

MEETING MINUTES

Arizona State Board of Education Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona State Board of Education, the Accountability Technical Advisory Committee and to the general public that the Committee will hold a meeting, open to the public, on **Monday, June 3, 2024, at 1:00 P.M at 1535 W Jefferson St Room 417, Phoenix, AZ 85007.**

Members of the public will have physical access to the meeting location 10 minutes before the Committee meeting, at 12:50 P.M.

A copy of the agenda for the meeting is attached. The Committee reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings. One or more members of the Committee may participate telephonically.

Agenda materials can be reviewed online at <http://azsbe.az.gov>

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02 (H), the Committee may discuss and take action concerning any matter listed on the agenda.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (2), the Committee may vote to convene in executive session, which will not be open to the public, for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter or narrator by contacting the State Board Office at (602) 542-5057. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Please see below on how to access the meeting and provide public comment on agenda items.

Methods on Accessing the Committee Meeting

This meeting is accessible to the public through in-person attendance at the address listed on this notice. This meeting is not live-streamed to any platform, or recorded. Accessing the meeting virtually through a link is not available at this time. Please refer to materials published on this agenda, procedure for submitting public comment, and minutes published online: <https://azsbe.az.gov/public-meetings/committee-meetings>.

Procedure for Submitting Public Comment:

For individuals wishing to submit public comment

Written Comment:

Written comments for the meeting will be accepted by:

- email inbox@azsbe.az.gov
- fax to (602) 542-3046
- USPS to 1700 W. Washington St., Executive Tower, Suite 300, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The deadline to submit a written comment will be Friday, May 31, 2024 at 8:00 AM.

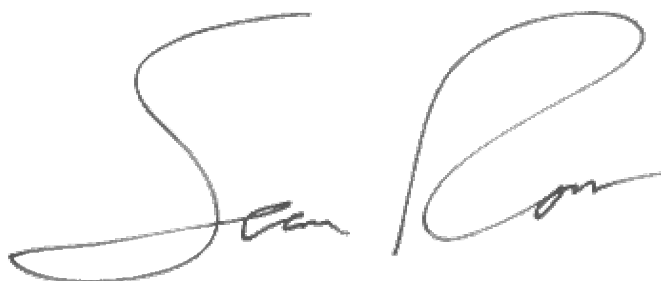
Written comments received after the deadline will not be posted and will not be provided to members.

Written comments will not be read into the record, however, staff will post all written comments received by the deadline on the Committee's agenda by **Friday, May 31, 2024 at 12:00 PM.**

DATED AND POSTED this 23rd day of May, 2024.

Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and last name "Ross" clearly distinguishable.

Sean Ross, Executive Director
State Board of Education
(602) 542-5057

1. Operational

Committee Meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

Attendees

Sean Rickert, Chair
Jason Piontkowski, ViceChair (*arrived at 1:04pm*)
David Jordan, Committee Member
Debbie Penn, Committee Member
Kelly Powell, Committee Member
Mary Berg, Committee Member
Jonathan Rohloff, Committee Member

Rick Guyer, Committee Member
Tyson Myers, Committee Member
Maja Aleksic, Committee Member

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, took attendance. The Committee has a quorum.

A. UPDATED - Comments for the record - UPDATED

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, provided an update on the public comments received. One written comment was received and there is one member of the public observing the committee meeting.

B. Discussion and possible action on remote accessibility to meetings for members of the public

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, shared that a public comments was received last month that addressed virtual observation of the ATAC Meeting. Questions and comments have been received from members of the public who mostly represent schools and organizations. The emphasis of the comments entail the challenges for these individuals to attend in person for a two hour meeting. Some ATAC Committee Members have requested that members of the public be able to attend to reduce the need for follow ups regarding meeting updates. There are options to enable to allow remote attendance via zoom. The meeting won't be livestreamed.

Member Piontkowski arrived at 1:04pm.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, sought clarification on whether the members of the public would be able to participate and if the ATAC would have Request to Speak and Call to the Public.

Jessica Mueller confirmed that the members of the public would observe only and not have access to chat functions to ask questions.

Committee Members, Sean Ross and Jessica Mueller discussed the purpose of the ATAC Committee and how this advisory committee's objective could be hindered by hosting observers. The distance that would need to be traveled for in-person attendance was mentioned. The ATAC's previous vote on this topic was discussed. This topic was brought up in the ATAC Committee as well. Discussion regarding viewing the meeting live vs. reading the minutes and summary of events. The purpose and use of Executive Session was discussed.

A motion was made to introduce remote accessibility to our meetings for members of the public.

Motion failed: 9-2.

Motion made by: Jason Piontkowski

Motion Seconded by: David Jordan

Voting:

Sean Rickert - No

Jason Piontkowski - No

David Jordan - Yes

Debbie Penn - No

Jonathan Rohloff - No
Kelly Powell - No
Mary Berg - No
Jennifer Fletcher - No
Rick Guyer - Yes
Tyson Myers - No
Maja Aleksic - No

2. Technical

A. UPDATED - Presentation and discussion on indicator scoring: Draft timeline for implementation - UPDATED

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, presented to the Committee. Indicator scoring is required to be part of the A-F Accountability process per A.R.S. §15-2401. The statute describes the indicators and the associated scoring. Right now, letter grades are used. A summative grade will be issued along with letter grades for each indicator. Effectively, Proficiency, Growth, EL, Graduation Rate, and CCRI.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, clarified that the law is specific about five of those and the sixth is more of a broad stroke.

