

Washington State Board of Education
Special Board Meeting April 18, 2008
600 S.E. Washington Street
Olympia, Washington

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chair Mary Jean Ryan, (via teleconference) who requested that Mr. Steve Floyd conduct the meeting in person.

Members Present: Chair Mary Jean Ryan, Vice Chair Warren Smith, Mr. Steve Floyd, Dr. Steve Dal Porto, Ms. Linda W. Lamb, Mr. Jeff Vincent, Dr. Sheila Fox, Ms. Amy Bragdon, Dr. Bernal Baca, Dr. Terry Bergeson, Ms. Phyllis Frank, Mr. Eric Liu, Dr. Kris Mayer, Mr. Jack Schuster

Members Absent: Mr. Zac Kinman (excused), Ms. Lorilyn Roller (excused)

Staff Present: Ms. Edie Harding, Ms. Loy McColm, Mr. Brad Burnham

Mr. Floyd gave an overview of the agenda and explained that the meeting would include approval of Collection of Evidence Cut Scores for reading and writing along with approval of the K-8 Math Standard Report, submitted by Strategic Teaching. Upon approval of the Math Standards Report, there will be a follow-up special meeting on Monday, April 28, 2008, to approve the K-8 Mathematics Standards.

Recommended Cut Scores For Collection of Evidence (COE) in Reading and Writing

Dr. Joe Willhoft, Assistant Superintendent
Assessment and Student Information, OSPI

OSPI used a standard setting plan, approved by the State Board of Education to recommend proficiency classifications on the February 2008 Reading and Writing Collections of Evidence. In February 2008, there were 619 reading and 649 writing COEs scored. Mr. Willhoft indicated that the cut scores require the same proximate rigor of the standard WASL exam, as required by the legislation approving Collection of Evidence.

In April, OSPI convened two separate standard setting panels for COE in reading and writing. The panelists included teachers, school administrators, business people, community members, parents, and students. Dr. Willhoft introduced Ms. Luanne Hicks Bigbear and Curtis Norwood as members of the Standard Setting Team. Ms. Hicks Bigbear was impressed with how systematic and organized the assessment was this year. The panel worked very hard to set standards that allowed for proficiency. Mr.

Norwood said the process included people from a broad base and the Panel would like to see that continue to move forward. Ms. Hicks Bigbear and Mr. Norwood asked that more data and information be provided so that the Panel can put it in context and have a clearer picture.

It is recommended that the Board adopt a score of 72 as necessary to meet standard for the reading Collection of Evidence and a score of 17 for the writing Collection of Evidence, consistent with the recommendations provided by the reading and writing standard setting committees.

Strategic Teaching Report on K-8 Mathematics Standards

Mr. Steve Floyd, Board Lead

Ms. Edie Harding, Executive Director

Mr. Andy Clark, Strategic Teaching

Under SB 6534, the legislature asked the State Board of Education to use a national consultant to conduct an in depth review and make specific changes to the OSPI February 29th version. Strategic Teaching was extended to do this work and will also conduct a benchmarking study on the OSPI February standards and compare them with other states, countries, and frameworks.

The Strategic Teaching timeline includes:

- April 5th – standards were revised and released for feedback.
- April 8th – feedback due back to Strategic Teaching.
- April 11th – final Report due to the Board.
- April 18th – special Board meeting scheduled to take additional public comment and decide whether to approve the Report.

Washington State was benchmarked with California, Indiana, Singapore, Curricular Focal Points, and Washington College Readiness Standards, looking at grades 2, 4, 8, and high school. The National Math Advisory Panel (NMAP) was also examined.

The Standards match more closely with comparison benchmark standards from other states, as well as the NMAP, NCTM's, Focal Points, and the Singapore curriculum. They also address conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem solving; recommended in the NMAP.

Today the Board will be asked to approve the Report for K-8 Standards submitted by Strategic Teaching.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's Finalization of K-8 Standards

Dr. George Bright, Special Assistant, OSPI

Mr. Bright introduced members of the Math Standards Revision Team as Mr. David Thielk, Ms. Shannon Edwards, Ms. Roselyn O'Donnell, Mr. Art Mabbott, and Mr. Tim Bartlett.

