

# **National Assessment Governing Board**

## **Executive Committee**

### **Report of November 19, 2015**

**Executive Committee Members:** Terry Mazany (Chair), Lucille Davy (Vice Chair), Rebecca Gagnon, Andrew Ho, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider.

**Other Board Members:** Alberto Carvalho, Frank Fernandes, James Geringer, Doris Hicks, Dale Nowlin, Jim Popham, Linda Rosen, Chasidy White, Joe Willhoft.

**Governing Board Staff:** Bill Bushaw, Mary Crovo, Lily Clark, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Laura LoGerfo, Munira Mwalimu, Sharyn Rosenberg, Angela Scott, Anthony White.

**NCES Staff:** Peggy Carr, Pat Etienne, Dana Kelly, Dan McGrath, Michael Moles, Holly Spurlock, Brad Thayer.

**U.S. Department of Education Staff:** Jagir Patel.

**Other Attendees:** AIR: George Bohrnstedt, Kim Gattis. ETS: Jay Campbell. Fulcrum: Mike Slattery. CRP: Arnold Goldstein.

#### **1. Welcome and Agenda Overview**

Chair Mazany called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Mazany provided an overview of the agenda and noted that a portion of the Executive Committee meeting would occur in closed session. He formally welcomed to the Executive Committee leadership Lucille Davy (Board Vice Chair), Andrew Ho (Committee on Standards Design and Methodology Chair), and Joseph O’Keefe, in absentia (Reporting and Dissemination Vice Chair). Mr. Mazany congratulated Rebecca Gagnon on her appointment to Chair of the Reporting and Dissemination Committee.

#### **2. Plans for 2017 Trial Urban District Assessment**

Executive Director Bill Bushaw provided an update to the Committee regarding plans for the 2017 Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA), which will be administered at the 4th and 8th grade levels in reading and mathematics. Mr. Bushaw noted that, in partnership with the Council of the Great City Schools, the Governing Board secured commitments from all 21 districts that volunteered to participate in the 2015 TUDA to continue with the program in 2017. He advised the Committee to maintain the program at its current size, despite the Board’s desire to expand the program, given the current fiscal constraints and unlikelihood of increased NAEP appropriations. He noted that Board action was not needed, as all 21 districts have already been approved by the Board to participate in TUDA.

### 3. Governing Board Updates

- a. **Funding Resolution-** In August 2015 the Governing Board unanimously approved the Resolution on the Imperative for Increased NAEP Funding. Mr. Bushaw reported to the Committee that the resolution has been a valuable resource for staff in partnership and outreach meetings to explain the important work of NAEP, the Governing Board’s ambitions, and the challenges ahead.
- b. **Updates on Congressional Activity** - Lily Clark provided the Executive Committee with updates on the following Congressional activities of interest:
  - *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization* – In July 2015, the House and Senate each passed ESEA reauthorization bills. On the morning of November 19, 2015 the Conference Committee passed the “Every Student Succeeds Act”. The bill is expected to become law. Though the bill language was not public at the time of the meeting, it was expected to maintain the current NAEP participation requirements in reading and mathematics.
  - *NAEP Reauthorization* – The reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act (the “Strengthening Education Through Research Act”), which authorizes NAEP, was not on the Congressional schedules for action in either the House or Senate.
  - *NAEP Appropriations* – Congress has yet to pass a fiscal year 2016 budget. The continuing resolution expires on December 11, 2015. Congress approved overall discretionary funding caps for 2016, which provide for increases compared to fiscal year 2015; however the total appropriations amount for agencies and programs, such as NAEP, are still unknown.
- c. **Board Meeting Locations** - Deputy Executive Director Mary Crovo provided the Committee with an historical overview of the Governing Board meeting locations that have occurred outside of the Washington, DC area since 1989. She solicited invitations from members to host a Board meeting in their home regions in 2017.

### 4. Strategic Planning Initiative

Vice Chair Lucille Davy provided an overview of the Strategic Planning Initiative materials provided to Board members in advance of the meeting. She highlighted the draft Strategic Plan, which incorporated feedback from the Executive Committee’s recent teleconference as well as input from the Governing Board staff and NCEES. Ms. Davy invited discussion regarding the content of the draft Strategic Plan. Executive Committee members engaged in a brief discussion in support of the draft Strategic Plan, with several members commenting that the draft was an accurate reflection of Board discussions to date and the intended direction for its future work.

## **5. Nominations Committee Update**

Nominations Committee Chair Tonya Miles noted that the Board was expected to take action on a slate of finalists for the Chief State School Officer position on Saturday morning, November 21. She explained that the Secretary of Education had requested an expedited process for this Board opening, as the position became vacant on October 1, 2015. The Nominations Committee will develop the slates of finalists for the remaining open positions for terms beginning October 1, 2016 in accordance with its standard timelines, which call for Board action in March 2016.

### **CLOSED SESSION 5:15 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Executive Committee Members:** Terry Mazany (Chair), Lucille Davy (Vice Chair), Rebecca Gagnon, Andrew Ho, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider.

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**U.S. Department of Education Staff:** Jagir Patel.

## **6. NAEP Budget and Assessment Schedule**

The Executive Committee met in closed session from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 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 began the closed session by stating that the Board would take action on the Assessment Schedule on Saturday morning November 21. He emphasized the Board's responsibility to maintain the NAEP program by making reductions to the NAEP Assessment Schedule required for financial reasons. The Assessment Schedule communicates to the public what the Board thinks are the most important subjects to measure, and the Board must make these difficult decisions without full knowledge of the true costs or future appropriation amounts.

Mr. Bushaw provided an overview of the Board's budget priorities, which are:

1. Transition to digital-based assessments and maintain trend (including state validation studies);

2. Assess broad-based curricular areas with a priority for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM);
3. Provide state level data in curriculum areas beyond reading and mathematics; and
4. Include more TUDAs.

Mr. Bushaw described how those priorities guided the joint Governing Board staff and NCES recommended cuts and postponements to the Assessment Schedule (which were originally presented for discussion at the August 2015 Board meeting).

The Executive Committee received updated NAEP budget costs and projections to implement the Assessment Schedule from Acting NCES Commissioner Peggy Carr. The Committee affirmed that the proposed modifications to the Assessment Schedule were a suitable reflection of the aforementioned Board priorities and would be appropriate action in light of the updated budget information.

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

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.

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Terry Mazany, Chair

December 24, 2015

Date