

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Friday, June 10, 2011**

The Arizona State Board of Education held a special meeting at the Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 North 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

**Members Present:**

Mr. Jaime Molera  
Mr. Thomas Tyree  
Supt. Huppenthal  
Dr. Vicki Balentine  
Ms. Amy Hamilton  
Ms. Eileen Klein (Arrived at 9:06 AM)  
Mr. Gregory Miller  
Mr. Jacob Moore  
Ms. Ortiz-Parsons

**Members Absent:**

Dr. Shelton  
Dr. James Horton

**ROLL CALL**

1. Presentation, discussion and consideration to adopt proposed achievement levels for the AIMS 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing assessments

Ms. Roberta Alley stated the presentation for the proposed achievement levels would be provided by Dr. Steve Fitzpatrick from Pearson.

Dr. Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the standard setting process for the new writing assessment. The new assessment will be administered in high school and grades 5, 6 and 7. There will be 27 multiple choice questions and an extended response writing sample scored on a 6-point holistic scoring rubric. A weighted total scale score will be reported with the MC questions contributing approximately 40% and the extended response essay contributing approximately 60%. Dr. Fitzgerald provided information on the writing test blueprint and the formula used for weighting the MC and essay components.

The following were the standard setting procedures used for the development of the writing assessments:

- Panelists reviewed and familiarized themselves with the Performance Level Descriptors, essay scoring rubric and test blueprint
- Panelists reviewed samples of writing from the spring essay prompt that were classified into the performance levels
- Panelists were lead through exercises to identify the knowledge and skills at the borderline between each pair of performance levels
- Panelists made judgments about how students at the borderline of each performance level should perform on each test item
- These judgments were used to drive a set of cut scores for each panelist
- The median of the panelists cut scores is the cut score for the group

There were three rounds of ratings and after the completion of the standard setting activities, the panelists reviewed the Performance Level Descriptors and recommended revisions to match the requirements of their recommended performance standards.

Dr. Fitzgerald provided an overview of the standard setting results for grades 5, 6 and 7; the raw score cuts after vertical articulation.

A percentage of the standard setting results for each grade level were provided for the following categories:

- Impact distribution by non-Hispanic/ Hispanic – after vertical articulation
- Impact distribution by ethnicity – after vertical articulation

Dr. Balentine asked for further information regarding the new break down in comparison to the fluctuating break down of writing performance used in the past years.

Ms. Alley asked Dr. Charles Bruen from the ADE to explain the difference of the two break downs and how the new information compares to last year's pass rates.

Dr. Bruen stated the test is completely different; this year multiple choice items were added to the assessment. There was a holistic scoring this year and it was measured in six separate items. Dr. Bruen stated there was a larger pass rate last year and a few points higher in the exceeds category.

Mr. Yanez stated an important difference is the previous test has been a single vertical scale. The new scales are independent per grade level.

Mr. Miller stated everyone in the field is using the data and most teachers might not be able to follow the three step process. This causes some burden to teachers.

Ms. Ortiz-Parsons stated parents will be very concerned when they see the difference of the test outcome.

Mr. Molera asked why this new method is used. Ms. Alley stated due to the three grade levels it was difficult to continue using a vertical scale. Ms. Alley stated there is a large difference between grades.

Ms. Hamilton asked if teachers in the audience would like to share how the new assessment out comes would be explained to the parents.

Mr. Brad McQueen from Tank Verde Unified School District stated the new assessment provided more accurate reflection of where the student is in the subject area.

Ms. Linda James from Deer Valley School District said the outcome will require some adjustment but will benefit students.

Mr. Moore stated the academic dip has been an ongoing discussion in areas such as AIMS, Common Core and it is a process of being clearer as to the real student academic achievement. Mr. Moore said he would be interested in looking at the demographics for the new assessment. Dr. Fitzpatrick presented the information using a break-down of Hispanic students and non-Hispanic, male and female, and the impact distribution by ethnicity.

*Supt. Huppenthal moved to adopt proposed achievement levels for the AIMS 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing assessments as presented*  
*Motion second by Dr. Balentine*

Mr. Moore asked if it would be possible to fix the issue of guidance for parents and assist. Ms. Alley stated that concern would be addressed and guidance would be provided to parents.

*Motion Passes*

A copy of the power point presentation can be provided by the State Board office.

Mr. Molera stated the Board would take a break to prepare for the planning session.

Break started at 9:47 AM.

Meeting resumed at 10:02 AM.

2. PLANNING SESSION

Presentation, discussion and consideration of the Board's strategic priorities. Discussion may include, but is not limited to, critical issues planning, legislative priorities and identification of Board policy initiatives.

Mr. Molera welcomed and introduced Ms. Carrie O'Brien from the Attorney General's office.

Ms. O'Brien thanked Mr. Molera and provided background information and stated she was very happy to assist as legal counsel for the Board.

Mr. Molera stated the purpose of the special session was to discuss legislative issues, Board rule and any key priorities the Board would like to see accomplished. Mr. Molera said the special session would be facilitated. Follow up discussion will be continued at the June 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting if necessary.

Mr. Yanez introduced Ms. Sheila Arredondo from WestEd and she would be the facilitator for the process.

Ms. Arredondo stated the plan may be adjusted and provided an overview of the work to be discussed.

The following is the structure used for the meeting.

<b>Content</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Time</b>
1. Scan & Forecast	Brainstorm local, national, and global issues and trends affecting education in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century to provide context for the day's work.	20 minutes
2. Beliefs	Pairs discuss one assigned belief and record two indicators of success on the template provided. Report out and record.	20 minutes

3. Priorities	Groups of three discuss four assigned 2011 priorities and rank as high, medium, or low; then discuss and rank additional priorities using template provided.	60 minutes
4. The Real Work	Each group records high, medium, and low priorities on large wall chart; if already listed by another group, then add a check mark next to the item.	20 minutes
5. Dialogue	What are the implications for the Board? For individual members? What are some potential next steps?	20 minutes

**DIALOGUE:**

Mr. Molera said he would like to review the Boards governance processes, regular evaluations of Executive Director and ongoing critics to evaluate priorities.

Supt. Huppenthal stated it would be beneficial to continue ADE presentations to keep the members informed.

Mr. Tyree said he would be interested in having more communication in order to stay in the loop with all the topics relevant to Board meetings and work done by the Board. Mr. Tyree suggested electing the Board President position to two years instead of one, to benefit from continuity. Dr. Balentine stated she supports electing a Board president for two years instead of one.

Ms. Arredondo stated all of the information would be recorded and provided to the members for further review and discussion.

Mr. Yanez stated revisions would be made to the Belief Statement and Board Priority Statement in accordance with the suggestion made by the Board members.

An item will be placed on the June Board agenda for follow-up discussion and the work may continue through August. Mr. Molera said it would be important to provide the information to the field and incorporate any feedback received.

Mr. Moore asked if discussions could also focus on the legislative agenda and priorities as a Board. Other areas to review are the issues of certification and the issues with data.

3. Call to the public  
No requests to speak.

4. Adjourn  
*Mr. Moore Moved to adjourn*  
*Motion second by Dr. Balentine*  
*Motion passes*

Meeting adjourned at 12:29