

Minutes of
MASC Student Assessment Committee
Saturday, October 16, 2010
Marlboro, MA

1. The meeting was held at the Courtyard Marriott in Marlboro and was called to order at 10:10 AM by Co-chair Angel Ramirez. Minutes were kept by Co-chair Diane Paradis.

In attendance were:

Chrisanne Gregoire	Hingham (Retired, Life Member)
Roberta Newman	Athol-Royalston Regional
Ron Levine	Tantasqua Regional
Geoffrey Swett	Wareham
Glenn Koocher	MASC Executive Director

2. Reorganization of committee after a 2-year committee hiatus. Everyone was welcomed back, new introductions were made and personal catch-up ensued before committee business at hand was discussed.

3. Four topics were identified for discussion:

- A. Status of Social Studies MCAS Test – Jeff Nelhous from DESE should be contacted to identify status of test
- B. MA adoption of National Common Core Curriculum – Questions arose as to its compatibility with current MA Curriculum Frameworks and its adaptability. How will it impact MCAS? MA Board of Education has implied it is “reconciling” this core with current MA goals, but will continue to maintain the MA higher standards. MASC will watch to see how it plays out.
- C. RTTT (Race to the Top) – A major 4-year project where year 1 is for planning purposes only. However, RTTT does not focus on the district student, but rather 6 specific goals (see handout). How will these goals impact collective bargaining and current contracts? How will merit pay fit in? How will data be used to identify “effective” teachers fairly and constructively? The focus should be on RTTT Goal #4: Using data to improve instruction.
- D. NSBA and assessing student data to identify achievement – Request training through NSBA on using data to make informed decisions and to assess total district achievement, not selective, isolated segments of teacher and/or student populations.

After much discussion, it was decided to identify short-term goals that include:

- Monitor RTTT developments
- Monitor Common Core Curriculum developments and its impact on MCAS and current MA Curriculum Frameworks
- Aid school committee members to understand how to use data effectively
- Develop training to educate and instruct members to be proficient in their overall use of data

4. Other agenda topics: A recommendation was made that in our efforts to stay abreast of RTTT and other state and national initiatives, we ask MASC, with the assistance of this Student Assessment Committee, to initiate the development of training to address the following:

- To educate School Committee members on how to effectively understand data
- To develop strategies on how to use the data to improve student outcomes
- To present Best Practices on successful implementations in local systems
- To include Collective Bargaining in this process in a positive and productive manner
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A motion was made by Roberta Newman, and seconded by Geoffrey Swett, to bring this to the MASC Executive Board at their next board meeting.

5. The next meeting will be: January 22, 2011

6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by;

Diane Paradis, Co-Chair MASC Student Assessment Committee

Angel Ramirez, Co-Chair MASC Student Assessment Committee