

ND State Assessment Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Date:	November 5, 2015	Location:	Bismarck Heritage Center – Room A & B	Time:	10:00 am – 4:00 pm CST
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Attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kirsten Baesler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Chiang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ned Clooten
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Hoverson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cory Steiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stacy Murschel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Weber	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aimee Copas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Hoag
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jon Godfread	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scott Faul	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dave Wheeler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Townsend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracy Friesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Archuleta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patty Barrette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative Cindy Schreiber-Beck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative Dennis Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator Nicole Poolman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator Joan Heckaman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Castleman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gene Modin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tammy Owens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Anderson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Goettle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Lind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lyn Hendry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carrie Weippert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Kasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wayne Trottier
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Kaspari	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Gallagher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Matzke
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ann Ellefson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Teevens		

Opening Comments – Superintendent Kirsten Baesler

- Welcomed the task force members and thanked them for serving
- We are starting to examine what the assessments are and tried to respond to requests by having a panel of different stakeholders
- Introduction of task force member and panelist

Opening Comments – Dr. Rick Melmer

- Welcomed the task force members
- Quick overview of the agenda for the day
 - "A View from the Field" – Panel Discussion on Assessment in North Dakota (Q & A to follow)
 - Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Presentation – Tony Alpert
 - Assessment Solutions Group (ASG) Presentation
 - Develop foundational knowledge of assessment
 - Review past and current North Dakota assessment practices
 - Understand national assessment initiatives
 - Develop recommendations for K–12 assessment practices in North Dakota
 - Submit recommendations to NDDPI for consideration in the Spring of 2016
 - Reminder the handouts are posted on the website
 - Meetings are held in public, but are not public meetings
 - Attendance and participation is important and appreciated
 - Focus on issues that will address Task Force objectives
- Follow up and feedback from previous task force meeting
 - Purpose, use and value of assessments (Panel)
 - Hear from teachers & other educators (Panel)
 - SBAC Questions (SBAC Presentation)
 - Timeline & Budget (ASG Presentation)
 - Summary of vendors (ASG Presentation)
 - Build vs. Buy vs. Hybrid (ASG Presentation)
 - Hear from other states (December mtg?)

- Assessment and the Federal Govt. (Update – December mtg?)
- Revisit key question(s) that must be answered by Task Force (December mtg?)
- Other types of assessments used by other states (December mtg?)
- Move beyond "storming" and begin norming and forming the Task Force recommendation
- Determine timeline for Task Force recommendation (December mtg)

Panel Discussion – Panelists were asked to discuss the purposes and benefits of standardized assessments, uses of assessment results in the field, and thoughts about future assessments in North Dakota

- Panelists:
 - Dr. Lisa Feldner, Vice Chancellor, North Dakota University System
 - Michelle Bertsch, Teacher, Fargo Public Schools
 - Crystal Ridl, Teacher, Fargo Public Schools
 - Tina Pletan, Literacy Coordinator, Bismarck Public Schools
 - Cheryl Hoggarth, Instructional Coach, Northern Cass Public School
 - Tonya Hunsakor, Principal, Towner Public Schools
 - Jana Gudmundson, Performance Strategist, Park River Public Schools
 - Cole Garman, State Student Cabinet Member, Mandan High School
- Overview of Comments from Panelist:
 - Admissions criteria – K-12 Higher Education
 - Assessment is only one part of the bigger picture
 - Rigor of the application
 - Timelines on returns
 - Incentives to perform well on assessments
 - Use of results? Instructional improvement
 - Better reporting on results
 - Continuity of assessments is important
 - Avoid one exam at the high school level
 - Improve turn-around time and feedback
 - Opportunity to re-test
 - North Dakota teacher input into assessment construction
 - Testing time should be monitored
 - Technology infrastructure is critical
 - Standardized test should be put in context
 - Focus on goals of standardized tests
 - Motivation is a concern
 - Timelines are a problem
 - Feedback is limited and delayed
 - Formative vs. Summative (pros/cons)
 - ACT and high school assessments
 - Trends and patterns identified by standardized assessments

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) - Tony Alpert

- Provided history and overview of SBAC
- Provided a summary of SBAC administration in North Dakota for 2015
- Update on the plans for 2016 administration

For more detailed information regarding SBAC presentation, please reference the SBAC PowerPoint on the website.

Assessment System Design Topics and Issues– Ed Roeber, John Olson, and Barry Topol – (ASG)

- Potential North Dakota Assessment Vendors
 - Vendor overview
 - Factors to consider in selecting an assessment vendor
 - Nature of the assessment system
 - Size of the state program and number of students to be tested
 - Technical quality
 - Experience working with states
 - Customer support requirements
- Build Vs. Buy Vs. Hybrid Considerations
 - Descriptions
 - Advantages and disadvantages
 - Criteria
 - Key criteria descriptions
- Key Decision Points and Components of a State Assessment RFP
 - Major decision points
 - Timing
 - Cost-related Issues

For more detailed information regarding ASG presentation, please reference the ASG PowerPoint on the website.

Feedback/Thoughts from today:

Panel-

- Appreciated the information and thoughts to move forward
- Real life experiences
- Don't jump ship after one-year – be consistent
- Panel concerns were consistent
- Time and motivation of students
- Usability of data

Presentations – SBAC

- More informed
- Did a good job presenting
- Are we as a state inline to go through field testing /piloting a new assessment

Going forward:

- Define specific role the task force will play in making recommendation to the department
- How do we ensure the task force has a voice in the process
- First three meetings were designed to broaden and strengthen the knowledge of the assessment system in general
- Hear more about what other states are doing (N. Carolina, New Hampshire, and Alabama)
- Start building a template with recommendations for the state
- Possible a need to hear from Measured Progress and their role in the assessment process

Next Meeting:					
Date:	December 21, 2015	Location:	Bismarck State Capitol – Brynhild Haugland Room	Time:	10:00 am – 4:00 pm CST