

National Assessment Governing Board

Executive Committee

Report of November 29, 2012

Attendees: David Driscoll, Chair, Susan Pimentel, Vice Chair, Andrés A. Alonso, Lou Fabrizio, Alan Friedman, Shannon Garrison, Tonya Miles, Fielding Rolston. Other Board Members: Rebecca Gagnon, Doris R. Hicks, Andrew Ho, Terry Holliday, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, Terry Mazany, Dale Nowlin, Joseph O’Keefe, S.J., Jim Popham. NAGB Staff: Cornelia Orr, Mary Crovo, Ray Fields, Larry Feinberg, Stephaan Harris, Michelle Blair, Tessa Regis, Angela Scott. IES: John Q. Easton. NCES Staff: Jack Buckley, Peggy Carr, Andrew Kolstad, Drew Malizio, Arnold Goldstein. ETS: Jay Campbell, Amy Dresher, Greg Vafis, Andres Oranje. HumRRO: Laress Wise, Steve Sellman. Westat: Keith Rust, Chris Averett. AIR: Kim Gattis, Cadelle Hemphill, Sharon Rosenberg. Reingold: Amy Buckley. Hager Sharp: Debra Silimeo. Pearson: Brad Thayer, Connie Smith.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Driscoll called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He recognized new Board members Rebecca Gagnon, Andrew Ho, Father Joseph O’Keefe, and Terry Mazany. Mr. Driscoll said that the next six months would be particularly important, mentioning the planning for the Board’s 25th anniversary, the education summit for parent leaders, the Board’s “making a difference” initiative, and the revision of Board policy. Mr. Driscoll praised Kentucky’s courageous adoption of rigorous new standards and assessments, led by Terry Holliday, Kentucky Commissioner of Education and Governing Board member. Mr. Driscoll made special note of the well-planned communications that helped gain public understanding and support for the initiative, particularly in light of disappointing initial test results.

2. Committee Issues and Challenges

Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM)

Lou Fabrizio, COSDAM Chair, said the Committee will be welcoming new member Andrew Ho. The Committee will receive two updates on the NAEP 12th grade academic preparedness research. The first update will be on the survey of postsecondary education institutions’ use of tests and cut scores to determine first-year students’ need for remedial/developmental versus credit-bearing courses. The second update will be on the course content analyses for college and job training programs comparing course pre-requisites and NAEP. This will be followed by a discussion on initial plans for preparedness research that would be conducted in connection with the 2013 NAEP assessments. Finally, the Committee will receive an update from NCES on the status of the NAEP-TIMSS statistical linking conducted in 2011 and options for reporting the outcomes of the linking study.

Assessment Development Committee (ADC)

Alan Friedman, ADC Chair, said the Committee will address three main topics. The first topic is to discuss the plans for reporting information from the pilot for the NAEP 4th grade computer-based writing assessment. At its last meeting, the ADC requested a follow-up on the type of information that could be reported from this innovative assessment, the first-ever large-scale computer-based writing assessment at grade 4. ADC members believe that states, teachers, and parents—as well as the Common Core Assessment Consortia—will be very interested in the “lessons learned” from this grade 4 pilot. In addition, the NAEP writing assessment was able to capture information on students’ word processing strategies in grades 4, 8, and 12. These findings are also of great interest – including data on how students used different word processing tools in their writing.

The second topic will be an update on TEL. The ADC has been working on the development of the Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment since 2008. During the past few years, the Committee has spent an enormous amount of time reviewing the dynamic, computer-based TEL tasks along with other TEL items. In its meeting on November 30, 2012, the Committee will hear about final preparations for the 2013 TEL pilot study at grade 8, which will lead to the 2014 operational assessment.

Mr. Friedman noted that the full Board is scheduled to receive an in-depth closed briefing on TEL in plenary session on December 1, 2012. The briefing is designed to familiarize all Board members with the TEL content, assessment design, and the exciting tasks that students will encounter. The TEL assessment marks a new era for NAEP computer-based testing. The Committee is very confident that the long development effort undertaken by the Board, NCES, and NAEP contractors will result in a ground-breaking new assessment.

