

Draft Only
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**SUMMARY of
PROCEEDINGS**



COMMITTEE ON STATEWIDE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

May 9 and 10, 2013
Conference Room, Oil and Gas Commission Building
2211 Kings Boulevard
Casper, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Hank Coe, Cochairman
Representative Matt Teeters, Cochairman
Senator Jim Anderson (SD02)
Senator Bill Landen
Senator Phil Nicholas
Senator Chris Rothfuss
Representative Steve Harshman
Representative Mike Madden
Representative Tim Stubson
Representative Mary Throne

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Cathy Connolly
Representative John Freeman
Representative Jerry Paxton
Representative Albert Sommers

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Dave Nelson, School Finance Manager
Tania Hytrek, Staff Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Please refer to **Appendix 1** to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet
for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at lso@wyoleg.gov. The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability met to receive information from the Wyoming State Board of Education, the Wyoming Department of Education, and the National Center for Improvement of Educational Assessment on the Statewide Accountability System, including administration and implementation activities related to Phase I and II. In addition, the Committee received information related to Statewide Student Assessment System, measures of assessment for graduation eligibility and district and community outreach activities.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Teeters called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. May 9, 2013. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to **Appendix 2** to review the Committee Meeting Agenda.

PHASE I ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM STATUS REPORT

Mr. Ron Micheli, Chairman of the State Board of Education, gave opening remarks to the Select Committee regarding the activities related Phase I of the Statewide Accountability System on behalf of the Wyoming State Board of Education (State Board). Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab A**. Senator Nicholas requested the State Board continue to provide insight and recommendations regarding the model for statewide accountability and on educational matters in general. He encouraged the State Board to remain engaged and communicate with the Committee regarding recommendations and observations. Co-chairman Teeters echoed the Senator's comments. Dr. Scott Marion and Dr. Chris Domaleski, National Center for Improvement of Educational Assessment, also presented information to the Committee on the activities and work related to Phase I. Dr. Mike Flicek joined the discussion and provided detailed information regarding the activities of the Department in creation of a statewide school accountability model. Please refer to **Appendix 4**. He summarized the data required for indicators for the Wyoming school performance ratings, noting specifically the parameters and methods for making determinations related to achievement, growth, equity and readiness. Please refer to **Appendix 5**. There was substantial discussion regarding the implication of the school accountability on statewide assessments and standards. Representative Harshman inquired about scaling of the scores and the potential for a cliff effect in setting cut scores for performance. Dr. Flicek and Dr. Marion responded to his questions and explained the methodology associated with this activity. Dr. Flicek discussed the readiness determination as incorporated in the school accountability system, speaking specifically about the ACT suite, Grade 9 credits earned, graduation rate and Hathaway scholarship eligibility. Dr. Jim Rose, Interim Director of the Department, also spoke about Hathaway eligibility and the various data and information that can be provided by the Department related to this topic. Dr. Flicek concluded this portion of his presentation with discussion of the work of the professional judgment panel, noting that the work will include setting cut scores for each indicator and explaining the process that will be utilized in implementation of this work.

FEDERAL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND WAIVER

Dr. Jim Rose provided the Committee with an update on the status of the waiver being sought by the Department under No Child Left Behind in relation to administration of the ACT in the

eleventh grade in lieu of PAWS. He recognized the various Department personnel that worked on the submission and thanked Dr. Marion, Dr. Domaleski and Dr. Flicek for their help in drafting the contents of the waiver. Dr. Rose moved on to outlined the various aspects presented to the United States Department of Education in relation to this topic. Senator Rothfuss inquired about the consequences if the waiver is not granted. Dr. Rose responded, if the waiver is not granted, Wyoming will continue to be held accountability under the provisions of No Child Left Behind.

SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

Dr. Rose moved on with discussion of the work of the Department related to the statewide system of support. Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab C**. He noted that the work is underway and several aspects of a successful system have already been identified, but that the work in this area continues to be refined. Dr. Rose noted the necessity of the collaboration with the various stakeholders and his goal to ensure their inclusion in creation of a successful system. He concluded this portion of his presentation by outlining the various mechanisms he intends to utilize to ensure adequate communication occurs.

PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT PANEL (PJP)

Mrs. Paige Fenton-Hughes, Coordinator for the State Board, spoke to the Committee about the work related to the PJP and the State Board. She discussed the contractual agreements that the State Board anticipates entering into, which include extension of the work of Dr. Damian Betebenner and Dr. Mike Beck, to complete the work in relation to the PJP. Mrs. Fenton-Hughes also noted the necessity to include of an individual with expertise in English-language learners as well.

Senator Anderson commented on the cooperative nature of the presentation and the information presented to the Committee and thanked the various parties for working so well together and collaborating. Co-Chairman Teeters echoed the Senator's comments.

