

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Mastery Examination Committee Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2016

Present: Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, Chairperson
Mary Anne Butler, Connecticut State Department of Education
Dr. Joseph Cirsuolo, CAPSS
Patti Fusco, AFT
Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Connecticut State Department of Education
Kathy Greider, CAPSS
Dr. Stephen Hegedus, SCSU
Cathy Hill, CAS
Kathleen Kennedy, CT PTA
Abe Krisst, Connecticut State Department of Education
Ed Leavy, AFT-CT
Patrice McCarthy, CABA
Arthur Poole, Higher Education
Don Romoser, CT PTA
Jeffrey Villar, CCER
Don Williams, CEA
Stephen Wright, Connecticut State Board of Education

Absent: Jim Accomando, CT PTA
Marcia Ferreira, CEA
Richard Murry, Killingly, CABA
Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CAS-CIAC
Allan Taylor, Connecticut State Board of Education, Chair

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. Introductions

Arthur Poole representing higher education was introduced as a new task force member.

III. Approval of the Minutes from December 14, 2015, Meeting

Minutes from the meeting on December 14, 2015, approved.

IV. Surveys

Task force members were supplied with survey results from the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), from the Connecticut Education Association (CEA), and from the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (CT PTA).

V. The Value and Limitations of Survey Information

The value and limitations of survey information was discussed.

VI. Survey Response and Discussion

Survey responses were mostly in reaction to the first operational administration of the Smarter Balanced assessment. Discussions surrounding the survey responses focused on the following:

- Smarter Balanced measurement of valuable content and skills.
- Smarter Balanced alignment to the standards.
- Test accommodations.
- Getting results that can be used to drive improvement.
- Timing of results being reported.
- Variations in technology used to take the test.
- Timing of testing EL students.
- Test preparation based on good instruction vs. drilling.
- Disruption of student learning process by the assessment.
- Wording of test questions.
- Test security.
- Validity and reliability of the assessment.
- What other states are doing regarding consortium testing.
- Length of testing time.
- Moving to computer testing.
- Normative results.
- Information provided on the individual student reports.
- Amount of testing in general both SBAC and other district mandated testing.

VII. Questions for Task Force Consideration

- Defining the purpose of statewide assessment.
- Technological readiness between and among districts.
- Providing normative results.
- Providing more timely results.
- Reducing testing time.
- Meaningfully including colleges and universities in the conversation of improving the climate of testing in public schools.
- Defining college readiness.

VIII. Progress on the Task Force Report

Commissioner Wentzell has asked CSDE Communications Director, Abbe Smith, to draft the initial report from the committee that is due in February. Before the next meeting, the draft of the initial report will be sent to committee members.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on February 8, 2016, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.