

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of March 4, 2010

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Amanda Avallone, Vice Chair, Lou Fabrizio, David Gordon, Kathi King, Steve Paine, Mary Frances Taymans, Darwin Winick, Eileen Weiser. Other Board Members: David Alukonis, John Q. Easton (*ex officio*), Kim Kozbial-Hess, Doris Hicks, Henry Kranendonk, Tonya Miles, W. James Popham, Andrew Porter, Warren Smith, Oscar Troncoso, Eric Wearne (representing Governor Perdue). NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Susan Loomis, Lawrence Feinberg, Michelle Blair, Stephaan Harris, Munira Mwalimu. NCES Staff: Stuart Keraschky, Peggy Carr, Suzanne Triplett, Arnold Goldstein, Steven Gorman, Andrew Kolstad, Drew Malizio, Grady Wilborn, Brenda Wolff. ETS: John Mazzeo, Jay Campbell. HumRRO: Laress L. Wise, Steve Sellman. Pearson: Brad Thayer, Connie Smith. AIR: Fran Stancavage. Westat: Chris Averett, Nancy Caldwell, Marcie Hickman, Dianne Walsh. NAEP ESSI: Kim Gattis. Hager Sharp: Lisa Clarke.

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Governing Board Committee Updates

Kathi King, Chair, Assessment Development Committee

Approval of the technological literacy assessment framework will be an action item at the March 2010 Governing Board meeting. Also to be decided is what to call the framework, about which there have been differing views. The Assessment Development Committee will propose that it be referred to as the framework for the technology and engineering literacy assessment. The framework was developed under a contract awarded to WestEd in September 2008. The development of the framework has involved more than 2,000 individuals and organizations through numerous forums, public hearings, and other outreach efforts, including an outreach meeting on March 3, 2010 with a wide range of representatives from science and engineering professional organizations, higher education, and secondary education. The Committee will also review the draft specifications for the assessment, which are to be approved at the May 2010 Board meeting. The Committee will have a presentation by ETS on student non-response to NAEP items. In closed session, the Committee will discuss the NAEP reading vocabulary items, science interactive computer tasks and hands-on tasks, and the computer-based writing assessment.

Lou Fabrizio, Chair, Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology

The 2009 reading assessment is based on a new assessment framework. Therefore, new achievement level descriptions are needed for reporting the 2009 reading results. A procedure for drafting, vetting, and finalizing the new reading achievement level descriptions has been underway since November 2009. At the March 2010 meeting, the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology will recommend that the Governing Board approve the new reading achievement level descriptions for 2009. The Committee will also receive a report on the NAEP evaluation and NCES's actions in response, an update on the 12th grade preparedness research program, and a discussion of plans and options in 2011 for studies to link NAEP with TIMSS and PIRLS.

David Gordon, Chair, Reporting and Dissemination Committee

Approval of the release plans for the 2009 Reading Report Card and the 2009 TUDA Reading Report Card will be action items at the March 2010 Board meeting. The Reporting and Dissemination Committee will also discuss a review of the recent release of the 2009 TUDA Mathematics Report Card, the projected schedule of NAEP report releases, and the audit of communications about NAEP and the Governing Board prepared by Reingold, Inc. Governor Ronnie Musgrove, Chair of the NAEP High School Achievement Commission established by the Board, will discuss the draft communications plan under development by the Commission. Staff of NCES will provide updates on the Mega-States Report, the work being done in connection with assessing NAEP mathematics results for Puerto Rico, a report on refusals by states to participate in 12th grade NAEP, and plans for improving private school participation in NAEP.

Eileen Weiser, Chair, Nominations Committee

An action item at the March 2010 Board meeting will be approval of slates of candidates to forward for Secretary Duncan's consideration in filling Board positions for terms beginning on October 1, 2010. Five Board positions are to be filled: chief state school officer, 4th grade teacher, 8th grade teacher, secondary school principal, and general public/parent. More than 2,000 letters were sent out seeking nominations and 110 nominations were received. Great emphasis was placed on achieving balance in terms of geography, race/ethnicity, and gender, as called for under the NAEP legislation.