Sean Ross communicated that statute is clear about the requirements. As discussed last month, no changes should be made to the summative letter grades. The changes are assigning values to the indicators. Graduation Rate is in statute. However, measuring growth to graduation is a comfortable pivot even though it is not worded this way in statute. A rough timeline has been presented. Per the timeline, a formal announcement will be made to the field in preparation for the August Board Meeting. Presentations would be made via a road show at event like ASA, Guppy Mack (sp?), etc. to communicate the coming changes to stakeholders. This timeline was created to provide schools time to absorb, think, plan, reflect, etc. and provide ATAC time to set the indicators. This timeline is efficient enough to satisfy the legislature. From August to December, Sean Smith, Jessica Mueller, and myself will gather feedback and present to stakeholders. At the December Board Meeting, the ATAC will make a recommendation to the Board for cut scores and indicators. Hopefully, these will be adopted by the Board in December. Sean Smith and Yassin Fahmy will allow schools to see their last three (3) years of indicator score. Schools will be able to see what their letter grades would have been. This information is not public information. This will equip schools with the trend data they need to evaluate where changes may need to happen. The SBE will answer questions via webinars, presentations, etc.. By October 2025, letter grades with indicator letter grades will be issued. The dominant thought was to provide schools at least a year to absorb the information, gain assistance from resources, gain guidance, and use the data to see what they would earn.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that giving stakeholders and schools a heads up in August would allow the the time they need to evaluate their impact data. Providing notice as soon as possible is great to maximize communication. Setting goals for each indicator will provide schools with something to work towards.

The Committee Members, Sean Ross, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the timeline with emphasis made on the ATAC not knowing the indicator and cut sores when presenting to the stakeholders. The timeline was crafted with dual intentions: (1) to not put pressure on the ATAC in defining cut scores and indicator score and (2) provide schools with enough time to absorb the upcoming changes. The timeline is not final. Changes can be made to the dates. The Legislature is putting pressure on indicator grades to happen now since Accountability is technically out of

compliance. The drafted timeline can be argued; however, pushing back this process by an entire year cannot be justified. The indicators are not meant to stand alone; however, continuous improvement must begin somewhere.

B. UPDATED - Presentation and discussion on indicator scoring: Exploration of possible methodologies for establishing expected standards of performance for the indicators outlined in A.R.S. 15-241(G): Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (2), the Committee may vote to convene in executive session, which will not be open to the public, for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection - UPDATED

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, presented *Indicator Scoring Comparison* handout to the committee. The top 30% of schools tend to be an A. Calculated the pass rates for these schools and compared to the national ACT scores.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, sought clarification about whether the proposed fixes have been run on the model to calculate the mean and standard deviation.

Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the results of the handout data with an emphasis on standard deviation, skews, normal distribution, weights, and ratification drop offs. Acceleration Readiness negatively affects rural schools because they do not have as many students. If some of these fixes are applied, it will avoid the artificial drop offs. Most data sets mimic a normal distribution. Some indicators are different because the data was capped.

Committee Members and Sean Smith discussed the options of tinkering with the data to fix the issues being identified or moving forward. Desire to minimize the perception that schools are not performing. Desire to also keep the reporting consistent with historical methods utilized.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, voiced concern about establishing rules due to outliers. This is why schools will be given a year to formulate a plan and communicate with their communities. Many of the voiced concerns echo voiced concerns when the A-F Accountability system was put into place. There is a need to educate families and communities.

Committee Members, Jessica Mueller, Sean Ross, and Sean Smith discussed how schools need to communicate with their communities and stakeholders. There is a need to help schools as much as possible. Down the line, parent focus groups can be used to assist. The N count is concerning due to the data being super noisy for small groups. The nationwide N count is 18, one state is 5, Arizona is one of the few with 10, most states are between 15 and 20. Noisy data is a conversation starter regarding the issues within the system.

Committee Members, Sean Ross, and Sean Smith discussed how these changes won't become real for school leaders until they can see their indicator grades. These changes and grade will be a shock to quite a few people. Shock should prompt stakeholders to review the letter grade system more intently. Some school leaders have admitted that they do not look as much as they should. Some school leaders do not realize which parts of their school are "doing well" and which are messing up their letter grades. It will come from both sides. There will be a large push to see where the bonus points are. The ATAC will need to plan how to explain everything to get everyone on the same page.

Committee Members stated that Title 1 Schools are concerns that these changes will paint them in a negative light. Frustration in the field is that the characteristics of the student population determine the letter grades and the school has no control over this. Not all families can afford private tutors and space camp.

Jessica Mueller sought clarification about when the Standard Deviation trend data for SY2022-23 will be available.

Sean Smith provided clarification that this data should be available by the July Meeting.

3. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas

A Committee Member sought more clarity regarding SGT for the coming school year.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, provided clarification that this will be added to future agenda along with the clarification regarding the N Count.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that future agenda item will include a discussion regarding the targets for the indicator scoring, MSAA in CCRI, and a presentation from the Deputy Superintendent.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.