

State Assessment Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street, Alzina Building, VTEL Room, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Illinois
100 West Randolph, James R. Thompson Center, VTEL Room, 14th Floor, Chicago, Illinois
Tuesday, March 3, 2015
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Attendees (S) Springfield (C) Chicago (P) phone-in

Illinois State Board of Education Participants:

- Susie Morrison (S)
- Angela Chamness (C)
- Wes Bruce (C)

SARC Members in Attendance:

- Carmen Ayala (C)
- Ben Boer (S)
- Kyle Cole (C)
- Steve Cordogan (C)
- Dan Cox (P)
- Monique Davis
- Jessica Handy (S)
- Kirk Humphreys (C)
- Jean Korder
- Laurie Miller (S)
- Brian Minsker (S)
- Steve Murphy representative (S)
- Gene Olsen (P)
- Tracy Quattrocki (C)
- Jim Shriner (P)
- Didi Swartz (C)
- Melissa Taylor (S)
- Rebecca Vonderlack- Navarro (C)
- Diane Wolf (P)
- Paul Zavitkovsky (C)

Public Representatives

- Karen Jordan, ABC Channel 7 News
- Vicki Blount, ABC Channel 7 News

Invited guest:

- Margaret Horn, PARCC, Inc.

Opening welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 by Chair Steve Cordogan. The meeting start time had been delayed by an emergency response drill held in Springfield.

Introductions

Each member introduced themselves and stated their position in the education community.

Bylaws

A draft of the bylaws for the SARC was presented to the committee. Carmen Ayala moved to adopt the bylaws, and Paul Zavitkovsky seconded. The motion was approved.

Public Comment

Given the absence of any public representatives at this time, no public comments were made.

General Discussion on PARCC Test Administration

Angela presented the current state of the administration of the PARCC Assessment. Ohio was the main state where testing had begun, although both New Jersey and Illinois also had started, with over 450,000 tests successfully completed at this time. Most issues were district-specific and often related to not participating in training.

Margaret Horn, of PARCC, Inc. and Wes Bruce from ISBE joined the group to discuss issues around general administration and assessment technology.

Areas of interest discussed were:

- Local technology issues (largely due to not participating in training).
- Entering new students who were recently exited from another school.
- On-line versus paper-and-pencil testing: half of Ohio is testing on-line, whereas the Illinois percentage is between 70% and 75%.
- Setting accommodations and Personal Needs Profile
- Opting out for students
- Logistics of taking combinations of PBA and EOY (e.g., if missed PBA, EOY testing will not generate a score).
- Switching from DLM to PARCC
- Spanish forms
- The ICCB plan to accept PARCC performance levels 4 and 5 as a threshold for non-remedial courses.

PARCC Reports

The committee voiced their desire to modify the parent report drafts so that they are more parent-friendly and meaningful, particularly in terms of connecting to the standards and providing specifics. Margaret expressed her interest in providing the desired information in the reports.

Review/approve meeting minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of the November 25th, 2014 meeting. A motion was made by Jessica Handy to approve, seconded by Didi Swartz. The minutes were approved.

High School Grades/Course Levels for 2015-16 Testing

The committee discussed options for trimming five million dollars from the budget, mostly focusing upon at which grades or course levels to test at the high school level. The general consensus was a preference for testing at the high school level using Algebra I and Geometry (or Math I and II) as well as ELA I and II. There is some concern that even with testing only two years at the high school level, there may be some computer capacity issues.

Testing Windows

Research on modifying the testing windows is being conducted, but since the consortium has to make determinations before we can set ours, we will need to await their conclusions.

Public Comment

Given the absence of any public representatives at this time, no public comments were made.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 3:00 P.M. by Kirk Humphreys, seconded by Kyle Cole. The motion was approved.