House bill provides funding at the FY 2012 levels: \$129.6 million for NAEP and \$8.7 million for the Governing Board. There has been public reporting of an agreement for a six-month Continuing Resolution through the end of March 2013, but the bill has not been drafted and the details about funding levels during the six-month period have not been made public.

11. NAEP Contracts, Budget and Schedule for 2013 and Beyond

Cornelia Orr said that the NAEP schedule of assessments drives the budget. Accordingly, over the last year, the Governing Board has taken actions affecting the schedule when funding limitations required an adjustment. For example, the 4th grade writing assessment was postponed, new development of test questions for civics, geography and U.S. history was postponed, and the 8th grade science assessment was added to the NAEP schedule to permit a study to link NAEP and TIMSS in 2011. Ms. Orr said that no decision on the schedule is needed at the August 2012 Board meeting and that the 2013 assessments can go forward as planned. However, decisions on the schedule for 2014 and beyond are likely to be needed by the March 2013 Board meeting. Several factors add to the uncertainty about the decisions that will be needed. These factors include the NAEP funding levels for FY 2013 and beyond, the costs of

conducting the assessments under contracts that support NAEP operations that will be awarded over the next few months, and a pending administrative decision about NAEP printing costs.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David P. Driscoll, Chair

August 3, 2012
Date