

Standards and Assessment Committee Minutes

April 14, 2016

Members Present: Laura Belnap, Dave Crandall, Brittney Cummins, Spencer Stokes, Rich Nye (Staff), Cheri Rieben (Staff)

Members Excused: Dixie Allen

Others Present: Aaron Brough, Robert Austin, Sara Wiebke, Dom Blank, Vonda Parriott, Linda Hanks, Nancy Tingey, Diana Suddreth, Cathy Jensen, Rebecca Cisneros, Jo Ellen Shaeffer, Sheryl Garner, Ann White, Bruce Northcott, Sara Jones, Joylin Lincoln, Glenna Gallo, Wendi Morton, David Smith

Start Time: 6:50 p.m.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee reviewed and accepted the minutes of March 17, 2016.

COMMITTEE MOTION: Motion was made by member Cummins that the committee approve the minutes of March 17, 2016 as written. Motion passes unanimously.

Draft Part B IDEA Budget FFY 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Glenna Gallo regarding the Draft Part B IDEA Budget FFY 2016. Glenna explained that this is the second of three required public hearings on the proposed budget. There have no changes or recommendations for change since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE MOTION: The committee received and discussed the report. No motion was made on this item.

UPSTART REPORT

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Sara Wiebke regarding the UPSTART Report and provided feedback.

The report was written in regards to year six. Year six has seen a 300% increase in enrollment. The committee requested that more advertisement is done for the EL students as well as at risk students.

COMMITTEE MOTION: The committee received and discussed the report. No motion was made on this item.

Adoption of Revised Elementary Mathematics Core Standards

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from David Smith regarding the revised elementary mathematics core standards. The standards have been revised to reflect the changes asked for during the 90-day public review and are now ready for adoption by the Board of Education.

COMMITTEE MOTION: Motion was made by member Cummins that the Board consider approving the adoption of the revised elementary mathematics core standards. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Revised Fine Arts Standards

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Cathy Jensen regarding the revised fine arts standards. The standards have been revised to reflect the changes asked for during the 90-day public review and are now ready for adoption by the Board of Education.

COMMITTEE MOTION: Motion was made by member Stokes that the Board consider approving the adoption of the revised fine arts standards. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Secondary Social Studies Core Standards

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Robert Austin regarding the Secondary Social Studies Core Standards. Robert provided copies of the standards to the committee for review.

Chair Belnap recommended that Robert review all costs with the USOE finance department to ensure that all costs associated with implementation of the new standards are in line with USOE budgeting.

The standards are now formatted to be in alignment with the other standards within USOE. There is a strong focus on demonstration of proficiency. They will be ready for release for 90-day review at the May 2016 Board meeting.

COMMITTEE MOTION: The committee received the standards and will review them and provide suggestions to Robert in preparation for bring them back to the committee in May 2016 for release for a 90-day review. There was no motion on this item.

R277-700 The Elementary and Secondary School General Core

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Diana Suddreth and Wendi Morton regarding the change in R277-700. These changes are based on the Board decisions in March 2016. They include moving the digital literacy credit to the 8th grade and changing the high school credit to be a digital studies credit.

There was a lot of discussion on whether the digital studies credit is necessary or appropriate in the 9-12 grades with the movement of the digital literacy credit move to the 8th grade.

The committee recommended the following additional changes:

- 1) Line 138: Change “College and Technical Education, Life, and Careers” to “College and Career Awareness”
- 2) Line 140: Change “Computer Technology” to “Digital Literacy”
- 3) Line 294: Put a parenthesis after “credit” and delete the rest of the line
- 4) Remove lines 295-299 as they are no longer applicable with the change.

COMMITTEE MOTION: A motion was made by members Cummins and Stokes that the Board consider approving the rule change along with the additional requested changes on third and final reading. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee also asked that this rule be brought back to the committee in May 2016 by Thalea Longhurst and the CTE team to discuss the value or necessity of the high school digital studies credit.

Procedure to Designate an Alternative or Special Needs School

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information regarding the procedure to designate an alternative or special needs school from Aaron Brough. He presented the newly created rubric as well as the definitions to be considered an alternative school.

Aaron and Ann White clarified that there is no different funding for schools that are designated as an alternative school. They will continue to receive current title funding but no additional funding will be added.

