

**Report of the State Board of Education  
Committee on Instruction  
April 22, 2009**

The State Board of Education Committee on Instruction met at 10:08 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, in Room #1-104 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. The following members of the committee were present:

Presiding: Barbara Cargill, chair; Ken Mercer, vice chair; Lawrence A. Allen, Jr., Geraldine Miller

Absent: Terri Leo

Non-Committee Members Present: Pat Hardy, Gail Lowe, Don McLeroy

**1. Work Session on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Review**

Mrs. Cargill explained that the goal of the meeting was for the Committee on Instruction (COI) to clarify the process for TEKS review and to make recommendations to the full board for adjustments to the TEKS Review Process that was approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) in July 2008.

Anita Givens, associate commissioner for standards and programs, gave a brief history of the TEKS review process to date explaining that in June 2008 the SBOE approved a formal TEKS review process. Social studies is the first content area to follow the approved process from the beginning.

Ms. Givens shared a document showing the original social studies review schedule and the proposed schedule side-by-side. She explained that the earliest the review committees could be reconvened would be the end of June and the SBOE might want to have the review committees meet after the July SBOE meeting. COI members indicated that they preferred to have the committees meet after the July SBOE meeting. She also explained that even with the postponement of the next review committee meeting, the SBOE can still adopt revised social studies TEKS as originally scheduled.

Ms. Givens explained that there are specific timelines related to the official public comment period that influence when SBOE members receive summarized public comments prior to consideration of TEKS at second reading and final adoption. Joan Allen, Texas Education Agency (TEA) general counsel, and Cristina de la Fuente-Valadez, director, policy coordination, explained that although the board has not historically set a cut-off date for public comment, they may limit public comment to 30 days. Ms. Allen explained the requirements for public hearings and further explained the need to end the public comment period after the public hearing so that all comments could be summarized with responses for filing with the *Texas Register*. SBOE members discussed the need for more time to digest the comments before voting on revisions for final adoption. TEA staff was asked to further clarify the process for submitting comments on the website, through listservs, and through professional organizations such as the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB).

Ms. Allen also explained that the SBOE could vote on final adoption two meetings after voting on the proposed TEKS for first reading and filing authorization to give SBOE members more time to review comments. For rulemaking, she indicated that when administrative rules are filed, the work must be completed within a six month time period. If there is no action, the process must start over. For

example, if proposed rules are filed with the *Texas Register* in February, the SBOE must complete the process by August.

The discussion shifted to the packet of materials that was provided for each social studies TEKS review committee member. Monica Martinez reviewed the materials in the packet distributed to the SBOE members which was a duplicate of the packets that review committee members received. She gave an overview of a printed copy of the PowerPoint slides that were presented to the social studies TEKS review committees. This PowerPoint provided background information for the TEKS review process including related statute citations that guide the development and revision of the TEKS, a proposed timeline, information on the parameters for writing or revising standards, and instructions for the work the committees would complete.

Mrs. Cargill summarized steps for the future process to include:

- 1) The current TEKS should be the foundation document
- 2) The general course of study should be considered not what might be covered in an Advanced Placement course
- 3) College Readiness Standards should be considered when revising the TEKS
- 4) Every change should include a rationale
- 5) Revisions must be in compliance with all related statutes
- 6) Justification should be provided for all suggested revisions
- 7) All revisions should be tracked to show what has been changed.

The COI suggested that each TEKS review committee be assigned a TEA staff member to input information as the committee members discuss proposed changes. If a committee does not come to consensus on a given recommendation, the TEA staff member would record the various recommendations and the number of committee members who made each recommendation. Upon completion of the recommended changes to the TEKS, one work product to be shared with the SBOE would be a three column table that would include the current TEKS, recommendations with tracked changes, and a rationale for each recommended change. TEA staff would maintain the official copies of any work done by each committee. SBOE members would receive copies of work products after each meeting.

Ms. Givens asked the committee for clear directions regarding the level of involvement that is expected from staff. Mrs. Cargill indicated that staff should be empowered to provide the committees with assistance as they complete their work. Mrs. Miller indicated that the SBOE needs to see staff a little more hands on. Mr. Allen agreed that some input and guidance is needed from staff.

Mrs. Lowe asked that TEKS review committee members be provided with a copy of "Our Fading Heritage" a report by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute on civics literacy. She also asked that best practices from other states, specifically, Massachusetts, Indiana, California and Georgia be provided to the review committees. The committee also discussed the philosophical direction the SBOE expects the TEKS to take including promoting basic American values, emphasis on the benefits of constitutional form of government and the Constitution, constitutional republic as compared to democracy, and the importance of reading primary source documents (i.e. The Federalist Papers, The Bill of Rights, key Supreme Court cases).

Ms. Givens suggested that a couple of weeks in July appear to be the most feasible options and indicated that committees could be reconvened again in the fall to review informal feedback and expert feedback in order to make further recommendations.

Ms. Givens asked about what role the COI would like the experts to have in the process. Mrs. Miller indicated that she would like for them to look at the current TEKS and make recommendations. Ms. Hardy asked for clarification regarding how the expert recommendations at the beginning of the process were to be handled by TEKS review committees. Ms. Givens explained that with science, all written feedback from the experts was provided to TEKS review committees and committees indicated on the recommendations where they made changes based on expert feedback. Mrs. Cargill indicated that some experts for science were used until the science TEKS were approved. TEA staff was asked to provide a summary of the expectations for experts and a tentative timeline to SBOE members within the next few days. TEA staff provided that summary to the COI members before the end of the work session.

Mrs. Cargill asked TEA to prepare a chart that shows the historical figures included in the proposed TEKS by grade level. TEA was also asked to reach out to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) to notify noneducators of the opportunity to serve on future TEKS review committees and provide comment throughout the TEKS review process.

The committee was recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

The following individuals provided invited public testimony regarding this item:

NAME: Judy Brodigan  
AFFILIATION: Grade 5 committee

NAME: Tom Owens  
AFFILIATION: Grade 6 committee

NAME: Scott Bush  
AFFILIATION: Grade 6 committee

NAME: Larry Wolken  
AFFILIATION: Economics committee

NAME: Bill Ames  
AFFILIATION: U.S. History committee

NAME: Deborah Pennington  
AFFILIATION: U.S. History committee

NAME: Debra Goheen  
AFFILIATION: U.S. Government committee

NAME: John Keeling  
AFFILIATION: World History committee

NAME: Barbara Ozuna  
AFFILIATION: World History committee

NAME: Peter Morrison  
AFFILIATION: Grade 5 committee

The meeting of the Committee on Instruction adjourned at 3:55 p.m.