

Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford

Minutes of the
November 12, 2014, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee met on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, in Room 223, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Stephen Wright called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Present: Stephen Wright, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten

Absent: Allan Taylor

I. Consideration of the Minutes of the September 24, 2014 Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the committee approve the minutes of the September 24, 2014 Academic Standards and Assessment Committee meeting.

| | | |
|-------|------------|------------------------|
| Vote: | In Favor: | Wright, Hopkins-Staten |
| | Abstained: | 0 |
| | Opposed: | 0 |
| | Absent: | Taylor |

Motion carried unanimously.

II. Social Studies Frameworks

Drafts of the Social Studies Framework document have undergone a rigorous review by the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee. Feedback from Mr. Wright and committee members Allan Taylor and Vice Chair Theresa Hopkins-Staten has been invaluable. The drafts have also undergone reviews by a number of teachers and others in the educational community. Special review sessions have taken place for specific stakeholder groups.

At the request of the Board, the draft of the Social Studies Framework document has been posted on the Connecticut State Department of Education's website with feedback on the Framework encouraged. Over 75 educators have commented on the framework. The vast majority of the comments have been positive.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reiterated her concern regarding the alliance districts because of the challenges they have. She suggested professional development and resources for the alliance districts.

If the Social Studies Framework document is approved, a robust implementation plan has been created. This plan includes a companion document, a series of workshops across the state, a webinar series,

summer workshops, the creation of a Center for Inquire in CT history, identification of 6-9 model districts, and professional development activities for individual schools and districts.

It was suggested that a representative of the 2014 CABA/CAPSS Convention, be contacted to ask them to inform attendees via email that one of the topics for discussion at the State Board of Education Workshop will be on the draft Social Studies Framework. Pamela Charland of the State Board of Education office will contact Patrice McCarthy, Executive Director of CABA.

III. Next Generation Science Standards

Academic Office staff presented information about Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Topics included: (1) Why upgraded science standards are needed, including connections to STEM careers; (2) Significant NGSS shifts to teaching and learning; (3) On-going state capacity-building; (4) Stakeholder feedback; (5) Adoption opportunities and challenges; and (6) NGSS impact on future assessments.

Committee members viewed a short video clip illustrating an NGSS-style "sense-making" discussion in a diverse Grade 4 classroom. The example of NGSS classroom discourse prompted discussion about the important role of pre-service and in-service professional learning to support teachers' transition to a Next Generation approach to science teaching and learning. Academic Office staff will continue to work with the Talent Office to ensure that teacher preparation and certification initiatives are aligned with NGSS.

Plans were discussed for at least two presentations to the full Board of Education early next year. It was agreed that the Board would benefit from a high-level overview of NGSS in comparison to current state science standards, Connecticut's role in NGSS development and the work CSDE has led since 2012 to build statewide capacity to transition to new science standards and assessments.

Committee members engaged in a discussion of soliciting parental input with regard to the NGSS and the potential feedback from the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE).

Committee members were invited to participate in a webinar hosted by NASBE on Communicating about Science Standards on November 17. The webinar will help state board members build strategies for developing and executing a comprehensive communications plan to strengthen public awareness and support. They were also invited to attend a one-day workshop, Vision for K-12 Science Education: A Leader's Introduction to Next Generation Science at the CT Science Center on November 24.

IV. Arts

Due to time constraints, an update on the Arts will be made at the next meeting.

V. Other

None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Rivera