

**August 6, 2012**

## **Special Board Meeting**

### MINUTES

- Members Attending:** Ms. Connie Fletcher, Ms. Phyllis Frank, Ms. Judy Jennings, Mr. Bob Hughes, Dr. Kris Mayer, Mr. Kevin Laverty, Mr. Tre' Maxie, Ms. Cindy McMullen, and Mr. Matthew Spencer (9)
- Members Absent:** Chair Jeff Vincent (excused), Mr. Randy Dorn (excused), Dr. Bernal Baca (excused), Ms. Amy Bragdon (excused), Ms. Mary Jean Ryan (excused), and Mr. Eli Ulmer (excused) (6)
- Staff Attending:** Mr. Ben Rarick, Ms. Sarah Rich, Mr. Aaron Wyatt, Ms. Colleen Warren, Mr. Jack Archer, Ms. Linda Drake, Ms. Emily Persky, and Ms. Janet Culik (8)
- Staff Absent:** Ms. Loy McColm (excused) (1)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Ms. Connie Fletcher.

### **Cut Scores for Biology End of Course Assessment and the Washington Alternate Assessment System Portfolio**

Dr. Robin Munson, Assistant Superintendent, Assessment and Student Information, OSPI  
Ms. Cinda Parton, Director, Assessment Development, OSPI  
Dr. Tom Hirsch, Assessment and Evaluation Services, OSPI Consultant

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction presented cut scores to be used for the End-of-Course (EOC) Biology Assessment and for the Washington Alternate Assessment Portfolio. At the May 2012 meeting, the SBE had approved the OSPI process for setting the Biology cut scores.

The Biology EOC was given for this first time in spring 2012. Meeting standard on this assessment or an approved alternative will be required for graduation beginning with the class of 2015.

OSPI staff reviewed the standard setting approval process. The Board reviewed the process to be used for the End-of-Course Exam in Biology at its regular May 2012 meeting. The Superintendent's National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) had also reviewed and approved the process, and on August 3, 2012 certified that the process had been followed.

The Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) has been updated to better meet the needs of students with significant cognitive challenges. It is designed for the small percentage of students (about one percent of all) for whom traditional assessments, even with accommodations, are not an appropriate measure of progress.

The authority for SBE identifying scores students must achieve to meet standards is specified in RCW 28A.305.130.

The Superintendent's recommendations for cut scores were based on multiple sources: Contrasting Groups Study, Grade-level Panels, Articulation Panels, and a Policy Advisory Panel. The mean ratings from the grade-level panelists form the basis for each grade level panel's cut score recommendations. Mean ratings allow every panel member to contribute a fraction of the raw score cut.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board adopt the cut scores for Basic, Proficient, and Advanced on the Biology End-of-Course exam, as forwarded by the Standard Setting, Articulation, and Policy Advisory Panels. The Superintendent also recommended that the Board adopt the cut scores for the WAAS Portfolio in Reading, Science, Writing, and Mathematics as recommended by the Standard Setting Articulation Committee and Policy Advisory Panel.

Staff clarified that the pass rates from the Science High School Proficiency Test are not directly comparable to the pass rates for the Biology End-of-Course test. An increased percentage of students passing the End-of-Course test is an expected outcome. When compared to the HSPE science test, the End-of-Course test assesses a much smaller range of science content, and typically assesses it immediately after the completion of the course by the student. Therefore, increased pass rates reflect a more accessible testing format, but do not reflect lower academic standards for science.

Board discussion followed.

### **Waiver Requests**

Mr. Jack Archer, Sr. Policy Analyst

Finley School District requested a waiver from the 180 school day basic education requirement for grades K-12 for the 2012-2013 school year only.

Columbia (Walla Walla) provided information to supplement their request originally reviewed at the July 2012 meeting, including a letter from the superintendent and additional information on how the district demonstrates compliance with the requirement for 1,000 instructional hours.

Board discussion followed.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Business Items**

#### **Approval of Cut Scores for the End-of-Course Assessment in Biology**

**Motion** was made to approve as the End-of-Course Biology assessment cut scores, those scores proposed by OSPI's Standard Setting, Articulation, and Policy Advisory Panels set forth on slide 20 of OSPI's PowerPoint; and to require that a student achieve a score of 23 or higher in order to meet the standard on the End-of-Course biology assessment, and for high school students to obtain a certificate of academic achievement.

**Motion** seconded

**Motion** carried

Approval of Cut Scores for the Washington Alternative Assessment System (WAAS) Portfolio for reading, science, writing, and mathematics

**Motion** was made to approve as the Washington Alternative Assessment System (WAAS) Portfolio cut scores for reading, science, writing, and mathematics, those scores proposed by OSPI's Standards Setting Articulation Committee and Policy Advisory Panel set forth in slides 36, 38, 40 and 44 of OSPI's PowerPoint.

**Motion** seconded

**Motion** carried

Approval of Waivers from the 180 School Day Requirement in RCW 28A.150.220

(a) Columbia (Walla Walla) School District

**Motion** was made to approve Columbia (Walla Walla) School District's request for a waiver of three days from the 180 day school year requirement in RCW 28A.150.220 for school years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015.

**Motion** seconded

**Motion** carried with one nay

(b) Finley School District

Motion was made to approve Finley School District's request for a waiver of three days from the 180 day school year requirement in RCW 28A.150.220 for the 2012-2013 school year.

**Motion** seconded

**Motion** carried with one nay

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 by Ms. Fletcher.