

ACADEMIC STANDARDS REVIEW COMMISSION
July 20, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Academic Standards Review Commission met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, July 20, 2015, at 1 p.m. in the State Board of Education Board Room, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh.

At 1 p.m., Andre Peek called the meeting to order. The following members were present:

Andre Peek, Co-Chair, Wake
Ann B. Clark, Iredell
Dr. Jeffrey Isenhour, Catawba
Dr. Laurie McCollum, Rockingham

Tammy Covil, Co-Chair, New Hanover
Dr. John T. Scheik, Wake
Katie Lemons, Stokes
Jeannie Metcalf, Forsyth (via phone)

Absent: Denise Watts, Mecklenburg; Bill Cobey, Durham; Dr. Olivia Oxendine, Robeson

Jo Herrera, Commission staff

Under Approval of Minutes, Dr. John T. Scheik made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2015. Dr. Laurie McCollum seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Under Old Business, Item A: Commission staff gave update on ASRC Timeline of Actions for second half of 2015, confirming attendance of guest presenters for future meetings.

Under Old Business, Item B: Commission staff confirmed re-distribution of ELA and Mathematics surveys through school superintendents.

Under Old Business, Item C: Commission staff confirmed the status of the plan to facilitate teacher-focus groups across the regions in NC, and that it requires more contact and assistance from the Educator Effectiveness group.

Under Old Business, Item D: Commission staff gave summary updates on the responses culled from Mathematics surveys until July 16, 2015.

Under Information, the Commissioners volunteered their initial responses to the summary responses of both surveys, noting how respondents had significantly weighed in on the problematic implementation of the Common Core. It was also noted that respondents had commented on the discrepancies of resources across counties. Laurie McCollum pointed out that, the Common Core seems to have worked for schools/counties with more resources than other places. Tammy Covil noted the need to identify ways to address remediation considering the gaps that the survey respondents had mentioned, as well as the need to look at other factors that impact the

application of the Common Core. The Commission also raised the question of how block calendars vs. traditional scheduling have likewise made an impact on the Common Core. Andre Peek agreed and stressed that based on the Math survey respondents' comments, the Common Core is fraught with implementation challenges.

Under Committee Reports, Laurie McCollum of the ELA group mentioned that they are on track in drafting the preliminary report. She also noted that the ELA group finds the results of the re-launch of the ELA survey in July appears to be consistent with the first survey sampling in May, and is working with Commission staff to extrapolate more data from the DPI survey in January to tally survey respondents' recommendations to specific standards.

Ted Scheik of the Math group acknowledged that since July, there are 2 Math surveys that were launched, separating K-8 from High school for "obvious differences" but did not elaborate. He noted that they evaluated Common Core standards with the most problems through teachers' ratings in the DPI survey (January) while consulting with Math experts in the group. He pointed out that respondents find that there are too many standards that Math teachers have to cover within a limited amount of time. He also cited how respondents tended to be unable to specify, in the survey, exact standards that they found to be problematic, and thereby causing a challenge for the Math group to consolidate and address survey responses. The Math group is on track to submit a preliminary draft report by the next board meeting in August.

Under First Presentation, Peek introduced Kip Blakely, VP of Industry and Government Relations at the NC Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Blakely talked about his company's experiences while working with students through Aviation community and colleges. He noted that the students that they were initially meeting were "not getting the skills at the colleges and high school which, led his company to the middle schools for the skills" that they sought. He then talked at length about getting business involved with training students through programs and internships "to equip students with various skills."

Under Second Presentation, Peek introduced Dr. Hope Williams, President of the NC Independent Colleges and Universities. Among Dr. Williams' talking points, she stressed that professional development is tapped every time the state changes standards, and that teachers "fear another wholesale change in standards, and request a 5-year test study." She also pointed out that, teachers need to have the freedom to adjust curriculum based on existing standards, and that "teachers request consistency, rigorous state standards, and reasonable testing."

Under Third Presentation, Peek introduced Dr. Rebecca Garland, Deputy State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction. Citing from recent NAEP reports, Dr. Garland mentioned that data shows how the traditional school calendar appears to produce higher student achievement, and that student achievement appears to be "slightly lower with blocked school calendars." A discussion followed and

questions were raised on “clarifying the role of assessing the assessments, and the NAEP (an independent governing body)”, and “how the state standards are actually measured by the NAEP”---to which Dr. Garland responded with, “set standards, develop assessments based on those standards.” (Note: To access the audio recording of this July 20 meeting, please send request to Jocelyn.Herrera@doa.nc.gov if link is not available on website)

Under New Business, The commissioners agreed to continue planning the logistics behind the teacher-focused regional feedback sessions.

Under Announcements, Co-Chairs publicized the following meeting:

- The next Academic Standards Review Commission board will meet on August 17, 2015, Monday, 1-5 p.m. in State Board of Education Board Room, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh.

At 5:00 p.m., Andre Peek made a motion to adjourn. Tammy Covil and Ted Scheik seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.