

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Tuesday, June 08, 2010**

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 1: 32 PM.

**Members Present:**

Dr. Vicki Balentine  
Mr. Jacob Moore (Arrived at 1:41 PM)  
Supt. Tom Horne  
Ms. Hamilton  
Dr. Horton  
Ms. Eileen Klein (Arrived at 1:38 PM)  
Mr. Jaime Molera  
Mr. Gregory Miller (Telephone)  
Mr. Thomas Tyree

**Members Absent:**

Dr. John Haeger  
Ms. Diane Ortiz-Parsons

Pledge of allegiance and moment of silence

Roll Call

1. Presentation, discussion and consideration to approve proposed performance level standards for the AIMS mathematics assessments in grades 3 – 8 and high school

Ms. Roberta Alley stated AIMS mathematics was aligned to the Arizona Mathematics Standard in 2008 and was administered to Grades 3-8 and high school in the spring of 2010.

The standard setting for AIMS high school was held May 13-14, 2010 and for grades 3-8 it was held June 14, 2010. The committees had a membership of 19 participants for the high school and 40 participants for grades 3-8. The committee of panelists made recommendations for each grade level assessment and the revised Performance Level Descriptors. Ms. Alley stated if the Board approved the information presented a report would be sent to the districts and schools June 21, 2010. A blue print for the Assessments and additional data was provided to the members. Ms. Alley introduced Dr. Steve Fitzpatrick from Pearson.

Dr. Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the Standard Setting Process and the established achievement levels.

Dr. Fitzpatrick stated there are legal requirements both federal and state, NCLB201 requires that student test results be reported in four performance levels and Arizona statute A.R.S. § 15-741 requires an Arizona instrument to measure standards test to measure achievement of the State Board adopted academic standards.

The method used to establish mathematics standards was the same method used for the science assessments and mathematics assessments in 2005. Dr. Fitzpatrick reviewed and provided detail information on the item mapping procedure, also known as the Bookmark method.

Mr. Molera asked if participants from the business community were involved in the process. Ms. Alley stated for this review they did not.

Mr. Molera urged that to have participants from the business community to be part of committees reviewing standards as they have expressed the need to have higher standards and are willing to provide input.

Part of the process required panelist to make judgments about how students at the borderline of each performance level should perform on each test item and the judgments were used to derive a set of cut scores for each panelist. After panelists completed the standard setting process for grades 3-8 they convened as one group to review the cut scores across grade levels. The following are the areas discussed:

- Knowledge requirements of the items on each side of the cut scores
- Number of items correct required for each cut in each grade
- Percent of students in each performance level across grades

After the vertical articulation meeting, the panelist reviewed the Performance Level Descriptors and recommended revisions to match the requirements of their recommended performance standards.

The committee's final recommendations included the raw score cut points and location of performance standards on the vertical scale across grade levels. Dr. Fitzpatrick provided a grid with the final raw score cut points and explained the percentages established. Information on the scale score cut pints was also provided for each grade level.

Ms. Klein asked for further information on the percentages established and how the determination was made for the percentages as they seem low. Ms. Klein said the data does not suggest any level of mastery, and stated the percentage for the exceeding category seemed particularly low. Dr. Fitzpatrick stated data was based on the content of the test items and how the content related to the curriculum. Ms. Klein stated the information makes sense if the psychometrics involved but it will not make sense when the public expects transparency. Supt. Horne stated the new standards are more rigorous and as a result more students might fail the test.

Dr. Balentine asked Supt. Horne how the department is prepared to assist schools to adjust to the new standards. Supt. Horne stated the department will continue to assist and support schools that are underperforming or could become underperforming but teachers and students will also need to be prepared to study harder and teachers will need to teach better.

*Mr. Moore moved to approve the performance level standards for the AIMS mathematics assessments in grades 3 – 8 and high school, as presented.*

*Motion second by Mr. Tyree*

Mr. Molera stated this is one of the reasons the State should be responsible for the common core standards.

*Motion Passes*

2. Call to the public

No requests to speak.

3. Adjourn

*Mr. Tyree moved to adjourn*

*Motion second by Mr. Moore*

*Motion Passes*

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM