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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Brad C. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: April 9-10, 2015

ACTION: Standards Review Committee Recommendations for Secondary Social Studies

Background:

In accordance with Utah State Code 53A-1-402.8, a Standards Review Committee for Secondary Social Studies was convened on October 7, 2014. The committee also met on March 30, 2015.

Key Points:

The Standards Review Committee's statutory obligations call for a review of existing standards prior to any revision. However, the social studies standards revision process had begun prior to the legislation that created this committee. Therefore, the Standards Review Committee will make recommendations regarding the existing core standards as well as provide recommendations regarding the initial drafts of the revisions.

Anticipated Action:

The Standards and Assessment Committee will review recommendations from the Social Studies Standards Review Committee and direct staff in response to those recommendations, in anticipation of receiving a draft of the revised standards at an upcoming Board meeting.

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Secondary Social Studies Core Standards Revision Committee Report



Prepared by the

Utah State Office of Education

April 9-10, 2015

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Secondary Social Studies Standards Review Report

The Standards Review Committee for Secondary Social Studies has been completed according to 53A-1-402.8. The committee met on October 7, 2014 to begin the review process. Recommendations from that meeting were sent to the writing teams. The committee met a second time on March 30, 2015 to complete these recommendations to the Board. After a review of the current Secondary Social Studies Standards, a draft revision document, discussions, and specific recommendations, the committee submits the following information.

The committee recognized the need to update the current standards in order to reflect the skills, knowledge and attributes Utah students should gain through study in the Social Studies.

Social Studies Recommendations

The committee affirmed the direction the writing team is taking in rewriting the standards. In addition, 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.

1. Schedule the comment period during the school year. Begin the 90-day public comment period no earlier than August to allow for teacher and parent review.
2. Include the four strands of social studies (history, geography, economics, and civics) explicitly within the essential questions (objectives) for each standard.
3. Include historical thinking skills and disciplinary practice standards as a support for college, career, and civic readiness.
4. Use the proposed format of organizing the core under enduring understandings, performance standards, and essential questions.
5. Ensure the new standards include recognition of contributions and history of diverse groups.

Secondary Social Studies Standards Review Committee Membership

Members appointed by the Senate

Daniel Brownell
Jennie Hendricks
Alisha Jensen
Tanya Peters
Karen Peterson

Members appointed by the House

Denise Carman
Amelia Powers
Kimberly Wagner
Shauna Warnick

Members Appointed by the Utah State Board of Education

Jeanie Groves, Alpine School District (CMAC)
Christopher Hall, Davis School District
Roderic Land, University of Utah (CMAC)
Yudi Lewis, Utah Valley University
Axel Ramirez, Utah Valley University
Wendy Rex-Atzet, Utah State Historical Society
Pamela Su'a, Jordan School District