3. Report on January 22, 2010 Executive Committee Teleconference

Chair David Driscoll reported on the January 22, 2010 Executive Committee teleconference, conducted jointly with the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology. The primary reason for the joint teleconference was to review the staff's draft response to the NAEP evaluation of achievement levels. The NAEP legislation calls for the Board to send its response to the Secretary and to the House and Senate education committees. Mr. Driscoll said that the evaluation of NAEP overall and the achievement levels in particular was very positive. The Board's response was sent about 30 days before it was due.

The two committees also received reports from Board staff on progress made in planning for international linking studies in connection with NAEP assessments to be conducted in 2011, pursuant to the Board's November 2009 resolution on this topic. This is to be discussed in more detail in the next agenda item, on proposed changes to the NAEP schedule of assessments. Plans are moving

forward to conduct linking studies with the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) at 8th grade and in 4th grade with the Programme in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). This has a bearing on the budget, which will be discussed in closed session, and on the schedule of assessments—which will be an action item. Executive Director Cornelia Orr also provided an update on the relocation of the staff offices from their current site in Washington, DC to a building that will also house NCES and the Institute of Education Sciences and be within walking distance of the Department of Education headquarters.

ACTION ITEM

4. NAEP Schedule of Assessments

At the November 2009 meeting, the Governing Board unanimously passed a resolution in support of the conduct of linking studies in 2011 between the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and international assessments scheduled for the same year.

The NAEP schedule for 2011 calls for assessments in reading, mathematics, and writing. The international assessments to be conducted in 2011 are the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) at grades 4 and 8 and the Programme in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) at grade 4. Although the NAEP schedule for 2011 does not include science, the resolution requested staff of the Governing Board and of the National Center for Education Statistics to plan collaboratively for the conduct of the linking studies in reading, mathematics, and science and report to the Governing Board at the March 2010 meeting on the status of planning for the linking studies, including the implications for cost and the Board-adopted NAEP schedule of assessments.

At the March 2010 Governing Board meeting, NCES and Board staff reported that the President's budget request for FY 2011, submitted to Congress in February 2010, includes funds for a linking study between NAEP and TIMSS in mathematics at grade 8. Consistent with the Board resolution, Board and NCES staff proposed that a linking study between NAEP and TIMSS in science be conducted at grade 8. NCES staff reported that fifty states have indicated that they will participate if the 8th grade NAEP science assessment were to be conducted in 2011.

Adding the 8th grade science assessment in 2011 requires Board action. To fund the 8th grade science assessment in 2011, Board staff proposed that the 4th grade writing assessment at the national and state levels be cancelled for 2011. In 2011, the writing assessment at grades 8 and 12 is to be computer-based and the beginning of a new trend line. The 4th grade assessment is to be administered in paper and pencil format in 2011, with the intention of moving to computer-based assessment at grade 4 for the next administration. Because the 2011 grade 4 writing results would be stand-alone, neither continuing the old trend line nor beginning a new one, it is prudent to cancel the 2011 grade 4 writing assessment at the national and state levels.

Governing Board staff also proposed a change in the NAEP schedule related to the technology and engineering literacy assessment planned for 2012. The time required for the development of the framework, with input from over 2,000 people, together with the challenges of developing test items for this ground-breaking, innovative computer-based assessment, necessitate postponement of the technology and engineering literacy assessment from 2012 to 2014.

According to NCEES staff, the rescheduling of the technology and engineering literacy assessment will make additional funds available that can support the international linking studies.

Following the discussion, action on amending the schedule was postponed to permit the Executive Committee to receive the briefing in closed session on the contract cost estimates associated with the proposed schedule changes.

5. Ad Hoc Committee on Testing and Reporting on Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners

Oscar Troncoso, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Testing and Reporting on Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners said that the Committee had met earlier on March 4, 2010 for its final meeting and is going to present a final policy for Board discussion on March 5 and Board action on March 6. The Ad Hoc Committee has worked for over a year in developing the policy. The Committee has held three public forums—in Los Angeles, El Paso, and Washington, DC, and received over 100 comments.

