

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of July 31, 2014

Executive Committee Members: David Driscoll, Chair, Andrés Alonso, Lou Fabrizio, Shannon Garrison, Terry Mazany, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider.

NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Lily Clark, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Tessa Regis, Sharyn Rosenberg.

Other Attendees:

Other Board Members: Lucille Davy, Rebecca Gagnon, Jim Geringer, Doris Hicks, Andrew Ho, Terry Holliday, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, James Popham. *IES Ex Officio Member:* John Q. Easton. *NCES Staff:* Peggy Carr, Arnold Goldstein, Eunice Greer, Drew Malizio, Dan McGrath, Michael Moles. *Other Attendees:* ED – OPEPD: Jagir Patel. ETS: Jay Campbell, Andreas Oranje, Greg Vafis, Lisa Ward. HumRRO: Steve Sellman. AIR: Kim Gattis, Cadelle Hemphill. Hager Sharp: David Hoff, Debra Silimeo. Reingold: Amy Buckley. Fulcrum: Kevin Price, Scott Ferguson. Pearson: Connie Smith. Arlington Public Schools: Amy Yamashiro.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. Mr. Driscoll started the meeting by noting that annually the Board meetings held in August and November tend to be transition points for the Board, as some members attend their last meeting in August before they complete their terms, while other Board members attend their first meeting in November as they begin their terms. New Board member appointments are currently being finalized by the Secretary. However, for incumbent members seeking reappointment, the Secretary has notified the Board that Shannon Garrison will be reappointed in the category of Fourth Grade Teacher and Hector Ibarra will not be reappointed in the category of Eighth Grade Teacher. In addition, this is the last Board meeting for members David Driscoll, Brent Houston, and Tom Luna, as well as Ex officio member John Easton. There will be several opportunities for formal farewells during this meeting.

Mr. Driscoll shared that Board members Lou Fabrizio and Jim Popham led a session in June 2014 at the annual National Conference on Student Assessment held by the Council of Chief State School Officers. The session generated substantial input to support the efforts of the Assessment Literacy Work Group, chaired by Jim Popham. The Work Group is tasked with developing and finalizing a communications plan by May 2015.

Finally, Mr. Driscoll reminded the Executive Committee of a motion adopted by the Board at the May 2014 meeting, which requested that Chair Driscoll meet with Secretary Duncan to describe the Board's ongoing issues to facilitate a smooth leadership transition when a new Board Chair is appointed. Chair Driscoll met with the Secretary and presented several issues including increasing budget pressures on the NAEP assessment schedule and the new assessment literacy initiative. The Secretary expressed support for the assessment literacy work.

2. Nomination of Vice Chair

At the May 2014 Board meeting, Chair Driscoll designated Lou Fabrizio to lead the discussion and nomination process for the Vice Chair for 2014-2015. Mr. Fabrizio collected input and nominations from Board members individually. Mr. Fabrizio announced that the results of this process supported the nomination of the current Vice Chair, Susan Pimentel, to serve a third term. The following motion was unanimously adopted by the Committee:

The Executive Committee hereby nominates Susan Pimentel for election by the National Assessment Governing Board to the office of Vice Chair for the term October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

3. Updates: NAGB Staffing, NAEP Budget, and NAEP Reauthorization

Cornelia Orr introduced the newest member of the Governing Board staff. Lily Clark is the new Assistant Director for Policy and Research. She has an extensive professional background in education policy, having previously worked with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development as a Senior Policy Advisor. One of her primary roles will be to support the work of the Executive Committee. There are two other staff vacancies for which the Governing Board has ongoing recruitment efforts: (1) Assistant Director for Reporting and Analysis; and (2) Contract Specialist. The contract position was recently advertised in USAJobs and resulted in approximately 250 applications.

Regarding the NAEP budget, Ms. Orr reported that for the fiscal year 2015 budget for NAEP, Secretary Duncan has testified on Capitol Hill, but no bills have been made public nor have any mark-ups been announced yet in either the House or Senate. The House passed a NAEP reauthorization bill immediately prior to the May Governing Board meeting, but it is unclear when the Senate will consider NAEP reauthorization. The Senate did not discuss NAEP reauthorization prior to the August 2014 recess. Governing Board staff will provide further updates on any Congressional action related to the budget or reauthorization at the November 2014 Board meeting.

4. Committee Topics: Issues and Challenges

Assessment Development Committee (ADC)

ADC Chair Shannon Garrison noted that earlier today, the ADC spent six hours in closed session reviewing paper and pencil NAEP science items at grades 4, 8, and 12, as well as the final versions of interactive computer tasks (ICTs) for the pilot of the NAEP science assessment. The ADC noted the high quality of the tasks and expressed appreciation to the NCES staff and contractors who have worked on these items and provided excellent revisions based on ADC feedback on earlier versions of the tasks. These tasks will be piloted in early 2015 on a new tablet platform, instead of the current laptop platform.

