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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Brad C. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: March 5-6, 2015

INFORMATION: Standards Review Committee Recommendations for Elementary
Mathematics Recommendations

Background:

In accordance with Utah State Code 53A-1-402.8, a Standards Review Committee for Elementary Mathematics was convened on October 8, 2014. The committee also met on November 25, 2014 and on January 30, 2015.

Key Points:

At the January 30, 2015 meeting the Standards Review Committee reached a consensus on recommendations to changes in the existing Utah Core Standards for Mathematics. Those recommendations are now available for Board review.

Anticipated Action:

The Standards and Assessment Committee will review recommendations from the Standards Review Committee and direct staff in response to those recommendations in preparation for receiving a draft of the revised standards at the May 2015 Board meeting. It is anticipated that the public comment period will begin at that time, in accordance with the Board-approved standards revision timeline.

Contact: Sydnee Dickson, 801-538-7515
Diana Suddreth, 801-538-7739
David A. Smith, 801-538-7766

Elementary Mathematics Core Standards Revision Committee Report



Prepared by the

Utah State Office of Education

March 6, 2015

Diana Suddreth, Director Teaching and Learning
diana.suddreth@schools.utah.gov

David Smith, STEM Coordinator
david.smith@schools.utah.gov

Mathematics K-6 Standards Review Committee Report

The Standards Review Committee for Mathematics Grades K-6 has been completed in accordance with Utah State Code Section 53A-1-402.8. The Standards Review Committee first convened on October 8, 2014, with the membership as indicated below. Meetings were also held on December 12, 2014 and January 21, 2015. After an initial review of the 2010 Elementary Mathematics Standards, discussions around those standards, and specific recommendations of the standards, the committee submits the following information.

The committee performed a thorough review of the K-6 Utah Core State Standards in Mathematics. Diverse opinions were expressed by parents, mathematicians, and educators, resulting in the recommended suggested revisions below. Many conversations affirmed the quality of the standards but the committee noted the need for clarification.

The Standards Review Committee recommends the following actions be taken in the revision of the core standards. These recommendations represent the consensus of the committee.

- Code the standards to show major focus, supporting standards, and additional standards.
- Move the content of all footnotes into the standards.
- Clarify the standards by making a clickable version.
 - Define words and intent.
 - Rewrite some standards without changing the intent.
 - Link to the progression documents.
 - Give better examples.
- Add standards on time and money in primary grades.
- Specific revisions recommendations have been recorded and are available upon request.

The Standards Review Committee also noted the following, which were outside the charge of the committee, but deemed important. The committee recommends that the Board maintain their commitment to the standards since their successful implementation will require many years of consistent effort. Findings suggest that further professional development for all teachers and better communication with parents are absolutely necessary. Teacher professional leadership, such as early career mentoring, coaching, and collaboration, is critical to the process. The committee also recommends that teacher preparation programs follow the recommendations of the Mathematics Education of Teachers II (METII) report from the Conference Board for the Mathematical Sciences.

Mathematics K-6 Standards Review Committee Membership

Members appointed by Senate President Wayne Neiderhauser:

Heidi Thorn

Veronica Johnson

Liz Mumford

Elaine Vickers

Oak Norton

Members Appointed by House Speaker Rebecca Lockhart

One person was appointed, however, he did not come to any meetings. Therefore, he is not listed as a committee member.

Members Appointed by the Utah State Board of Education

Dr. Damon Bahr, BYU, Assistant Professor of Education

Dory Stevens, Davis School District, Elementary Mathematics Supervisor

Dr. Ron Twitchell, Provo School District, Director of Instruction and Mathematics

Dr. Herb Clemens, University of Utah, Professor of Mathematics

Lindsie DePasquale, Murray School District, Title One and Elementary Mathematics Specialist

Dr. Kristin Hadley, Weber State University, Associate Professor of Education, Department Chair of Teacher Education

Kathy Lambert, Salt Lake City, Elementary Math Coach