Senator Nicholas noted the helpfulness of Appendix 5 and the summary provided therein and requested a similar document related to results and beta-testing of the data. He suggested a cursory review of the report card and the results to ensure the usefulness of the information presented. Dr. Marion suggested that the pilot runs of the data will assist with this and outlined a process to present the information and data to the PJP to survey the usefulness of the data and elements. Senator Nicholas requested the consultants give a brief oversight of the report card and address his concerns upon reconvening of the meeting the following day. He also requested all parties take an inventory of the usefulness of the data collected and if, for instance, a collection is particularly burdensome but yields little useful information that a recommendation be made for elimination.

MEETING RECESS

The Committee recessed at 5:00 p.m. on May 9, 2013 and Co-chairman Coe reconvened at 8:40 a.m. the following morning.

RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE QUESTIONS - REPORTING

Dr. Marion opened the day's discussion with a response to the questions posed by Senator Nicholas the day prior. Dr. Marion gave a detailed demonstration of the report and data system that is utilized by Colorado in administration and implementation of its statewide education accountability system. He noted the system's significant ability to disaggregate and aggregate information with just a few simple steps. Dr. Marion suggested that Wyoming's system and data capacities will be similar to that which he demonstrated for Colorado's system.

STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Dr. Rose discussed activities related to the statewide student assessment. Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab B**. He indicated that the PAWS test will be utilized through the 2014 assessment administration and stated the Department's recommendation is to move to a consortium assessment when the current contract expires. Dr. Rose summarized the various benefits of moving towards a consortium assessment, which include the ability to compare students across the nation with one assessment, assessment of more rigorous standards, and a substantial cost-saving in comparison to the current assessment. Dr. Deb Lindsey, Director of Assessment for the Department, spoke in detail to the Committee about the national consortium and the effort to assess the common core via such an instrument. Several members of the Committee commented on the consortium assessment and the interaction with the common core. Dr. Rose responded to the comments, noting that as the standards are more rigorous, test results will likely see a decline as a result, but he noted some districts have been implementing the standards for two years or more and the standards are supported by curriculum directors statewide. Additionally, he commented that the Department will be communicating on a statewide basis to ensure accurate information is disseminated regarding the common core and the consortium assessment. Dr. Marion supported Wyoming's adoption of the common core and movement towards a consortium assessment.

Senator Rothfuss requested the Committee send a letter support of the Department's efforts with regard to the statewide assessment and joining the Smarter Balanced Consortium as a governing state. Co-chairman Coe agreed and requested staff draft a letter for the co-chairs consideration. In addition, the Department agreed to provide staff with a summary document outlining the various facts surrounding the common core and the consortium assessment that can be provided to the Committee.

Dr. Deb Lindsey continued discussion with the Committee regarding the consortium assessment, outlining the difference between a governing state and an advisory state. Representative Throne inquired about assessment requirements that may be eliminated as a result of partaking in the consortium assessment. Dr. Lindsey commented on the various assessments that will be eliminated as a result of the consortium assessment and the reduction in testing time that will likely occur. Dr. Lindsey discussed the timeline for implementation and administration of the consortium assessment. She also outlined the substantial cost savings that will be experienced and the additional professional development opportunities that will be available under a consortium assessment. Dr. Lindsey noted statutory modifications that may be necessary for implementation and administration of the consortium assessment. Representative Thorne

requested staff review the statutory changes and draft a bill for Committee consideration when necessary.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - MEASURE OR MULTIPLE MEASURES

Mrs. Fenton-Hughes introduced the topic of measurement for graduation requirements. Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab B**. She outlined the activities of the State Board in relation to this work. Dr. Marion continued discussion of this issue with the Committee, outlining the national efforts on the subject and the work and history in relation to graduation requirements in Wyoming. Please refer to **Appendix 6**. He discussed the difficulty and complexity of the work. Dr. Marion noted the necessity of coherence between teacher and student systems and the measurement system for graduation, including the accountability work taking place currently in the State. He moved on to explain student learning objectives and the necessity of setting clear learning targets, differentiating instruction for students, monitoring students' progress towards these targets, and evaluating the extent to which students have met the targets. He noted the necessity of coordinating student learning objectives and graduation requirements. He encouraged the Committee to continue to look for opportunities for coherence between the various components of the accountability system. Dr. Marion concluded this portion of the presentation with noting that this work can lead to important transformations in educator quality, citing the Governor's initiative to create a cutting-edge engineering program at the University of Wyoming.

Dr. Marion responded to several questions about quality teaching and mentoring from the Committee, citing several practices that he believes are key in challenging teachers and leaders in creation of a successful system that results in students that can compete in a national market. He commended Wyoming's work thus far, noting the substantial commitment by the Wyoming Legislature to education.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Paige Fenton-Hughes summarized activities related communication and outreach activities by the State Board and the Department as required by 2013 Wyo. Sess. Ch. 195, Section 5(f). Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab D**. Dr. Rose continued discussion of this issue, outlining the various expertise that resides within the Department to ensure adequate communication takes place related Phase I of the statewide accountability system.

UPDATE ON PHASE II, TEACHER/LEADER ACCOUNTABILITY

Dr. Scott Marion summarized the activities related to Phase II of the accountability system and the teacher and leader accountability systems. Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab E** and **Appendix 7**. He outlined the timelines for design, piloting and implementation of a comprehensive system and responded to Committee members questions regarding the tandem efforts for teacher and leader systems. Dr. Marion requested the Committee consider who will provide the professional learning opportunities for Wyoming educators, noting that currently this expertise doesn't appear to exist in Wyoming. He also noted again the importance of coherence between school and educator system and other educational initiatives.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE BOARD STATUS REPORT

Dr. Jim Rose provided the Committee with a general update regarding the work of the Department. Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab F**. He noted modifications to staffing have been made in some instances, but caveated that he has not hired new personnel with limited exception, noting that this is better left to the permanent director to reorganize and hire as he or she sees fit. Dr. Rose noted that he did allow the unit directors to rearrange the physical office spaces as each director thought necessary to better satisfy staff and program needs. In addition, he spoke about an extensive review of data that is being conducted by MPR Associates, Inc., noting the results are anticipated to be complete by the end of May. Dr. Rose also outlined the various methods of communication that he and the staff are utilizing to ensure educators and members of public remain up to date on Department activities. Lastly, he spoke to the Committee about his efforts for interagency collaboration and noted the various professional development activities that are lined up for the summer of 2013.

Mrs. Paige Fenton-Hughes gave a brief update on the general status of the State Board, noting the efforts by the State Board to identify qualified individuals for submission to the Governor for the position of a permanent director. Please refer to **Appendix 3, Tab G**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Boyd Brown commended the presenters on the collaborative nature of the presentation and the information presented to the Committee. He noted the importance of the data in creation of the statewide accountability model, and encouraged the Committee to consider incorporation of observation of teaching practices as a potential element in design of the teacher/leader accountability model. Mr. Brown suggested statewide assessments need to be formative assessments that assist teachers in improving student learning. He concluded by cautioning the Committee in utilization of a blunt instrument in scoring and discouraged the Committee from using a single score.

Mrs. Dianne Clapp, Superintendent Fremont County School District No. 6, spoke to the Committee about the common core, the consortium assessment and longitudinal data systems. She noted various comments she has received as a district leader in relation to each of these issues. Mrs. Clapp noted the importance of informing the public about the facts related to each of these areas. Specifically, she noted the effort of her district in implementing the common core. She further stated she supported the common core largely due the rigor and difficulty of the standards. She also noted her support for the consortium assessment in the core areas, and that this is a shift in her thinking. Mrs. Clapp stated that implementation of the common core is an instructional shift and will take time. She moved on to discussion of the statewide education accountability, cautioning the Committee in moving too quickly with the teacher evaluation portion of the system. Mrs. Clapp noted that she would like to focus on Phase I of the system, implementation of the common core standards and increasing professional development this year. Representative Throne inquired about the discussion surrounding on the common core and the adoption of the State Board of those standards. Mrs. Clapp responded that largely lack of information and the lack of trust is at the core of the issue in reference to the common core discussion. Representative Stubson inquired about the resources allocated to professional development for implementation of the common core. Mrs. Clapp responded that the

instructional shift is difficult and that the inconsistent approach at the state level is part of the issue. Representative Harshman inquired about Mrs. Clapp's support of the consortium assessment. Mrs. Clapp responded that she fully supports the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and supports Wyoming joining as a governing state. Representative Harshman inquired about the implementation of the consortium assessment and the timeline associated with this activity. She responded that the common core and accompanying consortium assessment, along with Phase I should be the focus of the state's effort over the course of the next year. Mrs. Clapp, again, cautioned the Committee in moving forward with the teacher evaluation portion of the statewide education accountability system too quickly. Senator Landon inquired about the administration of the ACT. Mrs. Clapp responded that the teachers in her district are concerned about the use of the ACT outside of the context of college readiness, particularly in the context of accountability. Senator Anderson requested additional information related to the efforts for implementation of the common core and the resources necessary to ensure the common core is administered and the instructional shifts that Mrs. Clapp spoke about take place.