For the third topic, the Committee will meet in closed session to review preliminary outlines for Science Interactive Computer Tasks (ICTs) being developed for the 2015 NAEP Science Assessment. The recent “Science in Action” report of the ICTs and HOTs (hands on tasks) from 2009 showed how much important information can be gathered from these engaging science tasks.

Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R & D)

Andrés Alonso, R & D Chair, said the Committee will review the details of the September 2012 webinar release event for the 2011 NAEP Writing Report Card, including the traditional and social media coverage. The Committee will also review the NCES projected schedule for future NAEP reports through fall 2013. NCES will also discuss upcoming and possible focused reports that use NAEP data to explore a particular population or trend. This includes the long-anticipated Mega States Report, which examines student performance in the five most populous states, scheduled for release in February 2013.

The Committee will also discuss a planning document prepared by Reingold, the Board’s communications contractor and NAGB staff on possible strategies and activities for outreach to parent leaders and parent organizations. The document is built around four of the recommendations from the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Parent Engagement, approved by the full Board in May 2012. The discussion is designed to provide initial

Committee feedback on suggested activities and priorities, which will guide development of a parent outreach plan to be presented for Board approval in 2013. The Committee will also address challenging policy issues related to the participation of Puerto Rico in the 4th and 8th grade state-level mathematics assessments and NAEP reporting on English language learners and students with disabilities.

Nominations Committee

Tonya Miles, Chair of the Nominations Committee, said that there are upcoming Board vacancies in four categories for the 2013 Nominations Cycle, for Board terms beginning on October 1, 2013:

- Elementary school principal
- General public representative (2 openings)
- State legislator (Democrat)
- Testing and measurement expert

With the exception of Alan Friedman in the General Public category, all current incumbents are eligible for reappointment to a second term. Unfortunately, Alan is completing the last year of his second 4-year term and cannot be reappointed.

The Board's annual "call for nominations" was distributed in August 2012 and nominations were due in October. This year, nominations outreach was focused on a more prominent web presence (including a very engaging video from Chairman Driscoll) and increased emphasis on social media. Approximately 6,000 letters inviting nominations were emailed via Constant Contact and a record number of nominations have been received—nearly 200. This represents a 32% increase over the number of nominations received for the 2012 nominations cycle. There has been an accompanying increase in minority nominees and nominees from rural states, compared to previous years.

The Nominations Committee will now begin its intensive review of all nominees. In March 2013, the Nominations Committee will present recommendations for slates of six candidates for each upcoming vacancy. After Board action in March 2013, the final slates of candidates will be forwarded to Secretary Duncan for his decision on Board appointments.

3. Report on First Meeting of Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Background Information

Terry Holliday, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Background Information provided an overview of the Committee's three main tasks:

- (1) monitoring implementation of the Board policy statement on background questions and contextual data adopted August 2012;
- (2) recommending changes to the NAEP Background Information Framework adopted August 1, 2003; and
- (3) recommending a permanent organizational structure for Board consideration of background questions and the reporting of contextual data.

At its initial meeting of November 29, 2012, the Ad Hoc Committee heard presentations on a potential SES index, proposals for reporting on charter schools, and NCES plans for carrying out the Board resolution on implementing background questions, adopted at the August 2012 Board

meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee will present its recommendations to the Governing Board by the August 2013 Board meeting.

4. Governing Board 25th Anniversary Planning

Mary Crovo, Deputy Executive Director, said that the Governing Board 25th anniversary commemoration would be in December 2013, in connection with the quarterly Board meeting. A planning committee has been appointed, comprised of current Governing Board members and alumni. The planning committee, chaired by Alan Friedman, includes current members Shannon Garrison, Terry Mazany, Tonya Miles and Fielding Rolston. The alumni on the planning committee are Amanda Avallone, Michael Guerra, Mark Musick, Michael Nettles, Mary Frances Taymans, and Eileen Weiser. Planning will begin in January 2013. All Board members were invited to make recommendations for the 25th anniversary program.

5. Education Summit for Parent Leaders

Cornelia Orr, Executive Director, provided an update on the planning for the Education Summit for Parent Leaders. Conducting such a summit was one of five recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Parent Engagement, chaired by Tonya Miles. The Reporting and Dissemination Committee will begin planning for implementing the four other recommendations at its meeting on November 30, 2012. An invitation for First Lady Michelle Obama to address the summit has been forwarded to the White House. An individual with experience as a TV news producer has been contracted to assist in identifying potential speakers, panelists, and authors of commissioned papers. The target timeframe for the summit is March or April of 2013.

