

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Monday, April 27, 2009**

The Arizona State Board of Education held a special meeting at the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson, Room 417, Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM.

Members Present:

Mr. Jacob Moore, President
Dr. Vicki Balentine, Vice President
Ms. Bonnie Kasey
Mr. Jesse Ary
Mr. Jaime Molera
Ms. Anita Mendoza
Dr. John Haeger
Ms. Cecilia Owen (Arrived at 9:05 AM)
Mr. Larry Lucero (Arrived at 9:24 AM)

Members Absent:

Superintendent Tom Horne
Dr. Karen Nicodemus

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

1. BUSINESS REPORTS

A. President's Report

Mr. Moore thanked the staff who attended the College and Career Readiness Policy Institute Conference.

Mr. Moore also stated there was a National Native American Dropout prevention conference. Mr. Moore said the conference was well attended and well received and stated he appreciated the work of the staff that facilitated this conference.

Mr. Moore stated that in the absence of Supt. Horne Ms. Margaret Garcia-Dugan would present the Superintendent's Report.

B. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Margaret Garcia-Dugan recognized Dr. Karen Butterfield, Mr. Robert Coccagna and Ms. Maxine Daly from the Academic Achievement Division on the success of the Dropout Prevention show case held March 5th.

Dr. Butterfield and Ms. Maxine Daly were also recognized for their partnership with the National Dropout Prevention Center and the National Indian Education Association which held the a successful conference April 19th through the 23rd. Over 400 educators and tribal representatives from around the country attended. Ms. Garcia-Dugan stated that the ADE Native American Dropout Prevention Initiative premiered a video which

captured the accomplishments and challenges of the 3 year Federal grant serving the needs of the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache tribes.

Ms. Garcia-Dugan thanked Ms. Nancy Konitzer and recognized her for the 4th Annual NCLB Coordinators Spring Training. This training was held March 11th and had 300 attendees. Information on the Education Stimulus Funding including how the funds will be available, what requirements must be met and the most effective ways to use the additional Title I funds.

The Educational Services and Resource Division under the leadership of Ms. Lilli Sly were recognized for the 47th Annual FBLA State Leadership Conference held April 6th through the 8th in Tucson, Arizona. Mr. Milt Ericksen and Barbara Boader were thanked for coordinating and making the conference a success.

Skills USA Arizona Championships held April 7th and 8th with over 2300 attendees gathered at the Phoenix Convention Center. The competitions ranged from cosmetology to robotics engineering. Skills USA also hosted over 90 career and technical education directors from across the state. Ms. Garcia-Dugan recognized Mr. Ericksen and Ms. Border.

Ms. Garcia-Dugan stated that the Future Educators of America (FEA) had over 350 students attend the 2009 State Conference and Competitions held April 8th. Students competed in 15 events. Ms. Garcia-Dugan recognized the student and teacher of the year both from Moon Valley High School in the Glendale Union High School District and the FEA Chapter of the year from Blue Ridge High School.

Ms. Cheryl Lebo and Roberta Alley from Standards and Assessment Division were recognized for completing the spring administration of AIMS. Approximately 9200 students per grade participated in AIMS and TERRA Nova. Ms. Garcia-Dugan thanked Ms. Irene Hunting, Ms. Mary Pat Wood and all of the district test coordinators for an excellent job.

Ms. Garcia-Dugan shared that the Teacher of the Year Award for 2007-2008 went to Mr. Buck Nelson. Mr. Nelson is a Career and Technical Education Business Teacher at Washington High School in the Glendale High School District. The prestigious Business Education Teacher of the Year award is given by the Teachers' Insurance Plan (TIP) and every year one teacher is selected from each state. The honor of this award also comes with a \$1,000 cash prize plus a \$500 grant to use for school equipment. Ms. Garcia-Dugan stated that Mr. Nelson is an inspiration for his students and shared a statement from Mr. Nelson who said it was very rewarding to see students make the connection between school and career. On behalf of the ADE Ms. Dugan presented Mr. Nelson with a plaque and honored the staff from the Glendale Union High School District.

Mr. Moore congratulated Mr. Nelson on behalf of the State Board of Education.

C. Board Member Reports

There were no Board member reports.

- D. Director's Report
 - 1. Update regarding the AIMS Task Force
 - 2. Other items as necessary

Mr. Yanez stated the AIMS Task Force would meet April 29th for the final review of the final draft and on May 6th the members will meet to vote on the final report. Mr. Yanez provided the Board with a brief of the recommendations that will be provided in the final report.

Mr. Molera asked if the thinking is to create a college and career readiness test that would be separate from the AIMS test. Mr. Yanez stated that the task force has suggested a separate test that is accepted by higher education institutions. Mr. Molera asked if the high stakes portion was discussed. Mr. Yanez said the data presented to the Task Force reflected that additional high stakes would not be beneficial. Mr. Yanez stated that the graduation requirements will continue in the 10th grade and any consideration for an additional test would be at the 11th grade will not be high stakes.

Mr. Moore said it was important to recognize that the information presented by the task force are recommendations and that a number of stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide input once the final report is complete.

Mr. Lucero joined the meeting telephonically at 9:24 AM.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consideration to approve minutes for March 23, 2009 Mr. Yanez
- B. Consideration to Approve Contract Abstract: USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Ms. Palmer
- C. Consideration to approve trainers for the Structured English Immersion Provisional and Full Endorsements Mr. Stollar
- D. Consideration to accept the recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee and grant the teacher certification application for Candelaria T. Gonzalez Mr. Easaw
- D. Consideration to approve requests from the following school districts to budget and accumulate in the unrestricted capital section for FY 2009-2010: Mr. Awwad
 - 1. Sanders Unified School District
 - 2. Pinon Unified School District
- F. Consideration to approve school district requests relating to additional monies for teacher compensation for FY 2009-2010, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 15-952 and 15-537 Ms. Amator

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| G. | Consideration to approve professional preparation program review team recommendations for Prescott College | Ms. Amator |
| H. | Consideration to grant teacher preparation program approval for the Fine Arts Education Certificate programs at Rio Salado College | Ms. Amator |
| I. | Consideration to grant teacher preparation program approval for the Early Childhood program at the University of Arizona | Ms. Amator |
| J. | Consideration to approve participation in the Career Ladder Program for FY 2009-2010 for the Ganado Unified School District | Ms. Amator |
| K. | Consideration to approve participation in the Career Ladder Program for FY 2008 – 2009 for the East Valley Institute of Technology | Ms. Amator |
| L. | Presentation, discussion and consideration to approve Optional Performance Incentive Programs and budgets for FY 2009-2010, pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-919, for following school districts:
1. Joseph City Unified School District
2. Sedona-Oak Creek Joint Unified School District | Ms. Amator |

*Mr. Lucero moved to approve the Consent Agenda
Motion second by Ms. Mendoza
Motion passes*

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC
No requests to speak

4. GENERAL SESSION

A. Presentation and discussion regarding the Arizona Department of Education’s Response to Intervention process

Ms. Hrabluk recognized and thanked everyone who has participated in the RTI process and stated that the two major influences were the re-authorization of IDEA in 2004 and NCLB which requires all students to be included in academic assessments.

Ms. Hrabluk stated the mission statement for RTI is “To ensure academic excellence for all students” and she also said that a series of belief statements were also created and read the statements to the Board members.

Ms. Hrabluk stated that the 5 standards for district and school improvement were reviewed in order to create the best system of support. The RTI model provides a cohesive plan to ensure a learning environment has been developed where all students can and will learn. One of the goals for the RTI model is improved instruction for all

students.

Ms. Hrabluk said that RTI is a process and not a particular program method or instructional approach. This process focuses on each student's instructional needs and building a multi-tier system of delivery for the instruction. Ms. Hrabluk presented a list of the ADE collaborative RTI team and the purpose of the collaboration.

The benefit of RTI as presented by Ms. Hrabluk is the viable alternative to the weakness of the discrepancy model to identify students for special education services. Below are other RTI benefits:

- Ensure identification is timely and appropriate
- Ensure the learning delay is not due to poor instruction
- Reduce the number of disproportionate referrals
- To rely on data to inform instruction
- Require special education services when a student does not respond to intervention

Ms. Kasey asked if RTI provided program suggestions Ms. Hrabluk stated there will be not specific programs but each tier will have specific information on how each area may be implemented and how instruction would look like. Ms. Kasey what other ways are used to inform the field of the model other than the website. Ms. Hrabluk stated that they are in the process of having webinars available and also other sections of the department are getting the word out through their professional development activities.

Mr. Ary commended Ms. Hrabluk and staff that have worked on this process. Mr. Ary asked how the productive outcome is produced and how schools will be selected. Ms. Hrabluk stated that these concerns have been discussed and therefore RTI has worked closely with the School Improvement Unit to identify the schools that need the assistance of the program. RTI will start with the inner core and the schools that are underperforming. Most at risk schools will be provided the assistance first and from there move to assist other schools.

Ms. Mendoza stated that as a special education teacher she likes the framework and the fact this program has a new title. Ms. Mendoza stated she was concern with limiting the personnel that can be qualified as effective instructors. Ms. Mendoza stated that this could be a benefit and a challenge to the system especially when the program is coordinated with NCLB and ELL.

Mr. Ary asked how RTI will create an action plan for school districts to deal with the cost of more instructional materials increasing instructional time. Ms. Hrabluk stated that careful professional development and technical assistance and districts may use programs they already have. Ms. Hrabluk said student data needs to considered first in order to know if new materials are required.

Ms. Hrabluk introduced two members of the field who are currently implementing RTI. Ms. Sandi Ikuna, from the Gilbert USD stated that the program was piloted and the core program was assessed. A program the district already had was improved and

implemented. As these aspects were considered support was required to assist with the change. Ms. Ikuna read statistics from the district from when the program was started and stated RTI puts the responsibility back in the classroom with the tools to provide students with additional help. She also said additional diagnostic testing is available to narrow down what will work best for students who need the extra help.

Ms. Hrabluk introduces Dr. Mark Elley principal of Laird Elementary School and stated that Laird began the implementation of the RTI model in different subject areas and said the behavior piece will be included next year. Dr. Elley provided a summary of how the school implemented RTI and how the school has improved in several areas since the implementation of the program. Dr. Elley invited the members to visit the school to see how the program works.

Mr. Moore stated he supports early intervention rather and remediation and finds that it can be more cost effective.

A copy of the power point presentation can be provided at the State Board office.

B. Presentation by the Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC). Discussion may include, but is not limited to, the Arizona Scholars initiative and school finance reform efforts.

Ms. Susan Carlson thanked the members for the opportunity to provide them with an update on key projects ABEC has been involve in.

The first update provided was in regards to the Arizona Academic Scholars Initiative and Ms. Carlson provided the members a brochure with the most current information on the initiative and stated that currently there are 19 districts involved.

Ms. Carlson stated that there is only one year left of the grant received from the Board of Regents and on this last phase ABEC is exploring options to transition the Scholars Initiative to a more embedded program. One of the possibilities considered is the ECAP process.

Mr. Molera asked if the Centennial Scholarships will be considered. Ms. Carlson said they have been in contact with Board of Regents but they have not had specific conversation in regards to the Centennial Scholarships program.

The second update Ms. Susan Carlson provided was ABEC's creation of a leadership team and stated that education and business is represented equally. A list of the member names for the leadership team was provided. Ms. Carlson stated that ABEC is on the last stage of a public engagement process. One of the main focuses of this process is to find out how local communities connect with public institutions. Ms. Carlson stated that there is a change in the way schools are approaching the budget situation and schools need to be provided the encouragement to continue the work. Ms. Carlson provided the members with ABEC's 2009 School Finance Reform Initiative Progress Report and this report included the project timeline for the ongoing communication to stakeholders and the

guiding principles and framework for the school finance reform.

Ms. Carlson invited the members to attend the ABEC conference held June 1st at the East Valley Institute of Technology and said the key note speakers would be Andreas Schleicher, director of OECD, Jacob Adams, Professor and founding director of the School Finance and Redesign Project. Ms. Carlson asked Mr. Moore to be part of the conference.

Mr. Ary recognized and commended the work Ms. Carlson has achieved and he asked what is being done to assist districts with the budget situation. Ms. Carlson stated that the issue is finding consensus and working with the community to find out what skills they need to have in order to come to that consensus.

Ms. Mendoza stated that she approves of the idea of equitable funding and thanked Ms. Carlson for the work and progress made.

Mr. Moore stated that this is the time to make improvements and the more groups such as ABEC and the ADE work on long term programs that work more improvements will be made.

Ms. Carlson stated she would send the members more information on the public engagement process.

C. Update regarding legislative affairs. The Board may take action to support, oppose or remain neutral on specific legislative proposals

Ms. Cannata stated the 100th day of the Legislative Session has been reached and the main focus continues to be the budget. Ms. Cannata said about 1,100 have been introduced but very few have made it through the process

Ms. Cannata said the most recent budget proposal has not been released but the late March proposal did contain very significant cuts to education through base support level, formula reductions and other program cuts. Ms. Cannata stated that there is a high possibility that the Governor will veto the budget proposal because there have been discussion that the proposal will not embrace the components of the Governors five point plan to address the budget deficit.

In regards to the pending Bills they continue to move through the House of Representatives slowly. The House has completed the committee work and some bills are moving to the Floor of the House but very few are being voted on.

Ms. Cannata provided the members with a bill tracking chart with information on the status of the pending bills. Ms. Cannata reviewed some of the issues discuss at previous Board meetings as to requests for certain bills.

The first Bill Ms. Cannata presented was the strike amendment to HB2075 which addressed alternative teacher preparation programs. Ms. Cannata and Mr. Yanez met

with the proponents of the legislation and language has been worked on that adequately addresses the Board's concerns. Mr. Molera asked if the new proposed language for the bill could be provided to the members and Mr. Yanez said he would provide that.

HB2240 which is the rule making moratorium is one of the few bills that has moved but lost the emergency clause. This bill passed by a vote of 36-20 but continues to have many issues with the proposed language in particular with the restrictive exemptions. Ms. Cannata stated that the Governor's office also has expressed concerns regarding the language of this bill. Ms. Cannata said she is working on meeting with the Chamber to discuss issues specific to the Board of Education and Teacher Certification rules.

HB2456 the high schools achievement profile has made it out of its committee and work has also been done to the language so that it includes more stringent accountability standards.

HB2459, the Superintendents' certification bill has passed the House Committee. An amendment was adopted to reinstate the power of the Board of Education to provide certification of district superintendents. The main effect of this bill as amended is that the districts that hire superintendents that are not certified or hire personnel that are not certified can now use the title of Superintendent

HB2463 which is the school districts accounting responsibility bill removed the large school threshold for the districts that wanted to perform their own accounting responsibility and Mr. Yanez has prepared amendment language that provides more protections that currently exist in statutes and the new proposed language has been provided to Senate staff and the Bill's sponsors.

Ms. Cannata stated the Senate has not assigned any bills but Sen. Hoopenthal continues to hold weekly meetings to discuss bills that are out for introduction to the Senate and Bills moving through the House. Sen. Hoopenthal has also decided that in the interest of time he will create a bill which will be a collection of non-controversial legislation. This bill continues to be refined to make sure no single issue bogs down that piece of legislation. Ms. Cannata stated Sen. Hoopenthal has committed to include the State Boards bill on Academic Receivership.

D. Presentation, discussion, and consideration to approve the State of Arizona Education Technology Plan Revision (2009-2013) Ms. Poplin

Ms. Cathy Poplin provided the members with a copy of the final copy of The Arizona Long-Range Strategic Educational Technology Plan and stated that several members have attended the meeting. Ms. Poplin introduced Dr. Chris Johnson and Mr. Brett Hinton.

Ms. Poplin reviewed the process they have followed to complete the Technology Plan and stated the purpose of the presentation was to ask the Board to approve the final draft.

Ms. Poplin stated that economic challenges present opportunities for solutions and said technology can be part of the solutions. She also said that for the past 18 months there has been a focus on E-Rate and how it affects broad-band in Arizona. Extensive work has been done to find the best way to maximize E-Rate funds while providing support to LEA's. Ms. Poplin said that collaboration with of other Federal programs such as Title I and Title II and the Title I School Improvement team to find effective ways these programs can work together to avoid duplication of efforts.

Ms. Poplin said the Technology Plan is ambitious and focuses on the future. She stated that Arizona is one of 20 states that solely rely on Title IID Funds as the only dedicated line item in the Federal budget for technology.

Mr. Molera asked how much coordination has been made with the Schools Facilities Board. Ms. Poplin stated that the 21st Century report has been looked at and many of the recommendations and they found to be aligned very closely with what they have set for new school buildings. As to existing technology, there are 8 students for one computer. Mr. Molera asked if the current funding formula has been matched and requested additional information.

