

# **National Assessment Governing Board**

## **Executive Committee**

### **Report of March 3, 2016**

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

**Executive Committee Members:** Terry Mazany (Chair), Shannon Garrison, Rebecca Gagnon, Andrew Ho, Joseph O’Keefe, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider.

**Other Board Members:** Alberto Carvalho, Mitchell Chester, Frank Fernandes, Doris Hicks, Carol Jago, Dale Nowlin, Linda Rosen, Ken Wagner, Chasidy White, Joe Willhoft.

**Governing Board Staff:** Bill Bushaw (Executive Director), Mary Crovo (Deputy Executive Director), Lily Clark, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Laura LoGerfo, Munira Mwalimu, Sharyn Rosenberg, Anthony White.

**NCES Staff:** Peggy Carr (Acting Commissioner), Pat Etienne, Dan McGrath, Michael Moles, Holly Spurlock, Brad Thayer, Amy Yamashiro.

#### **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 the beginning portion of the Executive Committee meeting would occur in closed session. He formally welcomed two new Board members Carol Jago (curriculum specialist) and Ken Wagner (state school chief) to the meeting.

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

The Executive Committee met in closed session from 4:30 p.m. to 5:20 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 highlighting the increased appropriations for NAEP in fiscal year 2016 (for a total of \$149 million), which provides a critical infusion of funds to support the Governing Board’s priorities for NAEP. The Board’s budget priorities are to:

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 Trial Urban District Assessments (TUDA).

Executive Director Bill Bushaw provided an overview of the Governing Board appropriations amount (\$8.235 million for fiscal year 2016) and request history, which is a separate appropriation from the NAEP program.

The Executive Committee received updated NAEP budget costs and projections to implement the Assessment Schedule from Acting NCES Commissioner Peggy Carr. Ms. Carr's presentation included estimated costs to support the Governing Board's priorities and NCES's operational decisions in support of those priorities. For example, these estimates included the projected costs associated with expanding the TUDA program by six additional districts beginning in 2017.

## **OPEN SESSION**

**Executive Committee Members:** Terry Mazany (Chair), Shannon Garrison, Rebecca Gagnon, Andrew Ho, Joseph O'Keefe, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider.

**Other Board Members:** Alberto Carvalho, Mitchell Chester, Frank Fernandes, Doris Hicks, Carol Jago, Dale Nowlin, Linda Rosen, Ken Wagner, Chasidy White, Joe Willhoft.

**Governing Board Staff:** Bill Bushaw (Executive Director), Mary Crovo (Deputy Executive Director), Lily Clark, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Laura LoGerfo, Munira Mwalimu, Sharyn Rosenberg, Anthony White.

NCES Staff: Peggy Carr (Acting Commissioner), Pat Etienne, Dan McGrath, Michael Moles, Holly Spurlock, Brad Thayer, Amy Yamashiro.

**Council of the Great City Schools:** Mike Casserly, Ray Hart.

**Other Attendees:** AIR: George Bohrnstedt, Fran Stancavage. ETS: Jay Campbell, Amy Dresher. Fulcrum: Scott Ferguson. Hager Sharp: David Hoff. HumRRO: Laress Wise. Pearson: Llana Hines.

### **3. 2017 Trial Urban District Assessment Expansion**

Chair Mazany opened the Executive Committee meeting at 5:20 pm to discuss the expansion of the TUDA program. He thanked the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS), in particular its Executive Director Mike Casserly and Director of Research Ray Hart, for their leadership and ongoing support of the TUDA program. He invited Mr. Casserly and Mr. Hart to make remarks prior to the Committee's discussion and action to expand TUDA.

Mr. Casserly spoke of the origins of the TUDA program and the ongoing importance of assessing and reporting NAEP data for large urban districts, which educate a large proportion of the nation's youth. He noted that all six of the volunteering districts are members of the CGCS, and therefore will be able to receive ongoing support from the organization to utilize the TUDA data. He remarked that the additional geographic, racial and ethnic, and language diversity provided by these districts will expand our understanding of what works, and what does not, in urban education. Mr. Hart remarked on the power of TUDA data to inform district reform efforts, speaking from both his expertise as a researcher at CGCS and formerly at a TUDA district. Both Mr. Casserly and Mr. Hart complimented the work of the Governing Board and NCES to sustain the quality and commitment to the TUDA program.