For the Friday ADC Committee session, Ms. Garrison noted that the major issue and challenge to be discussed is the transition of NAEP paper and pencil items to a technology-based platform. This transition presents new opportunities to measure other parts of the frameworks using some scenario-based tasks. The ADC will also receive updates on the 2014 NAEP

Technology and Engineering Literacy assessment and the comparison study on NAEP and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The Committee will also discuss the NAEP Writing Framework and new strategies for conducting future NAEP item reviews to better accommodate items being developed for technology-based platforms.

Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM)

COSDAM Chair Lou Fabrizio said that one of the major agenda items for COSDAM during the next year will be setting achievement levels on the NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment, which was administered for the first time in 2014 at grade 8. During this meeting, there are two COSDAM agenda items related to the TEL achievement levels setting (ALS). First, the achievement levels descriptions (ALDs) need to be approved for use in the ALS process. During the May 2014 Board meeting, Sharyn Rosenberg presented an overview of the process used by contractor WestEd to develop the ALDs for Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. A draft of the ALDs was sent to COSDAM members in late June and discussed during a conference call in early July. COSDAM members requested a few revisions, which have been incorporated into the final ALDs. In the Friday Committee session, COSDAM will discuss the process of developing the ALDs, and then take action on the descriptions, followed by full Board action on Saturday morning. Second, achievement levels need to be set based on student performance relative to the ALDs. The contract for setting the achievement levels on the TEL assessment at grade 8 was awarded to NCS Pearson in early July, following a competitive procurement process. Paul Nichols, the TEL ALS project director from Pearson, will provide an introduction and overview to the achievement levels setting work, which is just beginning. COSDAM will continue to receive TEL ALS updates over the next year and will provide input at key milestones. The goal is for the Board to formally adopt achievement levels for the NAEP TEL grade 8 assessment during the May 2015 meeting.

Mr. Fabrizio also noted that the COSDAM and Reporting and Dissemination Committees will hold a joint session during this Board meeting to discuss a proposed edit to the 2010 Board policy on NAEP Testing and Reporting on Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners.

Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R & D)

R & D Chair Andrés Alonso noted that the Committee will spend more than half of its session providing feedback on core contextual questions, which includes those in the existing pool and also future questions for the 2017 NAEP assessments. The latter set of questions provides the opportunity for Committee members to provide input on the wording of the questions. This will ensure that important areas are covered and will provide valuable information to those who use NAEP data.

The Committee is working to finalize the Board's communications plan, which will be voted on by the full Board in the Saturday session of this Board meeting. The plan focuses particular attention on several important audiences: parents, teachers and administrators, and policymakers. The plan includes goals and strategies that not only inform audiences about NAEP, but also can lead to those audiences taking action. The plan should support more conversations with NAEP data. The communications plan also includes proposed metrics to monitor implementation.

Nominations Committee

Nominations Committee Chair Tonya Miles announced that the Committee's session will start with an update on the process for the 2014 finalists, in the following five categories:

- 4th grade teacher
- 8th grade teacher
- Secondary school principal
- Chief state school officer
- General public representative

The announcement of 2014 appointments is anticipated in late summer or early fall. These newly-appointed members will begin their Board service on October 1, 2014.

Ms. Miles noted that the Committee will discuss the process and outreach for the 2015 nominations cycle. For the 2015 cycle, there are eight anticipated Board member vacancies. The categories for which the Board is seeking nominations for terms beginning in 2015, some of which have incumbents who are eligible for reappointment, include:

- Curriculum specialist (2 positions; 1 incumbent)
- 12th grade teacher (incumbent)
- State school board member (incumbent)
- Chief state school officer (incumbent)
- Test and measurement expert
- Business representative
- Local school superintendent

The recruitment process begins in mid-August 2014. The Board will be soliciting nominations from more than 8,000 groups and individuals. Nominations will be due October 31, 2014.

5. Other Questions, Issues, and Announcements

Chair Driscoll noted that Michael Cohen, President of Achieve, will be visiting with the Board for a few minutes during the Friday morning session to present issues and recommendations he has identified regarding the NAEP Writing assessment. The Friday afternoon sessions include a briefing on the assessments being conducted by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

CLOSED SESSION 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

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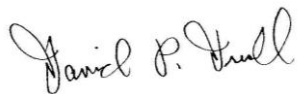
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6. NAEP Schedule of Assessments and the NAEP Budget

The Executive Committee met in closed session from 5:05 p.m. to 5:24 p.m. Peggy Carr, NCES Associate Commissioner, discussed contractor costs and contract options under NAEP contracts for FY 2013 through FY 2017. The meeting was conducted in closed session because the disclosure of technical and cost data would significantly impede implementation of the contract awards and negotiations for awards. Therefore this discussion is protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(C) of Title 5 U.S.C.

Mr. Driscoll adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 5:24 p.m.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David P. Driscoll, Chair

August 7, 2014

Date