There was a lot of concern about the difference between a district school vs a charter school. Charter schools by nature are alternative schools. The rubric does not address those differences and doesn't allow charter schools to meet all the qualifications like a district school can.

There was concern from Chair Belnap that online schools are disqualified from being designated as an alternative school. These schools should have that opportunity to apply if their charter and student enrollment warrant it.

The committee members recommended the following in regards to the rubric:
1) The first indicator should be better defined and better worded (Was the school established to serve youth who are not succeeding in a traditional school environment)

2) The third indicator of the rubric be removed (Are students referred by their originating school?) since it is a requirement for district schools but it is not applicable for charter schools.

3) The fourth indicator is something redundant and should be considered to be removed (Are students enrolled for reasons beyond just academic).

Since the requirement to fill out the rubric is a new requirement for alternative school applications, it was suggested that all currently approved alternative schools re-apply next year for their alternative status.

COMMITTEE MOTION: The committee recommended that the suggested changes are made to the rubric and it be brought back to the committee next month. The committee also requested that East Hollywood High attend the committee meeting and present their case for alternative school designation. No motion was taken on this item.

Process for Identifying New Contractor for Assessment System

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Rich Nye and Jo Ellen Shaeffer regarding the process for identifying a new contractor for the current assessment system. The current assessment system with the current vendor will be completed in spring of 2017.

The committee felt like the steering committee needs to be created and begin work immediately. The recommended members of the steering committee are: 2 Board members, 1 member of the superintendency, 2 members of the USOE Assessment team, 2 teacher reps, 1 district assessment director, 1 charter board designee, 1 district superintendent, and 1 USOE IT person.

COMMITTEE MOTION: A motion was made by member Stokes that the Board consider approving adoption of the submitted timeline as well as approval of the steering committee made up of the positions listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

SAGE Additional Test Item Development

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Rich Nye and Jo Ellen Shaeffer regarding SAGE additional test item development. The biggest cost in any assessment system is item development. That is where the investment is made. Utah's item bank has been nationally recognized and we have licensed it for use to four other states.

Unfortunately, there are still a few holes where additional item development is needed for it to stand on its own. For example, with the adoption of the new science standards, we are in need of new items. There are currently only about 25% of the test items meet the needs of the new standards.

Industry standards indicate that in order to have a robust computer adaptive system, 450 items are needed for each subject.

The committee requested that this comes back to the committee in May 2016 in order to provide a timeline, cost and any further information regarding test item development.

COMMITTEE MOTION: A motion was made by member Stokes that the Board consider approving the initiation of additional item development for Utah's assessment system (SAGE). Motion passed unanimously.

School Turnaround Plan Approval Process

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information from Sheryl Garner regarding the school turnaround plan approval process. Sheryl indicated that there have been 26 plans submitted for approval. After initial review of the plans, Sheryl felt that some of them still need work and are not quite ready for approval.

Two options were presented for how the approval process will work. The committee discussed these options. The committee looked at the second option which included putting together a committee which would create a rubric and review and approve the plans. There was some concern regarding the choice of committee members and the purpose of each of these members.

After this discussion, the committee decided on a third option. This option is to have USOE superintendency designate a committee to review and approve the applications.

COMMITTEE MOTION: Motion was made by member Stokes that the Board consider approving the committee's third option of having the superintendency designate a committee to review and approve the turnaround plan applications. Motion passed unanimously.

SAGE Writing and ACT Writing

COMMITTEE ACTION: The committee heard information regarding the discrepancy between Utah State Code and Board Rule and the grades students are tested in writing.

Because of ESSA Utah is peer reviewed. If we fail the peer review, federal funds can be withheld. We have standards and because of that, we have to assess in the grades we have standards for. If we do not assess writing, we will not be in compliance.

The committee discussed changing the manner in which students are assessed in order to be more in compliance. The committee felt that there should be more review and assessment on the actual writing vs the other pieces of ELA to make sure Utah students can write clearly and concisely. Jo Ellen Shaeffer will bring a survey to the committee next month which has data in regards to teachers and how they feel about the writing assessments.

It was suggested that the discussion be tabled until a new assessment system is in place, which should coincide with when Utah is peer reviewed again.

COMMITTEE MOTION: There was not a motion made on this item. Discussion will continue in May 2016 when the survey results are presented.

End Time: 9:55 PM