

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of December 5, 2013

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Susan Pimentel, Vice Chair, Lou Fabrizio, Shannon Garrison, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider. Other Board Members: Lucille Davy, Rebecca Gagnon, Andrew Ho, Terry Holliday, Hector Ibarra, Dale Nowlin, Joseph O'Keefe, S.J., W. James Popham, Leticia Van de Putte. NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Larry Feinberg, Stephaan Harris, Michelle Blair, Munira Mwalimu, Tessa Regis, Sharyn Rosenberg, Angela Scott. IES: John Q. Easton. NCES Staff: Jack Buckley, Peggy Carr, Arnold Goldstein, Andrew Kolstad, Suzanne Triplett. ETS: Steve Lazer, Jay Campbell, Kathleen Scalise, Amy Drescher, Greg Vafis, Andreas Oranje. HumRRO: Laress Wise, Steve Sellman. AIR: George Bohrnstedt, Kim Gattis, Victor Bandeira de Mello, Kyle Stickles, Fran Stancavage. Pearson: Brad Thayer, Connie R, Smith. Hager Sharp: David Hoff, Debra Silimeo. ERI: Amy Yamashiro. Optimal: Craig Streit.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The December Board meeting being the first of the 2013-2014 term, Mr. Driscoll announced new Committee officers and members. Mr. Driscoll welcomed new Board member Lucille Davy, who will take the oath of office on December 6. He acknowledged new Executive Committee members Cary Sneider, recently appointed as Vice Chair of the Assessment Development Committee (ADC), and Terry Mazany, recently appointed as Vice Chair of the Reporting and Dissemination (R&D) Committee, who will arrive at the Board meeting on December 6. Mr. Driscoll noted that Shannon Garrison is now the Chair of ADC and that Father Joseph O'Keefe is a new member of the Nominations Committee. Mr. Driscoll then provided an overview of the Executive Committee agenda.

2. Committee Issues and Challenges

Assessment Development Committee (ADC)

Shannon Garrison, ADC Chair, said that the ADC did not meet on Thursday, December 5, which is quite unusual. However, the ADC had met twice earlier in the week by conference call to review reading and mathematics contextual questions. The Committee is looking forward to changes to the questions in the future, to align with the Board's new Contextual Information Framework. This document and the work that Mike Smith and Alan Ginsburg are doing to develop education indicators using NAEP will be the focus of a joint R&D/ADC meeting on December 6. Ms. Garrison said the challenge is how to formulate contextual questions to ensure they are clear, relevant, and informative, while maintaining trend where needed. The ADC will propose ideas for focused reports designed to keep attention on NAEP results after the first wave of press releases fades.

Ms. Garrison said that another challenge the ADC will address is the movement toward technology-based assessments for NAEP. This is a significant cross-cutting issue that will need

the attention of the three standing committees. In addition to assessment content issues that ADC will address, there are technical and validity issues for the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology to address and reporting issues for R&D to address. In its meeting on December 6, the ADC will explore the content issues and hear from NCEs about timelines, pilot testing, and related matters, focusing particularly on the reading and mathematics assessments.

Ms. Garrison said that the Committee will receive an update on the soon-to-be-released “lessons learned” report from the 2011 grade 4 computer-based Writing pilot. The ADC has monitored the development of this report closely, providing a great deal of input during the last several meetings on how to make the web-based information accessible to teachers, parents, and others.

Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM)

Fielding Rolston, COSDAM Vice Chair, provided a brief overview of the Committee agenda. Mr. Rolston said that a focus of the COSDAM meeting will be a discussion of the Achievement Level Setting (ALS) process for the 2014 NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) Assessment. Setting achievement levels on this type of assessment presents some unique challenges because TEL is computer-based, uses an evidence-centered design model, and measures a new construct not explicitly taught in most schools. The contract award for conducting the TEL achievement level-setting process is planned for early 2014.