Mr. Moore asked if there are additional components the state has to abide by for the ARRA funds that are not in place. Ms. Poplin stated that funding will be received through the existing Enhancing Education Technology program Title IID so these funds will adhere to all the current legislative requirements. Poplin also stated that no new regulations are expected and Mr. Yanez stated the data bill will not have an effect on the funding.

Dr. Johnson summarized the four major components of the Technology Plan. The components are:

- Student Learning
- Leadership
- Preparation and Professional Development of Educators
- Infrastructure

Dr. Johnson stated the four components are inter-locking in terms of their importance and in efforts to receive support and input from the other stakeholders several recommendations were created. The Technology Plan includes recommendations for the following offices:

- State Leadership
- State Board of Education
- ADE
- Local Education Agencies
- Higher Education
- Community

Dr. Johnson stated their goal is to create various versions of the document including a web-based version.

Mr. Brett Hinton presented on the LEA implementation portion of the plan. Mr. Hinton stated there is difficulty in creating a technology plan but once the plan is adopted the intent is to work with LEA's to create a planning tool and that meets the requirements for E-Rate. Trainings will be provided to learn how to use the tools and in addition the recommendations are to reach the goal of using technology more effectively.

Dr. Balentine stated she appreciates the understanding of the variability of the schools and districts throughout the state in terms of technology resources and asked for further explanation of the tools; are the tools leaning towards the compliance of the Plan. Mr. Hinton stated the tools can be used to connect with compliance assistance and access to resources. Dr. Balentine asked what the consequences would be for LEA's are not able to fill out the information the Plan requires. Dr. Johnson stated that districts will need to enter a portal that has been set up to help with the submission of the technology plans. Dr. Johnson stated once districts complete the questions if they are not in compliance with E-RATE they will be directed to other questions. Mr. Hinton said the plan is not meant to be punitive but rather to help districts with the planning.

Mr. Moore asked if there was a time frame for the Plan and Ms. Poplin stated the Title II Legislation said the state had to have a Plan on file and the Plan that was filed in 2002 continues to be sufficient however she is aware that plan is out dated and as soon as the Plan they currently presented is approved it will take the place of the 2002 plan and it will be sent to the Federal Government.

Ms. Poplin addressed Dr. Balentine's question in regards to compliance and stated that the only time a district could be out of compliance would be with E-RATE requirements.

Mr. Yanez stated the term of the plan being considered for approval is from 2009-2013, Ms. Poplin said that information was correct and it is recommended that technology plans are reviewed after 3 years and at that time the revisions will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Ms. Poplin stated they would like to have press release to the media as part of the new plan awareness and they would also like to make an annual Education Technology Report to provide briefings to the Board.

Mr. Moore stated there was a request to speak for this item and introduces Ms. Sandra Israel.

- Ms. Israel is the Technology-Curriculum Integration Specialist for Murphy Elementary School District. Ms. Israel thanked and acknowledged the efforts of Ms. Poplin and all of the members of the committee that accomplished the creating of the new Technology Plan. They included all of the suggestions from the field. Ms. Israel also acknowledge that the Plan is broad and flexible to meet the needs of the unique school districts through the state and she said the plan also had the integrity to provide the structure that is needed to align the national, state, and school district Technology Plans.

A copy of the power point presentation for this item can be provided by the State Board office.

Dr. Balentine moved to adopt the amended State of Arizona Education Technology Plan, as presented

Ms. Owen Second the motion

Motion passes

E. Presentation and discussion regarding proposed procedures for the consideration of matters relating to non-compliance with the Uniform System of Financial Records (USFR) Mr. Yanez

As requested by the Board Mr. Yanez presented the plan to address USFR issues; he stated this initial plan can be brought to the Board for final approval after the any suggested changes are made.

