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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 Fine Arts

Background:

In accordance with Utah Code 53A-1-402.8, a Standards Review Committee for Elementary and Secondary Fine Arts was convened on October 28, 2014. The committee also met on March 10, 2015.

Key Points:

At its March 10, 2015 meeting the Standards Review Committee reached consensus on recommendations to changes in the existing Utah Core Standards for Fine Arts. 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, with the anticipation of receiving a draft of the revised standards at the next Board meeting

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Fine Arts Core Standards Revision Committee Report



Prepared by the
Utah State Office of Education

April 9-10, 2015

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Fine Arts Standards Review Report

The Standards Review Committee for Fine Arts has been completed according to 53A-1-402.8. The committee met on October 28, 2014 to begin the review process. Recommendations from that meeting were sent to the writing teams. The committee met a second time on March 10, 2015 to complete these recommendations to the Board. After a review of the current Fine Arts Standards, 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 Fine Arts. Consensus was reached that the Fine Arts serve to develop twenty-first century skills essential to success in today's world.

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

- The Fine Arts Standards should be revised using a number of resources including the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards, standards from other states and most recent research.
- The standards should lead to the acquisition of the twenty-first century skills of creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking
- Specific arts standards should be written for grades K-2 to replace the current integrated statement.
- Writing teams should continue their work based on the Guiding Principles and Anchor Standards documents.
- Media Arts standards should be written and adopted as a free-standing arts discipline across K-12.

The Standards Review Committee also noted the following, which were outside the charge of the committee, but deemed important.

- Accountability measures other than standardized testing should be put in place to ensure every student receives education in the arts as core subjects.
- Universities and colleges must be required to adequately prepare pre-service elementary teachers to instruct in the arts.
- Professional learning opportunities and resources must be provided in order for elementary teachers to unpack the standards and provide instruction in the arts.
- School and LEA administrators should understand the essential role the arts play in a well-rounded education.
- Secondary arts educators must be provided professional learning opportunities to align their practice with the new standards.

Fine Arts Standards Review Committee Membership

Members appointed by the Senate

Kurt Bestor

Kirk Cullimore

Mark Drawe

Heather Gardner

Shellie Giddings

Amy Nydegger

Rhonda Perkes

Members appointed by the House

Emily King

Ann Meeks

Members appointed by the Utah State Board of Education

Dr. Randy Boothe, Brigham Young University

Lisa Cluff, Art Works for Kids

Gayleen Gandy, Granite District Board of Education

Pamela Gee, Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre

Jean Tokuda Irwin, Utah Division of Arts and Museums