



## SUMMARY OF THE ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL

**Dr. Tim Ogle, Executive Director**  
**Janice Palmer, Director of Governmental Relations**  
**& Public Affairs**  
**Geoff Esposito, Governmental Relations Analyst**

**December 19th, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Craig Barrett, Superintendent John Huppenthal, Dr. Tom Anderes, Tim Carter, Rep. Doris Goodale, Sen. Rich Crandall, Pearl Chang Esau, Rep. Tom Forese, Dr. Rufus Gasper, Glen Hamer, Amanda McAdams, Diane McCarthy, Colleen Niccum, Merl Waschler and Jaime Molera

### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- **Arizona Dept. of Education:** Superintendent Huppenthal began the meeting with an update on Arizona graduation rates, which showed our gains ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation from 2006 to 2011 and our national rank improving from 46<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> overall. In that 5 year period, Arizona students went from graduating at a rate of just under 70% to graduating at a rate of just under 78%. Dramatically improved rates among Hispanic students were the main driver of this trend, with the graduation rate for these students improving from 58% to 72%. Gains were also recorded among Black and Native American students that were in line with the broader statewide improvement, but the superintendent pointed out that large gaps between ethnicities show that much work still needs to be done. The superintendent also highlighted that this trend correlated with a continued decline in juvenile arrests. Chairman Barrett questioned whether these results could be the result of definitional changes in requirements instead of practical ones, but the Superintendent countered that the data was calculated the same way from 05-10, and that the definitional change in 2011 caused no significant changes in the AZ data.
- **Governor's Office of Education Innovation:** Director Rebecca Gau presented new information on the public's awareness of the new Common Core Standards. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> semi-annual survey conducted by the governor's office around the standards, and it showed that about 1 in 4 Arizona residents had heard at least a moderate amount of information about the Arizona Common Core State Standards in the past six months. More than half, however, had heard nothing at all. Luckily, parents were almost three times as likely as non-parents to have heard a lot or moderate amount about the standards. Feelings around the standards were overwhelmingly favorable as well, with over 60% of the people who had heard about Common Core having a positive opinion of the standards. This data serves as a baseline for the work of the Public Engagement Task Force on Arizona's Common Core Standards.
- **Arizona State Board of Education:** Vince Yanez, Executive Director with the State Board, provided an update on the new PARCC transition plan. The discussion mostly centered on the new calendar, which would phase in the implementation of PARCC in high schools from 2013 until it is fully integrated in 2017 which should provide students with the "opportunity to learn"

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and not burden them with an abrupt standards change. There will also be a break in the high stakes nature of graduations with the implementation of PARCC, which will serve as an end of course exam and will be fully integrated into course grades. The test will be administered online and they anticipate significant cost savings by a reduction in the need for retests. Superintendent Huppenthal added that this will mean that the letter grading system for schools, and all accountability measures, will have to be adjusted.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT**

Pearl Esau, Executive Director for Expect More Arizona, reported out on the activities of the Arizona's Common Core Standards Public Engagement Taskforce. Ms. Esau talked about the origins of the taskforce and the partners involved, including ASBA's Dr. Tim Ogle and Tracey Benson. She cited the survey referenced earlier by Rebecca Gau, and elaborated on the goals they have set for the next two years, which included reaching at least 65% awareness among the general public (85% among parents). An important point of the presentation focused on the new website ([ArizonaCommonCore.org](http://ArizonaCommonCore.org)) and the communications toolkit they have prepared for districts. Moving forward, the taskforce hopes to expand their social media presence, and are currently looking to expand the listserve, which can be joined by going to the website.

### **REPORT ON GLENDALE UNION'S COMMON CORE IMPLEMENTATION**

Amanda McAdams with the Glendale Union High School District presented on their districts efforts to prepare for Common Core, specifically focusing on professional development. She discussed how their focus areas were literacy, depth of knowledge, and a text-based, student-centered approach to teaching. She highlighted their train-the-trainer model they are using that feature both district-wide and site based workshops, as well as traditional department and PLC team meetings. Finally, they discussed how they made sure to involve teachers in the discussions about assessment changes and made a plea that everyone work to ensure that districts are fully funded for implementing these new standards.

### **ADE COMMON CORE IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

Jennifer Johnson with ADE gave a presentation on the ongoing implementation of Common Core Standards. [Click here to see the full presentation and implementation plan.](#)

### **ADE IT TASKFORCE REPORT**

Mark Masterson gave a brief update on the recommendations of the IT advisory group, but did not give a full report because of time constraints. He highlighted the need for a statewide system so we can have real-time updates and appropriately deliver PARCC. They identified over \$100 million in possible cost savings by transitioning to this model as well.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC AND ADJOURNMENT**

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There were no comments from members of the public, but when he moved to adjourn Dr. Barrett informed everyone in attendance that Governor Brewer would be in attendance at the January meeting.

**Next meeting of the Arizona Ready Education Council will be on January 24<sup>th</sup> in the Executive Tower 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix.**