

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of March 5, 2015

Executive Committee Members: Terry Mazany (Chair), Susan Pimentel (Vice Chair) *via WebEx*, Lou Fabrizio, Rebecca Gagnon, Shannon Garrison, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider.

Other Board Members: Lucille Davy, Frank Fernandes, James Geringer, Andrew Ho, Tonya Matthews. Ex Officio Member: Sue Betka Ex Officio member *via WebEx*.

Governing Board Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Lily Clark, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Laura LoGerfo, Sharyn Rosenberg, Anthony White.

NCES Staff: Peggy Carr, Arnold Goldstein, Linda Hamilton, Shawn Kline, Dan McGrath, Michael Moles, Holly Spurlock, Brad Thayer, Amy Yamashiro.

Other Attendees: AIR: George Bohrnstedt, Fran Stancavage. Hager Sharp: David Hoff. HumRRO: Steve Sellman, Laress Wise. Pearson: Connie Smith. Reingold: Valerie Marrapodi.

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview

Chair Terry Mazany called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He expressed appreciation for the Board members, staff, and contractors journeying through the snow storm to be in attendance at the meeting.

Chair Mazany provided an overview of the agenda, noting that while in open session the Governing Board's Executive Director, Cornelia Orr, would provide the Executive Committee with a summary of recent Congressional activity, and Deputy Director Mary Crovo would provide an update on the new Executive Director search. Then the Executive Committee would briefly discuss the strategic planning initiative. He noted that the Executive Committee would spend the majority of its meeting time in closed session to discuss the NAEP budget with regards to the proposed NAEP assessment schedule. Finally, he noted the Executive Committee would resume in open session to take action on the assessment schedule.

The Chair added a personal note that he regretted this would be Ms. Orr's final Executive Committee meeting in her current role as Executive Director, as she is retiring on March 31, 2015.

2. Updates: Congressional Activity, Executive Director Search

Congressional Activity

ESEA Reauthorization – Executive Director Cornelia Orr began her remarks by stating that the Senate and House Education Committees have made strides to reauthorize the Elementary and

Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act. She noted the ongoing public contention about which policies will be adopted in the final law, noting specifically that some members of Congress have proposed eliminating ESEA's annual state assessment requirements.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) are working closely to draft a bipartisan ESEA reauthorization bill and have held numerous public hearings and recently announced plans to mark up the bill in the Committee by April 2015.

The House of Representatives' Education and the Workforce Committee passed a partisan version of the ESEA reauthorization bill called the "Student Success Act" without any public input or hearings. The House of Representatives was scheduled to vote on the Student Success Act on February, 27, 2015; however, the vote did not happen in part because of last minute concerns that it lacked sufficient support. This bill faces opposition from both sides of the political spectrum; including opposition from Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and a veto threat from the White House.

Ms. Orr noted that both the Senate and House versions of the bill would maintain the provision in ESEA that requires states to participate in the NAEP reading and math assessments biennially in grades 4 and 8.

NAEP Reauthorization – Ms. Orr provided an update to the Executive Committee regarding the reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act, which authorizes the Governing Board and NAEP. The bill, titled the "Strengthening Education Through Research Act" (SETRA), has bi-partisan and bi-cameral support. The Senate HELP Committee reintroduced and passed the bill out of Committee in January 2015. However, the Senate vote and House consideration of the bill have not been scheduled, so it remains unclear when NAEP will be reauthorized.

Ms. Orr referred the Executive Committee to the Board materials which include the summary of NAEP's reauthorization status (Attachment A) and the document showing the Senate bill's changes compared to current law (Attachment B). She provided an overview of the proposed changes to the NAEP law including: clarification that the Governing Board is responsible for initial NAEP releases and that the Commissioner is responsible for the content of the NAEP reports; a new authority for the Board to provide input to IES on the annual NAEP budget requests; and updated terminology (switching to "school leaders" from "school principals", and "English Learner status" rather than "limited English proficient").

Ms. Orr noted that it was clear to her that Congress believes the work of the Governing Board and NAEP is critical. She played a video clip of Senator Alexander's remarks during the HELP Committee's markup of SETRA, where he discussed the importance of the Governing Board and NAEP, to illustrate this point (available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baL3daZwSSg&feature=youtu.be>).

Executive Director Search

Mary Crovo provided the Executive Committee with an update on the Governing Board's search for an Executive Director. She stated that the Screening Committee conducted a national search over the course of four weeks which resulted in numerous applications. The Governing Board's Screening Committee, consisting of six Board members nominated by the Chair, met several times via teleconference and has scheduled in-person interviews with candidates to occur in conjunction with the March 2015 Board meeting. She further noted that the Screening Committee would provide updates to the Executive Committee and the full Board at the appropriate times.