Mr. Yanez stated the proposed procedures were designed to:

- Provide the Board with all relevant information, including information often requested at previous meetings
- Assist the Board with its evaluation of each district
- Make the process more efficient
- Ensure that the Board acts consistently in all cases
- Provide districts with greater clarity with respect to procedures and probable outcomes

The members were provided two handouts, one titled Uniform System of Financial Records (USFR) Non-Compliance – Summary and the other Non-Compliance – Decision Table. Mr. Yanez stated the first document is what the Board and school district would receive for each matter and the form will provide all of the USFR background information including the state aid the district receives. Attached to this summary the Board will also have a copy from the Auditor General's office and information from the district as to when they expect to be back in compliance. The main purpose of the summary document is to provide the Board with the most current information for the matter. A Recommended Action will also be provided on this form. Mr. Yanez referred to the second form and explained the decision matrix of the form was to assist with recommended actions. Mr. Yanez said the form did not include withhold amounts, he reviewed the last two years of USFR cases that have come before the Board and based on the information he found he has recommendations as to the percentages and presented several scenarios and the percentage of fund withholdings for the type of situation.

Mr. Yanez stated that based on the legislation that passed last year the situation has changed with regard to how the funds are returned to school districts.

Dr. Balentine asked if the withhold percentage on the last rubric could be changed to 3% to 5% at the Board's discretion. Dr. Balentine also asked if recommendations could be created for districts whose total funding is self generated.

Mr. Yanez stated the Board can withhold any portion of stated funds, previously the

Legislation had the percent capped at 10% but now this is up to the discretion of the Board. Mr. Yanez also said he would add a scenario 5.

Mr. Molera stated commended Mr. Yanez for developing the process outline and stated it is important that all districts are treated in a consistent manner and it is just as important to take action in order to make sure funds are used appropriately.

Mr. Lucero thanked Mr. Yanez and asked if there is a way to encourage districts to accelerate the Auditor General's review so the new superintendent in some cases can have more validity with their requests. Mr. Lucero clarified the additional assistance would be at the cost of the district.

Mr. Moore stated that the component that needs to be worked on is the communication piece and how the process needs to be implemented.

Mr. Yanez stated he will work in depth with the Auditors General's office since the process is required from their office.

Ms. Pollock stated following a consistent process does not mean the Board would limited or restricted to making any changes or adjustments to the proposed plan.

Mr. Moore stated that he appreciates the input from all members and understands the importance of streamlining the importance of the process without constraining the Boards authority.

F. Presentation and discussion regarding performance levels for the AIMS Alternate Assessment (AIMS-A)

Ms. Cheryl Lebo said that in June of 2006 the State Board adopted the recommended Performance Levels for the Alternate Assessment (AIMS-A) for mathematics, reading, and writing. After careful review of AIMS-A in 2008 it was determined that the assessment needed additional refinement prior to establishing performance levels for students.

Ms. Lebo stated Ms. Roberta Alley and Dr. Leila Williams would provide the Board with an overview of the spring 2009 AIMS-A test and its administration.

Ms. Alley presented the revisions that were made to the assessment; these changes were made in collaboration with special education educators and the focus was to make this assessment more appropriate for this population of students.

The AIMS-A assessment is based on the alternate academic standards and meets the requirements of NCLB that all students are assessed. Ms. Alley said that reading and math is tested at the 3rd through 8th and 10th grade levels and the science assessment is administered at the 4th, 8th, and 10th grade levels to match the AIMS assessment for all students.

Ms. Alley and Dr. Williams presented video of how the assessment is conducted with assistance of technology resources. Dr. Williams stated the videos are used as training

tools for the field and she also said the videos were created by professionals from CCSSO.

Ms. Alley said they worked with assisted technology with the special education department and students are encouraged to use any assisted technology they usually use when taking the assessment. Some of the challenges when developing the assessment were technology issues due to the graphics and text layout. Ms. Alley stated that finding an assessment that was age appropriate was also a priority and therefore an assessment was created for each grade level.

The assessment is consists of three components:

- Multiple choice items
- Rater items
- Performance task

Ms. Alley explained in detail each one of the components, implementation, and outcome.

Dr. Williams introduced Mr. Carter Davidson, Special Education Director from the Alhambra School District and Ms. Kimberley Peaslee, Instructional Specialist from the Phoenix Union High School District.

Mr. Davidson stated he has witnessed very positive changes with the new assessment such as:

- Improved communication between ADE and LEA's on the expectations for administration of the assessment
- Applicable trainings for LEA's to make sure the entire process is understood
- Standardized procedures to make the assessment more valuable and reliable
- Appropriate measures to gather student performance data

Mr. Davidson said over the past two months teachers reports indicate that the assessment is more responsive to the needs of students.

