

Academic Standards Review Commission Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2015
1:00-3:30PM
Conference Call

Commission Members in attendance: André Peek, Jeannie Metcalf, Tammy Covil, Denise Watts, Katie Lemons, Laurie McCollum, Ted Scheick, Bill Cobey, Olivia Oxendine, Ann Clark, Jeffrey Isenhour

Meeting Called to Order: Co-Chairman André Peek called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Meeting was changed to a conference call due to inclement weather. It was noted that the meeting was still being livestreamed from the State Board of Education website. The meeting was called to order and approval of the amended agenda was adopted.

Co-Chairs, Budget, Staffing, Timeline: Report from Commission members and Co-Chairs André Peek and Jeannie Metcalf.

Co-Chair Jeannie Metcalf announced she was stepping down from her position as Co-Chair due to personal issues and responsibilities with the Forsyth County School Board. Commission members nominated members for the open Chair position. Commission member Olivia Oxendine nominated Tammy Covil while Commission member Denise Watts nominated Jeffery Isenhour. The motion to close nominated was adopted. Co-chair André Peek role-called the vote. Vote was tabled until all Commission members were present. Once all members were present, voting was closed. Tammy Covil was voted new Co-Chair of the Commission (vote: 6-4; Co-Chair Peek did not vote). All responsibilities as well as spokesman ship is transferred from Jeannie Metcalf to Tammy Covil.

The budget bill is moving through the General Assembly. The Department of Administration is reimbursing the Commission for travelling. The Commission will be able to use the Department of Public Instruction Board Room for the next several meetings (through May) and in the fall. The Commission chooses to use this room because it is easy to livestream.

Commission members agreed only an Executive Assistant and Editorial Assistant would be needed to complete their work. Co-Chair André Peek is meeting with the Office of Human Resources to start fielding candidates for these positions as well as securing a timeline on narrowing down the candidates for the Commission. No hires will happen without Commissions approval.

The Commission discussed and reviewed a drafted timeline. Each three work teams (simplifying standards, greater, developmentally appropriate) presented last meetings. Commission members want to combine all three work plans into one main plan. The drafted timeline has subject matter experts coming to present to the Commission. Members would like to see someone present on the Massachusetts standards, as well as multiple other aspects. The timeline for presentations concludes in June and the Commission will start implementing the research and data brought to them. Recommended standards that the Commission creates will be tested and amendments will be implemented. Stakeholder input (i.e. teacher advisory board, parent advisory board, ELA advisory board, math advisory board) will be asked once standards are drafted.

Update from Testing and Accountability Taskforce: Report from Commission members Olivia Oxendine.

Commission member Olivia Oxendine presented about the work of the State Board of Education Testing and Accountability Taskforce on which she is Vice-Chair. The Testing and Accountability Taskforce has three working groups: Elementary, Middle and High School. The Taskforce has not reached any major decisions and the work of the ASRC is not far behind Taskforce.

The Taskforce concluded that the Common Core standards are content based standards. These standards measure reading and mathematics. Commissioner Oxendine discussed the reason for testing change. The Taskforce found that past testing measured program accountability while tests presently measures individual accountability.

The Testing and Accountability Taskforce believes that comprehensive balanced assessments are formative, have an interim benchmark and are summative. The Taskforce concluded that the formative assessments are conducted at the local level, within the classroom. They are daily and minute to minute with descriptive feedback to adjust instruction and support learning. The benchmark assessments are throughout the year. This is locally controlled and measures the mastery of set standards. These assessments are used to inform stakeholders (teachers, students, parents) of child's progress. Summative assessments (EOG/EOC) are statewide and are known as "end of year/course tests". These tests measure overall mastery and hold all parties accountable for student's learning or lack thereof.

The Taskforce is looking at doing four interim assessments instead of requiring every student to take an EOC and EOG. The State Board of Education will have to approve this.

The Commission discussed involvement of parents and the awareness of their child's progress. Commission members conversed about report cards and their frequency and release dates. Report cards are released dependent on grade levels and scheduling.

The Taskforce is looking to align with the ASRC. Commission members want to make sure recommendations on standards align with the testing recommendations of the Taskforce. On July 15th, the Testing and Accountability Taskforce will present to the Education Oversight Committee.

Due to time constraints, Commissioner Oxendine will be presenting next meeting in order to answer questions from fellow Commission members.

Kentucky Challenge Presentation by Dr. Rebecca Blessing of Kentucky Department of Education
The Commission heard a presentation from Dr. Rebecca Blessing regarding Kentucky's approach to revising standards. Like North Carolina, Kentucky reviews their standards every four to five years. They implemented the CCSS in 2011-2012, and have undertaken an open survey for stakeholders to provide feedback on the standards. Blessing estimated that the cost of developing and implementing new standards would be \$35 million dollars, and suggested that they would recommend changes to the Kentucky State Board of Education sometime this fall.

Commissioners asked Dr. Blessing about the participation rate of the survey, participation of higher education and parents and feedback on standards' age appropriateness.

General Discussion: Path Forward on Collecting Feedback

Following the presentation, the Commission engaged in general conversation about how to collect feedback. Commission members discussed pending legislation prohibiting the use of funding to support a survey. Members also examined issues surrounding the DPI initiated

standards survey, including lengthiness, lack of differentiation between parent and teacher surveys, and specificity of questions.

Commissioners also discussed making a recommendation around revising high school math standards. Commissioners expressed lack of agreement on this topic, but agreed that they should do additional research and engage LEAs to see if this change was appropriate.

Timeline Discussion

Commissioners talked through their goals and timeline for upcoming work, including doing a review of each individual standard. They agreed that the Commission should divide into subgroups to focus separately on K-3, 3-8, and 9-12 standards. Commission members expressed that it was important to have a clear process showing deliberation and study. They proposed a timeline culminating in a complete draft of standards by June 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47p.m. EDT.