

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of February 28, 2013

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Susan Pimentel, Vice Chair, Lou Fabrizio, Alan Friedman, Shannon Garrison, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston. Other Board Members: Rebecca Gagnon, Doris R. Hicks, Andrew Ho, Terry Holliday, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, Terry Mazany, Joseph O'Keefe, S.J., Jim Popham, Leticia Van de Putte. NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Larry Feinberg, Stephaan Harris, Michelle Blair, Tessa Regis, Munira Mwalimu. IES: John Q. Easton. NCES Staff: Jack Buckley, Peggy Carr, Andrew Kolstad, Drew Malizio, Arnold Goldstein, Mike Moles, Suzanne Triplett. ETS: Jay Campbell, Amy Dresher, Greg Vafis, Andres Oranje, Jonas Bertling. HumRRO: Steve Sellman. Westat: Nancy Caldwell, Dianne Walsh, Marcie Hickman, Chris Averett. AIR: Kim Gattis, Cadelle Hemphill, Fran Stancavage. Reingold: Amy Buckley. Hager Sharp: Debra Silimeo, David Hoff. Pearson: Brad Thayer, Connie Smith. Optimal Solutions Group: Robin Marion.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Driscoll announced that the closed session would not be needed because the status of the federal budget for FY 2013 remains to be resolved. Therefore, the planned discussion of the NAEP schedule of assessments was being postponed.

Mr. Driscoll said there are three crucial areas for the Governing Board to address between this meeting and the August 2013 Board meeting. The first area relates to the 12th grade preparedness research the Governing Board is conducting and how this will be used to report NAEP results. There is evidence from the research that supports a connection between the 12th grade reading and mathematics Proficient achievement levels and academic preparedness for college. Mr. Driscoll said he has shared the research results with the Department of Education senior staff, the leaders of the two Common Core assessment consortia, and a wide range of education policy groups. He said that the research and any statements or conclusions about the research will be subject to thorough technical vetting and, in this regard, mentioned his conversation with Board member Andrew Ho. Mr. Driscoll noted that Chris Minnich, Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, had encouraged the Governing Board to make a statement about Proficient as an indicator of academic preparedness for college at the February 27, 2013 outreach meeting conducted by the Board.

The second area is the updating of the Governing Board general policy for NAEP currently underway. The Governing Board will discuss an outline of changes to the policy at this meeting. A draft policy statement will be discussed at the May 2013 Board meeting, with the intention of taking action at the August 2013 Board meeting.

The third area involves fostering regular opportunities for members to present ideas for Board initiatives and have them vetted by the Board. Mr. Driscoll proposed including such opportunities as a regular item on each Board meeting agenda.

2. Committee Issues and Challenges

Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM)

Lou Fabrizio, COSDAM Chair, said the Committee will meet in joint session with the Reporting and Dissemination Committee. The purpose is to discuss options for reporting NAEP student participation data in ways that are accurate and transparent to the public. Of particular concern is how to classify absent students, students whose parents request exclusion, and students excluded based on school staff determinations related to their status as English language learners or students with disabilities. These matters are particularly relevant to the implementation of the 2010 Board Policy on Students with Disabilities and English language learners.

Following the joint session, COSDAM will examine state cooperation in the non-mandated national and state NAEP assessments. At issue are the implications for trend reporting and the ability to have sufficient samples for reporting national results.

COSDAM also will receive updates on the NAEP preparedness research. This will include: (1) an overview of the course content analysis projects for college and for job training programs; (2) the February 15, 2013 release of the Phase 1 web-based Academic Preparedness Research Technical Report; and (3) the research plans for Phase 2 of the preparedness research, in connection with the 2013 assessments.

With the Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment scheduled for 2014, COSDAM will have a preliminary discussion on issues and challenges related to setting achievement levels for this innovative assessment. The meeting will conclude with a brief update on the procurement to evaluate NAEP achievement levels.

Assessment Development Committee (ADC)

Alan Friedman, ADC Chair, said the Committee met four times via teleconference in January 2013 to review NAEP science items. In its meeting on February 28, 2013, the Committee met for five hours in closed session to review draft outlines and preliminary computer renditions of science interactive computer tasks for the 2014 pilot test. These tasks were rich, engaging, assessed a broad range of skills, and require students to integrate various concepts while measuring scientific inquiry and technological design.

In its meeting on March 1, 2013, the Committee will receive a briefing from NCES on plans to report information from the 2012 computer-based writing pilot test at grade 4. This richness of the assessment and the very large sample provides a unique source of data to answer important questions about the feasibility and appropriateness of testing 4th graders on a computer-based direct measure of writing. Representatives from the states and the two Common Core assessment consortia have expressed great interest in obtaining the results of this pilot test and the lessons learned. The Committee will also review background questions for the 2014 science pilot test being developed for the 2015 NAEP Science Assessment.

Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R & D)

Deputy Executive Director Mary Crovo provided the R & D Committee update on behalf of Chair Andrés Alonso. Ms. Crovo mentioned the joint meeting planned with COSDAM, described by COSDAM chair Lou Fabrizio. Following the joint meeting, the Committee will review a draft plan for outreach to parents and receive an update on planning for the fall 2013 Education Summit for Parent Leaders. The Committee will review two NAEP report releases carried out since the November-December 2012 Board meeting: the reading vocabulary report and the mega states report. NCEs staff will provide an update on the projected schedule of NAEP reports. The 2013 grade 4 and 8 reading and mathematics reports are scheduled for release in the fall of 2013. The Committee will be discussing the configuration of the reports and how they will be released. The Committee will take action on the release plan for the 2012 grade 12 Economics report. Finally, the Committee will discuss recommendations for future agenda topics.

