

ACADEMIC STANDARDS REVIEW COMMISSION
August 17, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Academic Standards Review Commission met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, August 17, 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
Bill Cobey, Durham

Tammy Covil, Co-Chair, New Hanover
Dr. John T. Scheik, Wake
Katie Lemons, Stokes
Dr. Olivia Oxendine, Robeson

Jeannie Metcalf, Forsyth (via phone)

Jo Herrera, Commission staff

Absent: Denise Watts, Mecklenburg; Dr. Laurie McCollum, Rockingham

Under Approval of Minutes, Dr. John T. Scheik made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2015. Dr. Olivia Oxendine 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 presenter for September meeting.

Under Old Business, Item B: Commission staff confirmed the status of the plan to facilitate teacher-focus groups across the regions in NC, and that contact has been made with volunteer Teacher of the Year 2015 District Winners and RESAs for assistance to coordinate with the ELA and Math teacher-participants.

Under Information, the Commissioners confirmed their actions to follow-through on reaching out to other points-of-contact (POCs) in the coordination of teacher-focus groups. Questions that arose, and likely to be raised again during the focus groups centered on whether the standards were developmentally appropriate, whether standards that were deemed to be “rigorous” was actually “being equated with verbiage”, whether the push for digital technology is helpful to students or not, whether the standards were sufficiently concise and had clarity, whether there was a need to pare down Math standards and how that could be done, and whether standards had to address more Writing.

Under Presentation, Covil introduced Carole Ardizzone, Co-founder and current Education Chair of the Board of Brookstone School, a faith-based K-8 School of Excellence for at-risk children in Charlotte, North Carolina. (For a more thorough description of Ms. Ardizzone's bio and work, please access the ASRC website at: <http://www.doa.nc.gov/asrc/documents/08172015/CaroleArdizzoneBio.pdf>)

Ms. Ardizzone presented a study of her work to the Commission on how neurologically-based learning is a relevant subject in discussing the developmentally appropriate standards for young students. She cited examples on how we must understand the brain to know how to teach students, how teaching to mastery is imperative, how the use of Bloom's Taxonomy and Piaget's Theory are necessary tools, and she pointed out specific standards (CCSS) in the First Grade as examples of how these standards do not meet the developmentally-appropriate process of a child's learning, while citing how standards need to be developmentally-appropriate. Ms. Ardizzone also mentioned how technological devices interfere with the brain's development from birth to 8 years.

Under Committee Reports, Ted Scheik of the Math group reminded the Commission of the Math-teaching background of each of the members of the Math work group, of the notable differences between Math K-8 and High school, and he cited the basis of evaluating the CCSS, taking the following elements into consideration: whether the standard needed to be edited or improved, whether it was developmentally-appropriate, whether Math models were "overdone", etcetera. The Math group also compared NC standards to its Minnesota and Virginia counterparts while making references to the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (2008). To access the Math interim/preliminary report, click on the ASRC website: <http://www.doa.nc.gov/asrc/documents/08172015/InterimReport2MathWorkGroup.pdf>

Katie Lemons (in behalf of Laurie McCollum) of the ELA group reported to the Commission that, the ELA Preliminary report addresses the age-level and developmentally-appropriateness of the NC CCSS, how the ELA work group had evaluated counterpart standards in California, Texas, Virginia and Massachusetts (the latter state having "very concisely written standards" with a strong sense of clarity of expectations), how clarity and focus were relevant issues, how a "very solid reading foundation is necessary," and thus the separate study of K-3 from K-6 through 12.

Lemons also reminded the Commission that, the ELA survey questionnaire that had been released by the ASRC in May and July 2015, will be released a third time by September. To access the ELA preliminary report, click on the ASRC website: <http://www.doa.nc.gov/asrc/documents/08172015/ELARReviewNRecommendations.pdf>

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 September 21, 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.