



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2014

Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room B  
302 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Board Members Present: Superintendent Glenda Ritz (chair), Mr. Troy Albert, Ms. Sarah O'Brien, Dr. Brad Oliver, and Ms. Cari Whicker.

Board Members Absent: None

Superintendent Ritz announced the commencement of this subcommittee meeting and asked Dr. Michelle McKeown, General Counsel to the Board, to speak. Dr. McKeown asked for questions or comments regarding the RFI. Dr. Oliver commented that certain things need to be included, like assessment design, but that that may be more relevant to the RFP. Dr. McKeown referred the Board to the part of the RFI that addresses a growth calculation that can feed into accountability and teacher evaluation. She said we would want to include similar language in the RFP. Dr. McKeown also referred the Board to language in the RFI that asked vendors to address how they would be able to use the information provided through the standard setting process. She went on to say it's a challenge to some degree. She stated the issue is will there a timeframe without growth because of a change in assessments. Upon inquiry by Dr. Oliver, Dr. McKeown stated that there would be language to address the issue of how the vendor's assessment platform would be able to absorb those students who were previously assessed on the IMAST. Ms. Whicker asked about other essential accommodations and Dr. McKeown responded that the most of the accommodations in the IEP will be honored. She said they could ask specifics about other accommodations like Read Aloud. Dr. McKeown addressed some other issues with regard to the RFI and RFP, including having one assessment and college and career readiness.

Superintendent Ritz stated the issue of the relationship between content and item type will be discussed at the next meeting. She said the RFI process will take place with vendors June 12. She inquired about a meeting to take place before that. She also said she would like some

Liaisons from three other entities to help them inform their work. She said they would include a couple people from the accountability panel, a couple people from higher education, and a couple people from the Roundtable. She said she would like to also include others organizations as well. Dr. Oliver asked what groups would be included. He said there are some organizations that have been groups critical of the Board and was concerned about introducing a political element into the process. He said he wanted to keep it about students. Superintendent Ritz said she didn't know who he was speaking to.

Superintendent Ritz said the people she identified were Robert Lugo, a school principal, Jessica Feeser, an ESL teacher at IPS, Dr. Stacy Townsley and Sam Snideman, who participated in the standards review. She also suggested Teresa Meredith, representing ISTA, for a teacher's perspective, and Stacey Hughes, who is a teacher. Dr. Oliver expressed concern over comments made by ISTA that the Board had acted politically at the meeting on May 13, 2014. He said he was offended by the comments and the May 13 meeting was not about politics but about an important issue. Ms. Whicker said there are members on the subcommittee that represent teachers and that she is an ISTA member. Superintendent Ritz said she left the last assessment meeting feeling like it was ok to begin the process. Dr. Oliver said that was general and today's discussion is about specific people.

Superintendent Ritz said there is no time to waste and that she can gather information from these groups in her own way. Mr. Albert supported having them here. Dr. Oliver said he agreed but was just expressing a concern. Claire Fiddian-Green, Special Assistant to the Governor for Education Innovation, suggested Dan Clark, Executive Director of the Roundtable, work with the Roundtable to see who would like to participate from the Roundtable. Superintendent Ritz said she has already had conversations with the stakeholders. Dr. Oliver suggested moving forward, that the ideas were discussed conceptually. Ms. Fiddian-Green suggested she collaborate with the Superintendent and Mr. Clark to work this out and Superintendent Ritz agreed. Superintendent Ritz suggested the next meeting be after the next regular Board meeting on June 4. Ms. O'Brien commented that she felt like this was becoming more of a review panel rather than a subcommittee. Ms. Whicker said it's important to get input from people but she felt the same way as Ms. O'Brien.

Ms. Fiddian-Green clarified this is an official committee of the Board so it can vote. Ms. O'Brien agreed and said if we bring other people in it doesn't feel like a committee anymore; she asked for clarification on the design of what they are doing. Mr. Albert said the more input the better. Dr. Oliver said the deliberations around the RFI and RFP should be limited to the subcommittee who will be making a recommendation to the full Board. He said if you go outside the subcommittee, it should be gathering opinions. He said he would have a problem with having outside stakeholders asking questions of the vendors and deliberating.

Superintendent Ritz stated it's her decision if she wants to include them or not. Dr.

Oliver responded that they do want to hear from the stakeholders. Superintendent Ritz wanted to give them the opportunity to participate. Dr. Oliver said getting input is different than them coming in and vetting vendors. Superintendent Ritz said she would think about it and talk with her team to determine how this might work. Ms. O'Brien recommended having conversations before the vendor meeting; she stated these conversations would be valuable and informative. She did agree that having them converse with vendors would be crossing the line.

Superintendent Ritz said she couldn't help but think the conversation would be different if there wasn't one person who was recommended. Dr. Oliver responded that that's not the case; the concern would still be there. Dr. Oliver said is stakeholders are going to be involving in vetting it should go before the entire Board first for a vote. Ms. O'Brien said she would be fine with the inclusion of the Roundtable since they are statutorily obligated to be involved in the process, but anything beyond that would blur the lines. Mr. Albert recommended the A-F panel being a part of the process because of the related work they have to do. Dr. Oliver pointed out that Superintendent Ritz and Ms. Fiddian-Green are on the A-F panel so it's represented. Superintendent Ritz said she would deliberate on the issue of stakeholder involvement with staff.

The subcommittee adjourned.