3. Governing Board Strategic Planning Initiative

Chair Mazany expressed his appreciation to the Executive Committee for their participation in the February meeting held in Washington, D.C. He commented that the February meeting included robust discussion which will help further the Committee's work on the strategic planning initiative. Mr. Mazany invited Committee members to note any new ideas or reflections on the draft framework which he circulated to them via email on Monday, March 2.

Executive Committee members agreed that the revised draft strategic planning framework document adequately reflected the comments and discussion from the February meeting.

Cary Sneider commented that the draft framework was comprehensive. He stated that the scenario-based NAEP items are innovative and noted the importance of releasing TEL items to raise awareness about the assessment.

Tonya Matthews commented on the importance of the Governing Board partnering with NCES to set and achieve NAEP's innovation ambition.

Mr. Mazany thanked Peggy Carr, Acting NCES Commissioner, for her informative presentation to the Executive Committee regarding the "Future of NAEP" recommendations and activities at the February meeting. He mentioned the Frameworks Institute documents, included in the March meeting materials, which analyzed the public's view of assessments in the United States and include components that align with the Governing Board's Assessment Literacy workgroup. He noted the value of these multiple resources for identifying and furthering the Governing Board's strategic priorities.

The Chair ended the portion of the agenda open to the public at 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION 5:00 pm – 5:55 pm

Executive Committee Members: Terry Mazany (Chair), Susan Pimentel (Vice Chair) *via WebEx*, Lou Fabrizio, Rebecca Gagnon, Shannon Garrison, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider.

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4. NAEP Budget and Assessment Schedule

The Executive Committee met in closed session from 5:00 p.m. to 5:55 p.m. The Executive Committee schedule and budget discussion 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.

Chair Mazany provided an overview to the Executive Committee regarding its responsibility to set an assessment schedule that is forward-looking, reasonable, and communicates the Governing Board's priorities for NAEP to the public and Congress.

Ms. Orr provided an update on the recent meeting with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), U.S. Department of Education's Budget Service, Governing Board staff, and NCES staff regarding the annual process to develop the President's budget request. All parties at the meeting expressed an interest in having more detailed cost information from NCES to justify to Congress the need for additional NAEP appropriations. All parties at the meeting agreed on the value of the U.S. Department of Education including the Governing Board in the standard budget development cycle to better inform the President's budget request for NAEP each year.

Based on the results of the meeting with OMB, Ms. Orr recommended that the Executive Committee review its budget and appropriation needs annually at the May Board meeting.

Ms. Orr noted that OMB indicated that the Governing Board should be prepared to be appropriated less than the requested amount of \$149.6 million in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and expressed an interest in knowing the Governing Board's contingency plans for NAEP activities if it does not receive the full requested amount. Ms. Orr led the Executive Committee in a discussion of the priority order for activities in FY 2016, in case NAEP is appropriated with insufficient funds to implement the full schedule of assessments. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed on the following priority order for the planned FY 2016 NAEP activities:

1. Transition to digital-based assessments (DBA) and maintain trend; state validation studies
2. Assessing broad-based curricular areas with a priority for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
3. Providing state level data in curriculum areas beyond reading and mathematics
4. Including more Trial Urban District Assessments (TUDA)

Ms. Orr presented the Executive Committee with a new option for consideration regarding the assessment schedule, which included notations for any differences from the proposed schedule included in the Board materials (Attachment E).

Peggy Carr, NCES Acting Commissioner, discussed actual and estimated costs for NAEP contracts for FY 2014 through FY 2024 to inform the Executive Committee's action on the assessment schedule. Her presentation gave attention to where the budget estimates did and did not align with the activities in the proposed assessment schedule presented by Ms. Orr.

Board members engaged in a question and answer session with Ms. Carr on various components of the NAEP budget, as well as timelines for Board decisions regarding activities proposed in the NAEP schedule of assessments.

Chair Mazany praised NCES and Governing Board staff for working together prior to the Board meeting to present quality information to inform the Executive Committee's decision. He further noted the benefit of the information provided in this briefing for the full Board closed session discussion of the NAEP budget and assessment schedule on Friday, March 6.

OPEN SESSION 5:55 pm – 6:00 pm

5. ACTION: NAEP Schedule of Assessments

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened in open session at 5:55 p.m.

Mr. Mazany asked the Executive Committee to consider action on the proposed schedule of assessments. Shannon Garrison moved for Committee approval of the assessment schedule. The motion was seconded by Lou Fabrizio and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mazany adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



Terry Mazany, Chair

March 14, 2015

Date