

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS REVIEW COMMISSION**  
**September 21, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

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The Academic Standards Review Commission met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, September 21, 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  
Dr. John T. Scheik, Wake  
Bill Cobey, Durham

Tammy Covil, Co-Chair, New Hanover  
Dr. Olivia Oxendine, Robeson

Jo Herrera, Commission staff

Via phone: Jeannie Metcalf (Forsyth), Ann B. Clark (Iredell), Jeffrey Isenhour (Catawba), Denise Watts (Mecklenburg)

Absent: Dr. Laurie McCollum (Rockingham), Katie Lemons (Stokes)

Under Approval of Minutes, Dr. Olivia Oxendine made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2015. Bill Cobey seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Under Old Business, Items A: Commission staff gave update on ASRC Timeline of Actions for remaining months of 2015, and confirmed schedule of regional teacher focus groups. Dr. Olivia Oxendine reminded the group of the need for a Math specialist to be present at the regional feedback sessions as the ELA aspect would be handled by participating members of the Commission. Ms. Ann Clark suggested the possibility of presenting a short video of an overview of the Math talking points in the event that Dr. Ted Scheick or any of his work group members be unable to physically attend the upcoming teacher feedback sessions.

Under Old Business, Item B: Bill Cobey raised the importance of determining who will write the Final Report, and Andre Peek reassured that the Commission staff is in the process of consolidating content and developing the framework.

Under Items for Information,

1. Dr. Oxendine and Mr. Andre Peek pointed out edits and additions to the list of guide questions that would be forwarded to participants at the teacher focus groups.
2. Andre Peek also expressed concern over the observation that different school districts were implementing the standards differently, based on their

interpretations of the standards. Further, he noted, that the “Unpacking documents have been in constant form of revision but the standards, themselves, have not changed.”

A DPI representative, Dr. Curtis, who happened to be in the audience was invited into the conversation to shed light on this matter. A discussion took place concerning the Unpacking documents and the standards, on the use of multiple strategies, and Dr. Olivia Oxendine posed the question, “Are students tested on their ability to discern technique?”

This discussion would have continued much longer but the Commission also did not wish to keep the two guest presenters waiting in the wings much longer.

3. In reference to preparations leading to the Final Report due by end of this year, the Commissioners agreed on two other matters, specifically, that both work groups must establish a timeline considering the school calendar; and that, members of the Commission are not qualified to determine budgetary costs, and therefore, such matter will not be part of the ASRC’s report.

Under Presentation, Tammy Covil introduced Principal Carrie Tulbert (NC Principal of the Year, 2014-2015) and Principal Dale Cole (2013 Wells Fargo NC Principal of the Year). Their combined perspective, influenced in part by their colleagues’ voices, on the Common Core may be accessed on the ASRC website through the following link:

<http://www.doa.nc.gov/asrc/documents/09212015/CommonCoreStandardsPresentation.pdf>

A robust exchange between the guest speakers and Commissioners ensued, citing overall positives, K-12 concerns, how testing appears to be driving the curriculum, and issues specific to either ELA or Math standards.

Towards the end of this discussion, the following points were reiterated by the guest speakers: the Common Core state standards themselves are not the issue, and that implementation needs time; that the Common Core could have been better communicated and implemented; that teachers be allowed access to proper professional training and development; that standards need to be written in a language that everyone understands, including the difference between standards and curriculum.

After the break, a few voluntary teachers from Central Carolina addressed the Commission with their views and recommendations concerning the Common Core. All were Math teachers or coordinators.

Discussions that followed included questions such as, “What does the students’ requirement to explain his or her methodology, have to do with Math?” and whether or not everyone actually understands the standards in integrated Math.

Under New Business, no pending matter was raised.

Under Announcements, Co-Chairs publicized the following meeting:

- The next Academic Standards Review Commission board will meet on October 19, 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 Bill Cobey seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.