



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 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, Dr. Brad Oliver, and Ms. Cari Whicker.

Board Members Absent: Sarah O'Brien.

Superintendent Ritz announced the beginning of this subcommittee meeting and asked Dr. Michelle McKeown, General Counsel to the Board, and Dr. Michele Walker, Director of Student Assessment, to present to the subcommittee. Dr. McKeown started by explaining that the discussion would center around the RFI and RFP process, as well as the big policy issues that remain to be determined before the RFP could be drafted.

A. Relationship Between Content and Item Type – Test Form Development

Dr. Walker presented the issue of the relationship between content and item type in assessment. She began by explaining open ended items, and that many states do not include them. She explained that Indiana added open ended items in 1995 to the ISTEP test, making it the ISTEP+ test. Dr. Walker used the fall 2008 and spring 2009 ISTEP+ assessments as examples; the fall 2008 test was comprised of 40% open ended items and 60% multiple choice and the spring 2009 test was 30%/70%, respectively. She said there is no magic formula for the percentage of open ended versus selected response questions. Dr. Walker then moved on to explain item format; she iterated that the most important thing is that we tie all the decisions that are being made right now with educators as we build the new assessment to the content and to what the classroom practice should look like. She said the test should mirror as much as possible what actual instructional practices look like.

B. Operationalizing a College-and-Career Ready Assessment for 2014-15

Dr. Walker moved on to operationalizing the assessment. She stated the waiver requires an operationalized assessment in 2014-15. She also said exposure to the new material is important. Dr. Walker said they are working on making technology enhanced item types available for exposure. Dr. McKeown added that her recommendation in terms of an opportunity to learn would be to mandate that an opportunity for exposure be administered by all schools. She said it needs to a representative sample of items that will provide meaningful information on how students are performing with the new item types. Dr. McKeown then gave some examples of how this could be effectively achieved. Mr. Albert asked about the process of selecting vendors and how that process might change. Dr. McKeown explained that it would not change for 2014-15. She said the transition assessment for 2014-15 is the ISTEP with CTB. She said this would run parallel to the RFI and RFP process. In addition, she explained, there would be an exposure assessment and she recommended it be administered as early in the school year as possible.

Dr. Walker explained interoperability. She said not only do we need items that are aligned to our own Indiana academic standards, but also we need items that can be used on any vendor's platform. She said this is known as the interoperability requirement and it's required across the industry. All items from a vendor must be able to be utilized by any other vendor so that items can be leased from any vendor and so you can select a different vendor to deliver the assessment if you want. Dr. Walker stated they released a survey to recruit teachers for the summer to form committees to add science, social studies, ELA, and math items to the pool. She said so far 400 teachers have already responded. Dr. Walker iterated these teachers are very familiar with the new standards. She explained that CTB will develop these items in June or July and then they will be reviewed in the first week in August. The test will be built in the fall and the test ready in March.

C. RFI Presenter Selection

Dr. McKeown moved on to the RFI process. She said the responses to the RFI are due on June 6 and the presentations will occur on June 12. She stated the recommendation is for the subcommittee to allow Dr. Walker and Dr. McKeown to go through the responses and pick five to six vendors and also provide a recommended format on how they think the presentations should go; specifically, 30 minute presentations, 20 minutes for questions and then 10 minute breaks built in. Dr. Walker stated that all the responses would be shared. Dr. McKeown explained that the window is tight for review of the RFI responses and a summary of those responses will be provided to the subcommittee to the extent possible. At least a list of all the

responses would be provided, DR. Walker added. Dr. McKeown explained that she and Dr. Walker would be happy to draft questions for the vendors during the presentations.

Dr. Oliver suggested allowing the subcommittee to submit questions. Dr. Walker and Dr. McKeown agreed they could do that. Dr. McKeown recommended sending to one or both of them so as not to violate open door. Dr. McKeown said it would be best if they received them by Monday at noon. The subcommittee decided to meet at 8:00 before the 9:00 meeting on June 9th to review the questions. Dr. McKeown summarized that they will review the questions they get from the subcommittee and then send to the group her and Dr. Walker's recommended questions before June 9th for review at 8:00 on June 9.

D. Field Survey

Dr. McKeown stated that she, Dr. Chamberlin, and Dr. Walker are working on a short survey that will be finalized next week that will be sent out to the field to get feedback on what school faculty think about assessments. She said they could put it in an excel format for subcommittee review. Superintendent Ritz recommended those working on the assessment development also take the survey.

E. Big Ideas Regarding Assessment

Dr. McKeown stated there are still a lot of policy decisions that need to be made before the RFP. Dr. Walker said they were just trying to plant seeds today; they don't have to know all the answers today. Dr. McKeown recommended pushing back the timeline a bit before releasing the RFP formally to allow the process to be fully completed. The subcommittee agreed they didn't need to have full dialogue today about all of these issues, but that decisions will have to be made before the RFP. Dr. McKeown went through the issues: 1) grade span; 2) GQE; 3) assessing both college and career readiness; 4) identifying students who may need remediation; 5) whether to absorb IREAD-3 into the assessment used for accountability or keep it separate; 6) fixed versus adaptive and hybrid approaches. She said decisions on these issues is what they need to build an RFP. Dr. McKeown discussed some recommendations from Board staff and the subcommittee discussed some issues surrounding these listed items.

F. Revisiting Procurement Schedule

Dr. McKeown said they are requesting pushing back the RFP from late June until late July. She said this will allow adequate time for them to hear from the RFI respondents, to get feedback from the survey, and to hear from Dr. Betebenner and Dr. Briggs, expert consultants.

G. Future Subcommittee Meeting Dates

Superintendent Ritz said the next meeting was June 12th. There will be another meeting on July 9th after the regular business meeting with later dates to be determined. The subcommittee clarified the difference between this process and working with CTB for the transition college and career readiness assessment in 2014-15. They also discussed the new vendor possibly helping with the exposure test this spring.

The subcommittee adjourned.