Chair Mazany noted that the NAEP budget increase for fiscal year 2016 provided the Governing Board with sufficient funds to expand the TUDA program. He announced the six districts recommended by Governing Board staff to be added to the TUDA program beginning in 2017. They are:

- 1) Clark County School District (including Las Vegas, NV);
- 2) Denver Public Schools (CO);
- 3) Fort Worth Independent School District (TX);
- 4) Guilford County Schools (including Greensboro, NC);
- 5) Milwaukee Public Schools (WI); and
- 6) Shelby County Schools (including Memphis, TN).

Mr. Bushaw described the process of determining the recommended six districts to be added to the TUDA program. He explained that NCES estimated that the current NAEP budget could support the long-term expansion of the program by six districts. He clarified that it was coincidental that exactly six new eligible districts volunteered to participate in TUDA. As a result, the Governing Board will be able to approve participation in TUDA for all of the districts that volunteered. Additionally, the slate of the six districts will expand the geographic diversity of the TUDA districts, by adding four states to the program (Colorado, Nevada, Tennessee, and Wisconsin). Mr. Bushaw noted that there is only one district eligible for TUDA in a state not yet represented (Mesa, AZ). Beginning in 2017, only 10 districts will remain eligible but not participating in TUDA.

Mr. Bushaw formally presented the recommendation of the Governing Board staff, based on consultation with NCES and CGCS, to approve the six above-listed districts that submitted an official letter of intent to participate in the TUDA program beginning in 2017. With the six new districts, the 2017 NAEP TUDA will have a total of 27 large urban districts participating.

Chair Mazany invited a motion on the recommended action. Fielding Rolston moved for the Committee to consider the recommendation. Shannon Garrison seconded the motion. The motion passed the Executive Committee unanimously.

**ACTION: The Executive Committee recommends the full Board approve the six districts that submitted an official letter of intent to participate in the TUDA program beginning in 2017.**

#### **4. Strategic Planning Initiative**

Chair Mazany noted that Vice Chair Lucille Davy was unable to attend the Executive Committee meeting. He asked Lily Clark of the Governing Board staff to provide the Committee with an update on the Strategic Planning Initiative.

Ms. Clark summarized the three phases of the Strategic Planning Initiative; she focused the Committee's attention on the timeline to develop the Strategic Plan, for the Board's approval at the August 2016 Board meeting. Approval of the plan will complete Phase II of the Initiative; Phase III is implementation.

A key element of developing the Strategic Plan is for the Board to consider external feedback from stakeholders. Ms. Clark explained the Governing Board's process for gathering the

external feedback provided in the Board materials, which includes a one page summary of feedback from the Governing Board/Council of Chief State School Officers Policy Task Force and a consultant's report summarizing confidential conversations with 22 individuals representing NAEP's various stakeholder groups. She noted the importance of the Board reading through these documents prior to the plenary session on Saturday, March 6.

## 5. Legislative Updates

Ms. Clark provided the Executive Committee with the following updates:

- The Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA (reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act) was signed into law by the President on December 10, 2015. The law maintains the requirements for states to participate in NAEP's reading and math assessments in grades four and eight. The Department of Education has begun seeking public comments on the potential regulations for ESSA and Congress has begun conducting hearings to oversee implementation of ESSA.
- Acting Secretary John King testified at a hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions regarding his nomination to serve as Secretary of Education. The HELP Committee will vote on the nomination on March 9, 2016.
- NAEP Reauthorization, also known as the Strengthening Education Through Research Act (SETRA), passed the Senate on December 17, 2015. The U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee has yet to consider the bill.
- A recent report by Achieve highlights turnover in state educational leadership since last year, which includes more than a dozen new Governors, 31 new state education chiefs, and 20 percent new state board members (95 new state board members across 33 states).
- The President's budget request for fiscal year 2017, announced in February 2016, remains at \$149M for the NAEP program to continue the investment in the Board's priorities.

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

March 13, 2016

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Date