

Multiple Measures/Assessment Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2013

The meeting took place in the MPR at Rio Seco School on March, 14, 2013 and was called to order by Mr. Bonner Montler, committee chairperson, at 3:45 p.m. At this time, Mr. Montler discussed the purpose of the committee which is to examine the upcoming changes specifically related to assessment and what such assessment will look like in classrooms in the future based upon the new Common Core national standards.

Introductions of all committee members and their respective school sites were reviewed next. Mr. Montler discussed the focus and purposes of all of the groups (district wide) saying that the remaining groups has been determined from a total of fifty (50) possible action plans that had originally been proposed. He noted that the specific focus of this committee is to explore how assessment drives instruction and how multiple measures will be needed in coordination with classroom instruction. Mr. Montler also discussed the need to prepare students for using electronic assessment tools that will be utilized in Smarter Balanced assessments.

This committee will examine state level assessments, benchmark assessments, and Smarter Balanced assessment measures. In the future, there will be a push to eliminate traditional “bubble sheets”. Curriculum maps will serve as the instructional blueprints in Common Core instruction. As depth and complexity increase, diagnostic testing will need to increase as well. Shifts in mathematics, (ie. CPM), is an example of the new types of teaching strategies that will need to be employed by teachers in the classroom. Teachers will need to learn how to use old materials to teach in new ways in the future. There was a teacher concern expressed as to how current standards will be transitioned as Common Core is fully implemented. Mr. Montler noted in response to this concern that at a principal’s forum it was stated that full implementation is expected to take approximately five (5) to seven (7) years.

The possible elimination of second grade testing beginning in 2014-15 was discussed next. Mr. Montler stated that a sixty (60) percent drop in test scores is expected during the first year of transition to Common Core and Smarter Balanced assessments. This next school year however, before Common Core and Smarter Balanced assessments are fully implemented, schools will still be held to the same levels of AYP standards/goals.

Reviewed next were some online resources for Common Core and Smarter Balanced assessments. A website of pilot test material was examined. This site covered how skills will need to be learned and how those skills will be applied as well as how those skills will be converted into “real life” skills. The new ways of thinking and instruction were discussed based upon the changes from focusing on state standards to more topic-based instruction. Mr. Montler noted how the new assessments will be adaptive in nature – they will move up or down in assessments levels based upon each child’s performance on the assessments. He also noted that modules will appear within the assessments to offer support to students as needed. Instruction will need to change to teach students how to use text more efficiently to reference and support their answers.

The committee next considered the features of what's possible with Smarter Balanced assessments (ie. online highlighting capabilities). We will now need to have students writing every day and in multiple contexts and across disciplines in order to best prepare them for this new form of assessment. A positive of this type of assessment is that teachers will now receive back much more than just raw data scores – they will actually get detailed skill information back that they can use to guide further instructional practices. This was well received by the committee and is expected to have the same response from teachers in general. Mr. Montler said that the district will have interim assessments not just summative assessments as in the past.

The password for accessing Common Core examples was given next. The website for accessing this information is ccas.sdcoe.net and the password is WOPR. This information is a free tool to educators through the county.

A question about scan sheets was brought to light by a committee member next. This teacher wanted to know how we are going to replace our current scan sheets with an assessment tool that is more diagnostic in nature and is also Common Core aligned. How to develop assessments for children in grades K-2 was also discussed. The committee felt this was important in order to best prepare the students to begin taking Smarter Balanced assessments in the third grade. iReady was proposed as one possibility that might help prepare students for this type of assessment. Although this is a possibility, it was noted that there might be a problem with this at a district wide level. The need for a diagnostic assessment was discussed next – one that could be administered three (3) times per year (similar to our current assessment measures). It was noted that these types of assessments would need to be developed at a state/national level rather than a district level. A website with some possibilities was shown at this time. It was referred to as [nwea – northwesterneduc.assoc. \(map\)](http://nwea-northwesterneduc.assoc.(map)). The need for test measures being field tested was also noted. Report cards will also need to be changed to reflect Common Core changes and the new Smarter Balanced assessment measures. All of the above will help to further guide instructional practices and feedback to teachers and parents alike.

The final thought for this meeting was that Mr. Montler asked the committee to break into small groups to consider and record their responses to certain guiding questions that had been posed. Following these small group breakout session, each group was asked to share out their positions based upon their specific guiding question.

This first meeting of the Multiple Measures Assessment Committee concluded at 5:00 p.m.