Ms. Peaslee stated she also serves as the Vice-Chair on the Certifications Advisory Committee and as a special education teacher and representative she agrees with all the statements Mr. Davidson made. She said working with this population of students many challenges are posed. In the last two years Dr. Williams has been very responsive to the concerns from the field and when certain changes were recommended these changes were made and at times they were made immediately. Ms. Peaslee said the work that is required continues especially at the high school level and she also stated the AIMS-A is a critical element for the entire school population because they do not want to leave any children behind.

Ms. Alley provided an overview of the survey responses and informed they would be conducting standards setting the weekend before the May Board meeting and this would be done in May because they must have AYP out by June 15th. The facilitator will be Stephen Elliot and several ADE members will also participate.

The Standard Setting Session Goals are:

- Review all AIMS-A items and current item difficulty data
- Consider impact data of identified cut-scores
- Set performance level cut-scores for the AIMS-A using the Bookmark Procedure
- Refine AIMS-A Performance Level Descriptors
- Recommend performance levels for Reading, Mathematics, and Science to the State Board on May 18th, 2009

G. Presentation, discussion and possible award of contract relating to the AIMS test grades 3 – 8, the AIMS high school test and the state's Norm-Referenced Test (NRT). The Board may convene in executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 A(2),(3) and/or (4), to review records exempt from public inspection, to receive legal advice and/or to consult with and instruct counsel on the Board's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations. The Board may, in general session, take action to authorize Board counsel to act on the Board's behalf in this matter in accordance with instructions given in executive session.

Ms. Cheryl Lebo stated that the RFP was developed by the Assessment Section in collaboration with the ADE Procurement office. A committee of assessment specialist including ADE staff worked diligently since December 23, 2008 on the process that generated the information being presented to the Board. Mr. Doug Peeples, ADE Chief Procurement Officer provided information on the process of developing the RFP and the proposals that were considered and provided the names of the members that evaluated the proposals. Mr. Peeples reviewed the three elements for evaluation and how a decision was made after the best and final offer on April 17, 2009. Mr. Peeples stated that a copy of the evaluations can be provided by the Procurement office.

Dr. Balentine asked which areas were modified from the original bid and Ms. Alley listed the three major areas modified were:

- Item development
- Field testing
- Adjusted the writing portion to what is mandated by statute

Ms. Mendoza asked how the adjustments and changes would impact the accountability data. Ms Alley for AYP calculations writing will be impacted to some extent said Dr. Franciosi from the Research and Evaluation Section could provide more detailed information on this question.

Ms. Alley asked if Dr. Franciosi could be contacted to address the members but Dr. Franciosi was out of the office.

Mr. Molera asked if the adjustments made to the assessment were to assist with the Legislature with the budget. Ms. Alley said her decisions were made based on the funds allocated. Mr. Molera said his concern is that decisions are based on the Legislature's budget concerns and the focus should be what the need are for a strong assessment program.

Ms. Mendoza asked if a new baseline would need to be created since part of the assessment was through McGrall Hill. Ms. Alley stated that all anchor items are owned by the state.

Ms. Kasey asked for clarification if SAT 10 would be in place of the TERRA Nova, Ms. Alley said it would. Ms. Kasey asked if this change would be implemented in the spring and Ms. Alley said this would be implemented the next FY school year.

Mr. Moore reminded the members there is the option to convene tot executive session if specific details are needed.

Mr. Molera moved to convene in executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 A(2), (3) and/or (4), to review records exempt from public inspection, to receive legal advice and/or to consult with and instruct counsel on the Board's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations.

Dr. Balentine second the motion

Motion passes

Board convenes in executive session at 1:09 PM

Dr. Balentine motion to re-convene in general session 2:09

Ms. Mendoza second the motion

Motion passes

The Board re-convenes at 2:09 PM

Ms. Mendoza moved to award the contract for the AIMS test grades 3-8, the AIMS high school test, and the state's Norm-Referenced Test to NCS Pearson, Inc.

Motion second by Ms. Kasey

Motion Passes

5. ADJOURN

Mr. Molera motioned to adjourn

Motion second by Ms. Mendoza

Motion passes

Meeting Adjourn at 2:12PM