6. Executive Committee Retreat September 2012 Planning Meeting

Chairman David Driscoll provided an overview of the Executive Committee day-long meeting in Washington, DC on September 6, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to receive information about and discuss issues that are long-term in nature. No decisions were made or votes taken by the Executive Committee during the meeting. The topics of discussion included: reauthorization of NAEP and ESEA; NAEP and the roles of the Governing Board, IES, and NCES; the NAEP schedule—setting priorities in an uncertain budget environment; what the Board should do to direct public attention to improving achievement and closing achievement gaps; NAEP proficient and 12th grade academic preparedness; updating Board policy on *Redesigning the National Assessment of Educational Progress*; planning for the Board's 25th anniversary; and the role of NAEP and the Governing Board in relation to Common Core State Standards and Assessments. Mr. Driscoll said that the Executive Committee viewed two issues that are fundamental to NAEP operations as needing clarification: the respective roles of the Board and IES/NCES in the process of developing the NAEP annual budget requests and in reporting NAEP results. Mr. Driscoll said that he is confident that clarifying these issues can be addressed collaboratively with IES and NCES.

7. Updating Governing Board Policy: Reviewing the Past, Looking to the Future

The Executive Committee has determined that the Board’s policy on *Redesigning the National Assessment of Educational Progress* should be reviewed and revised as appropriate. Ray Fields, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, prepared an analysis of the policy for Committee discussion and to provide guidance to staff for revision. Following Executive Committee discussion, Mr. Fields was directed to prepare a draft for consideration by the March 2013 Board meeting. The goal is to have a draft that can be distributed for comment by the May 2013 Board meeting.

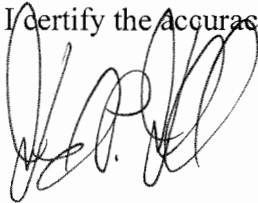
ACTION ITEM

8. Status of FY 2013 Appropriation for NAEP and the Governing Board

Ray Fields said that the FY 2013 appropriation for NAEP and the Governing Board is under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through March 27, 2013. The CR funding levels are about \$129 million for NAEP and about \$8.7 million for the Governing Board. President Obama and leaders in Congress are currently negotiating to avert the so-called “fiscal cliff” of tax increases and budget reductions that would go into effect on January 2, 2013. Absent action by Congress, the budget reductions would result in cuts to the NAEP and Governing Board budgets of about 8%. If this occurs, action may be needed prior to the March 2013 Board meeting to revise the NAEP schedule of assessments for 2014 and beyond.

Consequently, the Executive Committee passed the attached resolution, asking the Governing Board for a delegation of authority to act on the Board’s behalf prior to the March 2013 Board meeting, to make decisions on the changes to the NAEP schedule of assessments in 2014 and beyond.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



David P. Driscoll, Chair

December 1, 2012

Date

Action Item: Delegation of Authority

Draft Resolution*

Whereas, the FY 2013 funding for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the National Assessment Governing Board is under a continuing resolution through March 27, 2013; and

Whereas, absent action by Congress, the Budget Control Act of 2011 would, as of January 2, 2013, result in cuts estimated at approximately 8 percent of the NAEP and Governing Board appropriations in FY 2013; and

Whereas, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is reviewing contract bids for NAEP operations that are scheduled to be awarded by the end of December 2012; and

Whereas, the status of the FY 2013 appropriation and contract awards may have an impact on the NAEP schedule of assessments for 2014 and beyond that would require action by the Governing Board prior to the March 2013 Governing Board meeting; and

Whereas, the National Assessment Governing Board may delegate authority to the Executive Committee to act on its behalf;

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board hereby delegates authority to the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Governing Board, prior to the March 2013 Board meeting, to make decisions on changes to the NAEP schedule of assessments in 2014 and beyond, as necessary, in consultation with NCES.

*The resolution was adopted unanimously by the National Assessment Governing Board on December 1, 2012