

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Arizona State Board of Education held a special meeting on November 3, 2014 at the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson Street, Room 122, Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Superintendent Huppenthal	Dr. Hart
President Tyree	
Vice President Miller	
Mr. Ballantyne	
Mr. Jacks	
Ms. Hamilton	
Mr. Molera	
Mr. Moore	
Dr. Rottweiler	
Ms. Rogers	

1. GENERAL SESSION

- A. Presentation, discussion and possible consideration of matters related to the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new statewide assessment. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) and (3), the Board may vote to convene in executive session to review confidential information and/or for discussion or consultation for legal advice.

Ms. Patty Clark, Chief Procurement Office spoke and addressed the Board regarding this item. Pursuant to State law and the State Procurement Code, all proposals and Best and Final revisions presented for the Request for Proposal for the Statewide Assessment were reviewed. The findings and the recommendation of the evaluation team were also reviewed. Based upon the evaluation criteria aligned with the requirements of the RFP, it is recommended the award of the contract to American Institute for Research is the most advantageous to the State.

Superintendent Huppenthal stated he sat on the PARCC governing board prior to this RFP selection and in an abundance of caution recused himself from participating in this procurement process. He intends to mobilize his staff to make this a smooth and excellent transition. ADE will continue to strive to deliver excellent customer service by providing timely and informative materials to students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and education stakeholders throughout the transition to this new test. Superintendent Huppenthal thanked Ross Begnoche Chief, Financial Officer, and Patty Clark, Chief Procurement Officer, for the Arizona Department of Education for their diligent work during this process. He also thanked the evaluation team for all their efforts and hard work and long hours devoted to this process.

Mr. Jacks made the motion to agree with the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer that the award of the contract for a statewide assessment to the American Institutes for Research

is in the best interests of the State, and the Board adopts and implements the statewide assessment pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-741, by way of the contract to be awarded by the Chief Procurement Officer. Mr. Ballantyne seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

President Tyree thanked the evaluation committee who put in an extensive amount of time and effort and pursued this process with great expertise in evaluating all the proposals and coming to the recommendation. President Tyree also thanked the State Procurement Office and the Attorney General's office. He stated their professionalism has been outstanding and they provided great guidance to the Board during this entire process. President Tyree thanked all Board members for their diligence and professionalism in during this process. President Tyree stated the new assessment will be called Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching, or AzMERIT. AzMERIT will be overseen and controlled by Arizona, and will measure each child's mastery of Arizona's standards. This assessment will provide reliable and timely information to parents, teachers and policy makers to support our schools as they help prepare Arizona students for success in life, in career, and in college. The Board is excited about the new information that AzMERIT will provide and plans to pursue an accountability safe harbor that will effectively allow a hold harmless period while baseline data is collected on the new assessment and related policy changes are being discussed.

Member Molera stated in light of this new assessment that will be utilized it is important to remember that this goes hand in hand with the Board's action in creating a meaningful A-F system. As part of that, this is an important step that will be utilized with what the local districts feel is important from an academic standpoint and is a very important distinction. Mr. Molera stated there is good statewide apples to apples comparison and innovation and flexibility that can occur from the local level. Feedback from the A-F structure has been very positive, both from the education and business communities. He stated he is excited to work with the next administration, both from ADE, the Governor's office and the legislature to put this into effect.

Molera made a motion to adjourn. Superintendent Huppenthal seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.