Nominations Committee

Chair Tonya Miles said that the Nominations Committee has reviewed the letters and resumes of nearly 200 nominees for Board terms beginning on October 1, 2013. This pool of candidates is the largest ever received in the history of the Board.

The outreach for nominees, with the assistance of the Board's communications contractor, Reingold, included:

- 6,000 letters sent via Constant Contact
- a video on the Board website homepage of Chairman Driscoll encouraging nominations
- expanded social media outreach

On March 2, 2012, slates of candidates in the following categories will be presented to the full Board for action:

- elementary school principal
- testing and measurement expert
- state legislator (Democrat)
- general public (2 positions)

With the exception of Alan Friedman, who will have completed two terms in his general public slot by September 30, 2013 and is therefore ineligible for reappointment, there is an incumbent Board member for each upcoming vacancy who is eligible and wishes to seek reappointment. Following Board action, the slates of candidates will be submitted to Secretary Duncan for his decision on Board appointments.

3. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Background Information

Susan Pimentel reported on behalf of Terry Holliday, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Background Information, who had presided at the meeting but was suffering from bronchitis. Ms. Pimentel said that the Committee was progressing toward the delivery of its

report to the Board at the August 2013 meeting. The Committee had received a briefing on background questions used in international assessments and has requested a comparison of the background questions used in PISA, TIMSS, and NAEP to see where there is commonality and where there are gaps. This will help the Committee address questions related to what information is important to know and what the most appropriate source of that information should be, whether NAEP or another source. The Committee is mindful of the need to define the audience for the information, minimize burden on respondents, and avoid “mission creep.” Mike Smith and Allan Ginsburg are developing a paper on indicators of quality, which will be presented at the May 2013 Committee meeting. The Committee will be reviewing the Board’s 2003 policy framework for background questions to determine whether revisions should be made.

4. Governing Board 25th Anniversary Planning

Alan Friedman, 25th Anniversary Planning Committee Chair, reported on the Committee’s initial full-day meeting on February 27, 2013. The Committee is composed of current and former Board members; their names appear in Attachment A of the Executive Committee tab of the briefing materials. The meeting was very productive, with ideas for exciting focus areas, innovative uses of technology, and interesting products.

Mr. Friedman said the date for the 25th anniversary commemoration has been set for February 26, 2014. It is being planned as a one-half day in-person conference in Washington, DC, followed by an evening meeting. It is being scheduled to occur one day prior to the February 27-March 1, 2014 Board meeting.

The Committee has defined the audience as educators, policymakers, and influencers. The latter category includes business leaders and association representatives, such as those who attended the February 27, 2013 outreach meeting.

Key topic areas will include: NAEP's relevance and unique contributions, innovations now and in the future, increasing the use of NAEP data and products, and other areas.

The Committee also intends to use technology to increase audience members (via webcast) and encourage audience participation and feedback (e.g., voting with clickers to tally immediate results). Also under consideration is a montage of video clips that would be submitted by those who use NAEP data, describing the ways in which they use and value NAEP.

The Committee recommends a longer roll-out of the anniversary "events" pre and post February 26, 2014, including a progression from the fall 2013 Parent Summit. The Committee’s next steps include developing a detailed planning timeline, assigning planning tasks, exploring funding options, and conducting periodic Committee teleconferences as the work progresses.

5. Action Item: Delegation of Authority

Chairman Driscoll presented the draft resolution at Attachment A for consideration by the Executive Committee for action by the full Board. The resolution would delegate authority to the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board in making decisions about the implementation of the NAEP schedule of assessments before the May 2013 Board meeting,

should this be necessitated by congressional action on appropriations for FY 2013. The resolution was moved by Susan Pimentel, seconded by Lou Fabrizio, and passed unanimously by the Committee.

6. Updating Governing Board Policy: Reviewing the Past, Looking to the Future

Ray Fields, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, led the Executive Committee through a discussion of proposed amendments to the general Board policy for the conduct of NAEP. The proposed amendments will be discussed by the full Board on March 1, 2013. A draft policy statement will be presented at the May 2013 Board meeting and full Board action is expected at the August 2013 Board meeting.

Chair Driscoll adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David P. Driscoll, Chair

March 7, 2013

Date

Action Item: Delegation of Authority

Draft Resolution

Whereas, the FY 2013 funding for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the National Assessment Governing Board is under a continuing resolution through March 27, 2013; and

Whereas, absent action by Congress, the Budget Control Act of 2011 would, as of March 1, 2013, result in cuts estimated at approximately 7 to 10 percent of the NAEP and Governing Board appropriations in FY 2013; and

Whereas, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is reviewing contract bids for NAEP operations for 2013-2017 that are scheduled to be awarded by the end of March 2013; and

Whereas, the status of the FY 2013 appropriation and contract awards may have an impact on the NAEP schedule of assessments for 2014 and beyond that would require action by the Governing Board prior to the May 2013 Governing Board meeting;

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board hereby approves a delegation of authority to the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Governing Board, prior to the May 2013 Board meeting, to make decisions on changes to the NAEP schedule of assessments in 2014 and beyond, as necessary, in consultation with NCES.