At the May 2013 meeting, COSDAM reviewed an issues paper on setting achievement levels on TEL. Committee members asked NCEs for information from the large scale field trial (conducted earlier in 2013) that could help inform the ALS process. At the August 2013 meeting, ETS staff shared some initial results from the TEL field trial, but the scaling analyses had not yet been completed at that time. In COSDAM’s closed session Friday morning, ETS staff will present scaling data from the TEL field trial and a schedule for analysis of the 2014 data. The discussion on the presentation will inform COSDAM’s guidance to Board staff on the ALS procurement

Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R & D)

Due to the absence of the R&D Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Executive Director Cornelia Orr spoke to issues and challenges the R&D Committee will address in a joint meeting with COSDAM on December 6. The focus will be on the implementation of the Board policy on *NAEP Testing and Reporting on Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners*. The meeting objectives are to (1) review the 2013 data—for grade 4 and 8 reading and mathematics—on students assessed, accommodated, excluded and absent, including total participation rates and (2) discuss NCEs’s plans for implementing the follow-up actions endorsed at the May 2013 Board meeting. The two committees will discuss whether the Board policy needs to be revised.

Nominations Committee

Tonya Miles, Chair of the Nominations Committee, welcomed Father Joseph O’Keefe as the newest member of the Nominations Committee. Ms. Miles said that the call for nominations for the 2014

cycle was very successful. More than 120 nominations were received by the October 31, 2013 closing date. The nominations are for Board vacancies for terms that begin on October 1, 2014.

Nominations were in the following 5 categories:

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

During the next several months, each nominee will be rated independently by three members of the Nominations Committee. The Committee will convene via teleconference in February 2014 to discuss the nominees and recommend a slate of six finalists for each category. At the March 2014 Board meeting, the Nominations Committee will present the slate of finalists to the Board for action. Then the finalists will be presented to Secretary Arne Duncan for his review and determination of the appointees for terms beginning on October 1, 2014.

3. Education Summit for Parent Leaders

Tonya Miles, a member of the Parent Summit Planning Group, provided a status report on the Summit. The Planning Group also includes Rebecca Gagnon, Terry Mazany, and former Board member Eileen Weiser. The goal of the Summit is to convey to parent leaders the urgency of improving student achievement in the United States for all children and the urgency of reducing achievement gaps between student subgroups. The Summit will enable attendees to use NAEP data and resources to ask the right questions of their education leaders about the status of student achievement and gaps in achievement locally, and to promote productive conversations about what is being done to improve achievement and close achievement gaps.

The Summit will be conducted in Arlington, VA and available across the nation via live-streaming internet video. The Summit audience of approximately 150 will consist primarily of parent leaders. The day-long event will be broken into two major components. The first component, in the morning, will focus on information sharing about NAEP, NAEP results, and the reasons why it is urgent to improve achievement and close achievement gaps. The second component, in the afternoon, will consist of workshop sessions in which the attendees have hands-on experience using NAEP data and resources, applying what was learned in the morning session. Diversity, balance, and bi-partisanship in a non-partisan manner are the watchwords for the planning and execution of the Summit. Confirmed speakers are Secretary Duncan, Kati Haycock (the Education Trust), Charles Payne (University of Chicago), Steve Murdock (Rice University), Marc Morial (National Urban League), Janet Murguia (National Council of La Raza), and Otha Thornton (National PTA).

4. Governing Board 25th Anniversary

Mary Crovo, Deputy Executive Director, gave a brief update on the planning for the Board's 25th anniversary commemoration. She said that the 25th Anniversary Planning Committee will meet by conference call in several weeks to work on the agenda. The theme will be "25 Years of Making a Difference." The 25th anniversary commemoration will be held on February 26,

2014, in connection with the quarterly Board meeting scheduled to begin on February 27. It will be conducted at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

5. NAEP Budget and Reauthorization Update

Ray Fields, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, said that there were reports in the press about the bipartisan, bicameral congressional negotiations on the FY 2014 budget that suggest the possibility of some mitigation of the expected second round of sequester reductions. Mr. Fields said that the House Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing in September on the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) legislation, which includes the NAEP Authorization Act. He said that work was being done to draft a bill for IES and NAEP reauthorization, with the goal of having a bill introduced in the House by the end of the 2013 calendar year.