6. Update: The NAEP High School Achievement Commission

Ronnie Musgrove, former Governor of Mississippi, former Board member and currently Chair of the NAEP High School Achievement Commission provided a briefing on the Commission's activities. Governor Musgrove said the primary role of the Commission is to help the Governing Board in getting the word out to a wide range of audiences about the Board's plans for 12th grade preparedness research, the research results as they become available, and the potential uses for the NAEP 12th grade preparedness data. There are nine Commission members, six of whom are current or former Board members, including Eileen Weiser and Steven Paine. Darvin Winick and Mark Musick serve as advisors to the Commission. Governor Musgrove said that the Commission has had two meetings—a half-day in-person inaugural meeting in DC on November 2, 2009 and a two-hour conference call on February 24, 2010. Attendance, participation, and enthusiasm have been high. The main outcome of the inaugural meeting was agreement to begin planning for the Commission's activities and, as a first step, to ask Reingold, the Board's communications contractor, to assist in developing a draft communications plan.

The day after the Commission's November 2 meeting, Governor Musgrove and Ray Fields met with Reingold staff to provide guidance in framing the plan. A draft of the plan is included in the Executive Committee tab of the Board briefing book. The Commission's February 24 conference call was focused on reviewing the draft communications plan. The Commission members had a number of very substantive comments that resulted in staff prepared changes, now being reviewed by the Commission members. Governor Musgrove said that he will meet with the Reporting and Dissemination Committee on March 5 to discuss the draft plan. As an example of the kind of activities envisioned for the Commission, he mentioned a presentation about the Commission and its work he had made on February 25 at a conference sponsored by the Education Industry Association.

7. Race to the Top/Common Core State Standards Initiative

Chair David Driscoll said that earlier in the day on March 4 the Department of Education had announced the list of 16 finalists for the first round of the Race to the Top competition. A Department of Education press release was provided to Executive Committee members that listed the finalists and described the peer review process by which the finalists were selected and the in-person presentation of applications by the panelists in mid-March to the peer reviewers that will result in final scores to be presented to Secretary Duncan for final selection.

Cornelia Orr said that the draft K-12 common core state standards are being reviewed by the states and will be subject to further revisions.

8. Governing Board Operations

Cornelia Orr discussed the new procedures for Committee reports that were initiated at the November 2009 Board meeting. It is no longer necessary for Committee reports to be written and approved by the conclusion of each Board meeting. Staff will send the draft committee reports to Committee chairs by the Tuesday following each Board meeting. The timeline calls for review and sign-off of the reports by the respective chairs by the Friday following each Board meeting.

Ms. Orr said that planning is beginning for future meetings that will be conducted outside of Washington, DC. A map displaying the dates and locations of all previous out-of Washington, DC meetings was shared with the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee and all Board members in attendance at the meeting were invited to suggest potential locations. Doris Hicks recommended that a future Board meeting be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was noted that the map of previous Board meeting sites had many states in which no Board meeting had been held. The thought was shared that the appointment of new Board members may provide opportunities for holding meetings in some of those states. Ms. Orr said that Board member's suggestions for Board meeting sites will continue to be sought.

CLOSED SESSION: 5:30 – 5:45 P.M.

9. Contract Costs FY 2010-2012

The Executive Committee met in closed session from 5:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Peggy Carr and Cornelia Orr discussed contractor costs and contract options under NAEP and Governing Board contracts.

The meeting was conducted in closed session because the disclosure of technical and cost data would significantly impede implementation of the contract awards and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(C) of Title 5 U.S.C.

OPEN SESSION: 5:45 – 6:00 P.M.

At 5:45 p.m., Chair David Driscoll declared the meeting open. At that time, discussion returned to the NAEP schedule of assessments.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend that the National Assessment Governing Board amend the NAEP schedule of assessments as follows:

1. Cancel the 2011 4th grade writing assessment at the national and state levels;
2. Add in 2011 an assessment of science at grade 8 at the national and state levels; and
3. Postpone until 2014 the technology and engineering literacy assessment currently scheduled for 2012.

This motion will be placed before the Governing Board for consideration on March 6, 2010.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.

David P. Driscoll, Chair

Date