

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of February 27, 2014

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Lou Fabrizio, Shannon Garrison, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston, Cary Sneider. Other Board Members: Rebecca Gagnon, Andrew Ho, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, Joseph O'Keefe, S.J., NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Larry Feinberg, Stephaan Harris, Michelle Blair, Munira Mwalimu, Sharyn Rosenberg. IES: John Q. Easton. NCES Staff: Peggy Carr, Elvie Germino Hausken, Arnold Goldstein, Andrew Kolstad, Andrew Malizio, Michael Moles. ETS: Jay Campbell, Amy Dresher, Longjuan Liang, Andreas Oranje, Greg Vafis. HumRRO: Laress Wise, Steve Sellman. AIR: Alka Aurora, Kim Gattis, Ruth Isaia, Fran Stancavage. Pearson: Brad Thayer, Connie R. Smith. Hager Sharp: David Hoff. Reingold: Amy Buckley. Fulcrum: Scott Ferguson, Saira Brenner. Optimal: Rukayat Akinbiyi. Westat: Chris Averett.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Driscoll started the meeting by commenting on the Governing Board's 25th Anniversary Symposium held on February 26, 2014. He thanked the Board staff and participants for being instrumental in making this event a success, and he noted that the dialogue at the event prompted reflection in several areas, most notably in the area of reporting. Mr. Driscoll commented that the country is not getting enough mileage out of the results that NAEP releases. These results often capture the attention of the country for only a short while, without much emphasis on the deeper analyses and messages embedded in the results, some of which are negative and some of which are positive. He charged the Board to take on this communication and reporting challenge.

Executive Director Cornelia Orr then provided an overview of the agenda for the Friday full Board sessions, with a special emphasis on desired outcomes for these various sessions. She noted that the 25th Anniversary Symposium was intended to spark reflection throughout the Board meeting discussion sessions, including today's Executive Committee session. Several sessions relate to the NAEP Assessment Schedule, including the informational session on the NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment and a closed session addressing the NAEP budget. These sessions will provide more information about the cost drivers in the NAEP assessment program.

2. TUDA for 2015 – Status Report

Ms. Orr referred to the Executive Committee materials, which include a map showing the geographic location of current participants in the NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program. Two of the districts eligible for NAEP TUDA volunteered to participate to

fill the available slot created by Milwaukee's decision to discontinue their participation. Of the two districts that volunteered, the Board voted to select Duval County (Jacksonville), Florida to fill the vacancy.

3. Committee Topics: Issues and Challenges

Assessment Development Committee (ADC)

ADC Chair Shannon Garrison noted that at this meeting, the general session would include a presentation from NCES on the timeline, process, and issues related to a major milestone for NAEP: the transition to Technology Based Assessments (TBA). Current paper and pencil assessments in reading and mathematics are planned for transition to TBA by 2017. As National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Associate Commissioner Peggy Carr noted at the December 2013 Executive Committee meeting, the TBA transition offers challenges for all of the Board's Committees. For ADC, the issues relate to frameworks and items. For the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM), the issues relate to scaling and achievement levels, and for the Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R&D), the issues relate to reporting and communication. The ADC will discuss the policy issues related to TBA in reading and mathematics, with a focus on issues unique to these two subject areas. The TBA transition will be a major topic on Committee and Board agendas in the years ahead, and the ADC looks forward to reporting the outcomes of the Committee's initial discussion on this important topic.

Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM)

COSDAM Chair Lou Fabrizio began his remarks by noting, as had Shannon Garrison of the ADC, that one of the major issues facing the NAEP program over the next few years is the transition to Technology Based Assessments (TBA). A brief overview of plans for TBA was presented at the December 2013 Executive Committee meeting. A more comprehensive overview will be presented during the general session at this meeting. In addition, COSDAM will be briefed on one of the more technical aspects of the transition to TBA, the plans for two-stage adaptive testing in Mathematics and Science and potential implications for trend.

Mr. Fabrizio noted that COSDAM's agenda also includes a closed session briefing from NCES on grade 12 school and student participation rates and item response rates. There is a tendency for some people to question whether grade 12 students put forth their best effort on a low-stakes assessment, but the data collected by NCES for the 2009 assessment were encouraging. The presentation will include 2013 data, as well as data from previous years. Finally, Mr. Fabrizio stated that COSDAM will learn the results of the NAEP-PIRLS linking study, which was performed using 2011 NAEP and PIRLS results for grade 4 Reading. The Board approved a resolution in November 2009 to conduct this linking study, and the study design was presented to COSDAM in March 2011.

Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R & D)

R&D Committee Vice Chair Terry Mazany noted several topics as the core focus for the work of R&D at this meeting. Many of these topics will affect the Committee's discussions on an ongoing basis for several years. First, the Committee will continue its discussion on how to have earlier and bigger-picture Board input in NAEP reports. At this meeting, the Committee

will tackle the 2014 Report Cards for Civics, Geography, and U.S. History and provide guidance on beneficial features to include for the general public, not just on the NAEP website but also in the NAEP release strategies. On this note, the R&D Committee held a conference call last week with Board staff and NCES to discuss the outline of the upcoming Black Male Report to be released in fall 2014. There were good discussions and sharing of ideas during the call. This represents the kind of input the Committee is hoping to have for future report development efforts. Second, R&D is reviewing and offering input into the draft of a new communications plan developed by Reingold, the Board's communications contractor. The plan lists various strategies under eight areas, and includes audience outreach groups, such as parents. The strategies, once approved, will shape the Board's outreach in regard to NAEP and its own initiatives.