Lastly, Mrs. Clapp noted that the timeline she recommended did not reflect the activities as outlined in the waiver presented by the Department to the federal department of education. She commented further that it was her belief that Chapter 9, with modification, could be utilized to bridge any gap in this area.

Mrs. Sue Belish stated she echoed the comments made by Mrs. Clapp. However, she encouraged the Committee to move forward with the teacher and leader systems in tandem, at least in concept, if not implementation. Mrs. Belish cautioned the Committee in moving too quickly with multiple measures for graduation and what was formally known as the body of evidence. She encouraged the Committee to instead trust the teachers in the state and allow sufficient access and opportunity to adequate professional development activities.

COMMITTEE MOTIONS

Senator Nicholas, seconded by Senator Rothfuss, made the following motion:

The Select Committee remains convinced that the Common Core Standards are more rigorous than the previously adopted Wyoming Content and Performance Standards;

The Select Committee continues to see a benefit to the integration of the ACT Suite until such time the ACT is no longer used for college admission.

The Select Committee sees a benefit to participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and recommends that the State Board of Education move forward to fully evaluate, and if deemed appropriate, to move forward with the following:

** That the State become a governing member of the Consortium;*

** That the State Board provide a recommendation on the pathway to integrate Wyoming's future testing and assessment with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium provided that they determine it will promote more rigorous, effective and less costly and time consuming testing;*

** That the State Board provide recommendations to the Select Committee on the full range of testing and assessment the Board deems appropriate in light of resources and experiences reasonable available from all sources.*

Representative Stubson requested clarification of the motion in reference to moving towards the Smarter Balanced Consortium. Senator Nicholas clarified that the intent of the motion is to allow the Department and the State Board the ability to continue to move forward with the consortium assessment if it finds that is the most appropriate course of action. Representative Throne commented that the motion reiterates authority currently afforded to the State Board by statute.

The motion was adopted.

Senator Nicholas, seconded by Senator Rothfuss, made the following motion:

The Select Committee recommends that the State Board develop and propose a preliminary format for a REPORT CARD reporting system. Upon the development of the REPORT CARD format, the State Board should reassure itself and the Select Committee that each of the elements of the School Performance Rating Model under development provides a needed and valuable information to a known consumer of the information being reported. Those consumers shall include the Legislature, districts, schools, teachers, students and parents.

The motion was adopted.

Senator Nicholas, seconded by Senator Landon, made the following motion:

The Department provide to the Legislative Service Office an updated analysis of the merits and strengths of the Common Core Standards and that LSO Staff develop a position statement articulating and addressing the strengths of Wyoming's use of the Common Core Standards. The position paper should address the flexibility available to the local school districts to insure its dominance over the curriculum being taught in our local schools.

The motion was adopted.

Senator Nicholas, seconded by Senator Anderson, made the following motion:

The LSO staff with the assistance of the Department develop a concise history of the Select Committee on Accountability's and the Legislature's efforts to develop a

chart of the testing and assessment program as constitutionally mandated, with a concise diagram of how the testing and assessment functions are developing. The analysis should address at minimum:

** An historical chart of the continuous development of the assessment and testing program;*

** The need to be nimble while providing a consistent and meaningful program that provides consistency over time; and*

** Provision for taking advantage of testing and assessment research and development being conducted by other states and national experts.*

The motion was adopted.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-Chairman Coe adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Coe, Co-Chairman

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Committee Meeting Materials Index

Appendix	Agenda Item	Appendix Description	Appendix Provider
1	Committee Sign-In Sheet	Lists meeting attendees	Legislative Service Office
2	Committee Meeting Agenda	Provides an outline of the topics the Committee planned to address at meeting	Legislative Service Office
3	Phase I and II Accountability System Status Reports; Statewide Student Assessment; District Measures of Assessment for Statewide Graduation Eligibility Criteria; Outreach and Information Sessions.	Report: The Report of the Wyoming State Board of Education and the Wyoming Department of Education to the Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability	State Board and Department of Education.
4	Phase I Accountability System Status Report	Power point: Wyoming School Performance Rating Model	Dr. Michael Flicek, Education Liaison
5	Phase I Accountability System Status Report	Table: Data Required for Indicators for the Wyoming school Performance Ratings (May 7, 2013)	Dr. Michael Flicek, Education Liaison
6	District Measures of Assessment for Statewide Graduation Eligibility Criteria;	Power point: Discussion of Multiple Measures and Graduation Requirements.	National Center for Improvement of Education Assessment, Dr. Scott Marion and Dr. Chris Domaleski
7	Advisory Committee Update on Phase II, Teacher/Leader Accountability System	Power point: Update on Phase II: Evaluating Teacher and Leader Effectiveness	National Center for Improvement of Education Assessment, Dr. Scott Marion and Dr. Chris Domaleski