6. NAEP Schedule of Assessments

Cornelia Orr provided an overview for an Executive Committee discussion on the NAEP schedule of assessments. The Board has taken action at the last two meetings on the NAEP schedule, prompted in large measure by the FY 2013 sequester. At the May 2013 meeting, the Board postponed the 2014 assessments at grades 4 and 12 in U.S. history, civics and geography. At the August 2013 meeting, the Board approved the continuation of TUDA in 2015 for the 21 districts that participated in 2013 and postponed the following:

- the 2015 High School Transcript Study
- the 2015 state-level assessments at grade 12 in reading, mathematics, and science
- the 2016 Long-Term Trend assessments in reading and mathematics at ages 9, 13 and 17

The current approved schedule of assessments ends in 2017 and additional assessment years need to be added to achieve the 10-year outlook required by Board policy. As background for the discussion, a staff-prepared draft of a schedule through 2022 was presented. The principles or assumptions underlying the discussion draft are:

- Continue to cover the broad range of subject areas
- Administer all assessments using technology beginning in 2017
- Conduct assessments in
 - reading and mathematics at grades 4 and 8 once every two years
 - reading and mathematics at grade 12 once every four years
 - science and writing once every four years in alternating biennia
 - U.S. history, civics, and geography once every four years
 - technology and engineering once every four years, expanding from grade 8 in 2014 by one additional grade each cycle through 2022
 - the arts, economics, foreign language, and world history at least twice in a ten-year period

Ms. Orr said that no action on the schedule is needed at this time. The intention at this meeting is for the Executive Committee to have an initial discussion on the pros and cons of the aforementioned principles and assumptions. Executive Committee members expressed the views that: (1) assessment at grade 12 was increasingly important, (2) grade 12 assessments

should be conducted more frequently than once every four years, (3) grade 12 assessments at the state level should be increased, (3) there should be a robust discussion about the long-term trend assessments, (4) the timeline for the expansion of TEL to grade 4 should be shortened, (5) private funding should be considered for expanding the grades at which TEL is assessed, and (6) how the Trial Urban District Assessments are scheduled should be considered.

With respect to the proposed transition to technology based administration for all NAEP assessments beginning in 2017, Associate Commissioner Peggy Carr gave a brief presentation on the implications for trend reporting with three proposed options. Ms. Carr emphasized that there are substantive policy issues about test content, technical and validity matters, and how to report the results the Board committees should address.

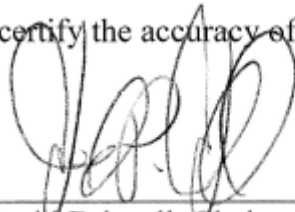
Cornelia Orr said that the Board did not anticipate adding TUDA participants in 2015; however, one district, Milwaukee, has declined to participate. This potentially creates a slot for one new district. Chair Driscoll said that if a district is added, it must be accomplished on an expedited schedule to meet the NCES operational timelines for the 2015 assessments while, at the same time, adhering in an open and transparent way to the Board's policies and procedures. During the week of December 9, Governing Board staff will work with NCES and the Council of the Great City Schools to determine whether it is operationally feasible to carry out the Board's policies and procedures to identify interested eligible districts and, if feasible, to make a timely recommendation for Board action.

Following this discussion, Board member Leticia Van de Putte brought to the Chair's attention a news report that Nelson Mandela had died. Chair Driscoll then read a quote of Mr. Mandela's:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Mr. Driscoll then adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David Driscoll, Chair

12/06/13

Date