Ms. Edwards was impressed with the process used on the Revision Team and stated that there are many dedicated people working on the Team. Her district has a tentative training planned when the Standards are implemented and the teachers are excited.

Ms. O'Donnell said that she was interested in the process because it affects both the teachers and children as well. She is excited and thankful for the work submitted on the final Report. The recommendations from Strategic Teaching are excellent and pulled everything together.

Mr. Bartlett said it is not always easy to get teachers to change and move ahead but they are eager and excited about the Standards. He said it was a painstaking process up to the last day of the Team meeting together, but was well worth the work.

Mr. Mabbott said that all the Team members thought hard and worked together even though there was not always agreement on the language. The members listened to the whole Team and it was a positive experience.

Mr. Floyd thanked the Team members for the work and energy put in to the process and the professionalism and patience that occurred throughout the process. The Report, presented today incorporates all the changes and the current version incorporates the core of what the Standards Team has done with changes from Strategic Teaching.

Public Comment

Elliott Paul, Where's the Math

As a representative of Where's the Math, Mr. Paul said that we are close but not where we need to be. Where's the Math has been working day and night reviewing the Standards and Mr. Paul submitted an evaluation against the tenets document, which notes specific changes that Where's the Math recommends. Where's the Math believes that the biggest issue to change is language on calculators, which is not in compliance with the NMAP. Where's the Math recommends waiting until the Math Panel meets again before making a decision and encourages the Board to take time to look at it carefully, giving stakeholders more time to review the current report.

Julie Wright, Where's the Math

Where's the Math is in agreement that math should have a comprehensive approach. Ms. Wright thanked everyone for the tremendous job of preparing the Standards. There is still more work to do and she encouraged the Board to slow down and make sure the

Standards are right for our students. She asked the Board to take more time to approve the K-8 Standards to make sure the foundation is there for the students.

Bob Brandt, Where's the Math and SBE Math Panel Member

Mr. Brandt acknowledged the parents for beginning this process. He is concerned that the Board needs to make sure that the Standards are solid this time around. He asked the Board to give stakeholders more time to review the report. He suggested that the Board not approve the Standards April 28th but to wait until the Math Panel meets on May 1st.

Dan Dempsey, SBE Math Panel Member

Mr. Dempsey explained that there is a different perspective coming from an alternative school, given that students have more challenges than students in traditional high schools. He is concerned about hurrying the process. Mr. Dempsey referenced Dr. Bright's comments on KIRO, where Dr. Bright said that it will take two to three years to get the teachers up to speed and he is not comfortable with that. He feels that the Math Panel members are not being heard.

Roselyn O'Donnell, 5th grade Teacher, Ellensburg

Ms. O'Donnell has come to recognize there is no such thing as true perfection. It's important to give students an environment where they can take a risk. Putting the Standards out there and the benefits of moving forward right now, far outweigh waiting for perfection. Teachers are ready and if we don't move forward it will hold Washington State back.

Ann Varkados, Bethel School District Administrator

We can never take teachers judgment out of our teachers. We always need to rely on our teachers as professional judgment.

Business Items

MOTION was made to accept Strategic Teaching's review of K-8 Mathematics Standards submitted on their Report, with the noteworthy modifications noted today, with three additional requests: 1) add more examples, 2) more explicit statement about the calculator use, and 3) a good proofread.

MOTION seconded

MOTION carried

Second **MOTION** was made to give OSPI direction, using Strategic Teaching's Report and the most recent revision of the Standards to begin work on professional development.

MOTION seconded

MOTION carried

MOTION was made that the Board of Education adopt a score of “72” as necessary to meet standard on the reading Collection of Evidence and a score of “17” for the writing Collection of Evidence, consistent with the recommendations provided by the reading and writing standard setting committees.

MOTION seconded

MOTION carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. by Steve Floyd