Mr. Mazany remarked there were also two items that represent policy developments: First, NCES has plans for developing sets of core contextual questions (modules) for 2017. These plans capitalize on the prospect of technology-based assessments, which are expected to begin in 2017 for NAEP Mathematics and Reading. This represents an exciting opportunity for the Board to apply our recent policy statement on contextual data in NAEP reporting. Second, the Committee will continue discussion of the embargo policy in place for advanced media access to NAEP Report Cards, and how the Board may want to adjust the policy given the expansion of online and nontraditional media and more of those outlets requesting access.

Mr. Mazany concluded by noting action items for this meeting: (1) a release plan for NAEP Grade 12 Reading and Mathematics, which will feature some findings on NAEP and academic preparedness measures, and (2) a release plan for the computer-based Grade 4 NAEP Writing 2012 Pilot.

Nominations Committee

Nominations Committee Chair Tonya Miles stated that this meeting marks the culmination of the Nominations Committee's intensive, year-long search and evaluation process. On Saturday morning, the Nominations Committee will present to the Board for action, a list of finalists for five positions, for terms beginning on October 1, 2014.

Those positions are:

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

There are incumbents in the 4th and 8th grade teacher slots. However, the other three positions have no incumbents.

The Committee believes it has narrowed the large pool of 2014 nominees to a set of top-notch finalists. In terms of "issues and challenges" for nominations, during the 25th anniversary evening events, it was noted that the Board's nominations process has been working well for a

number of years. Recent advances have included broader outreach through emails and social media, and enhancements to the nominations website (e.g., Board member audio testimonials).

As the Committee begins to think about the 2015 nominations cycle, the Board needs to expand ways to attract high-quality nominees. These individuals must be diverse, knowledgeable, and committed to the mission of the Board and NAEP. The Nominations Committee will be exploring new outreach strategies and working with Reingold to further enhance the 2015 nominations outreach. Ideas from other Board members are invited as the Committee begins the 2015 process in the months ahead.

4. Feedback from January 2014 Education Summit for Parent Leaders

Mr. Driscoll began this session by noting that there was a great deal for the Board to be proud of regarding this important event. Summit Planning Committee Members Tonya Miles and Terry Mazany provided a summary of feedback on the Summit, which was held on January 13, 2014. Mr. Mazany highlighted that parents were able to obtain hands-on experience with NAEP's web-based resources. Mr. Mazany noted the high quality of the program, the staff support, and the speakers. He also remarked on the strong attendance, which was primarily drawn from the local area, and substantive media coverage, which were largely due to the skillful coordination of Governing Board staff member Stephaan Harris and the staff at Reingold, communications contractor to the Board.

In terms of next steps, Mr. Mazany noted that it is not clear what actions were taken by participants. Hence, a more comprehensive strategy is needed in order for the Board to have a greater impact on parent leaders. Ms. Miles then stated the twin goals of the Summit, which were to convey the urgency of raising achievement and the urgency of closing student achievement gaps. Ms. Miles commented that the event set a wonderful stage for continued work in this area. Mr. Driscoll also remarked on the significance of the high level of participation from military families. He closed by noting the Secretary's gratitude for the Board's work, and reiterating thanks to staff, with special appreciation for the efforts of former Board staff member Ray Fields.

5. Update: NAEP Budget for FY14 and NAEP Reauthorization

Ms. Orr presented the updated budget figures for the NAEP program. Congress passed the fiscal year 2014 budget, which includes \$7 million more than the figures we were previously using for NAEP. Regarding the NAEP Reauthorization, there appears to be some recent activity, but a bill has not yet been presented.

6. Policy Discussion: State NAEP in Civics, U.S. History, Geography

Deputy Executive Director Mary Crovo provided an overview of the issues of conducting a NAEP state assessment in Civics, U.S. History, and Geography. She referred to the Executive Committee's materials, which presented relevant milestones. Over the years, there have been several passionate advocates for the need for state-level results in these subject areas. Given the recent calls from various stakeholders and the rationales they have presented, Ms. Crovo noted that now would be an appropriate time for the Board to consider the various benefits and

tradeoffs associated with adding a NAEP state assessment in Civics, U.S. History, and Geography for grades 8 and 12. In the Executive Committee’s discussion, Cary Schneider noted that the 25th Anniversary Symposium remarks addressed issues relevant to Civics and increasing assessment in this area.

7. Future Topic Suggestions

Mr. Schneider suggested that there be a discussion of a potential crosswalk between the NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) Framework and the Next Generation Science Standards. He stated that it is important to address the issue of the similarity between these two documents. Peggy Carr reported that this comparison was already underway via work being done by a NAEP contractor.

Mr. Driscoll adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 5:15 p.m.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David P. Driscoll, Chair

3-25-14

Date