

District Committee on Assessments – Review of WCPS Assessment Program

Dr. Peggy Pugh, Associate Superintendent for Administration and Leadership

Mr. Neil Becker, Washington County Teachers Association (WCTA) President

**Washington County Board of Education Meeting
June 1, 2021**

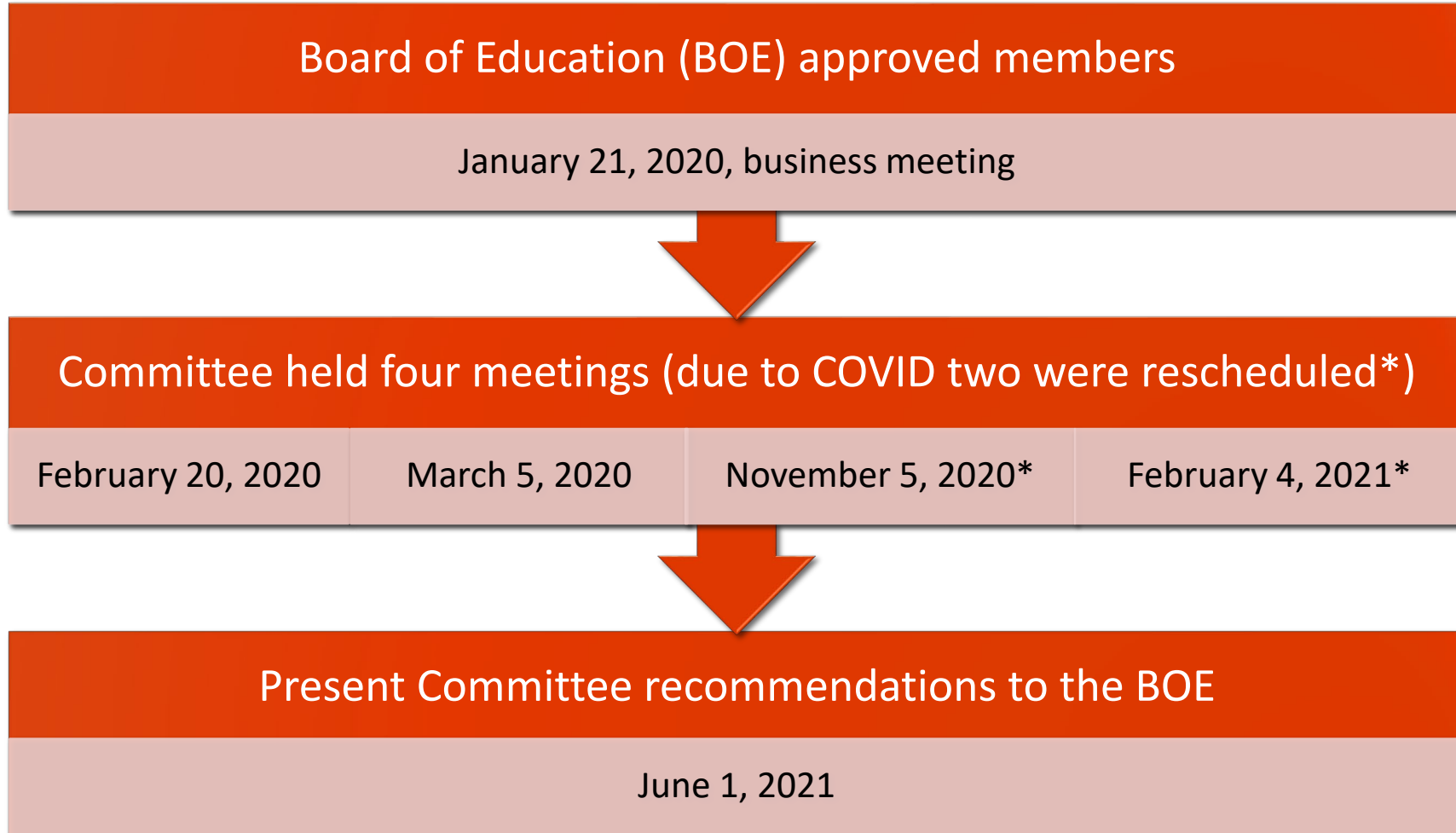
2020 Assessment Committee Members

- Associate Superintendent for Administration and Leadership
- Supervisor of Testing and Accountability
- WCTA President
- UniServ Director
- Parent/Community Member
- Three school administrators (one at each level)
- Three teachers (one at each level)
- Student Member of the Board of Education

Purpose

- To agree on student assessment time
- To review locally-mandated assessments using a rubric
- To advise and make recommendations in the areas of:
 - Time required to administer each assessment
 - Duplicity of assessments
 - Purpose of assessments
 - Value of feedback
 - Timeliness of results

Committee Timeline



2020-2021 Testing Time Review

For the 2020-2021 school year, WCPS was below the 2.2% testing time limit for each grade level and below the 2.3% testing time limit for grade 8. Therefore, the District Committee on Assessments determined that WCPS meets the testing time requirement of the law.

Committee Reviewed Assessments

- February 20, 2020 – PreviLearn Interims (additional discussion)
- March 5, 2020 – Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- November 5, 2020 – DIBELS
- February 4, 2021 – Math Inventory

Feedback from the District Committee on Assessments

- PreviLearn Recommendations/Comments:
 - Do not require the use of English 9 or Geometry PreviLearn interims.
 - Give English 9 and Geometry teachers the access and option to use PreviLearn interims and diagnostics.
 - Gather feedback from principals and teachers about needs and concerns.
 - Some feedback shared previously:
 - Need to align the content of interims to Essential Curriculum modules.
 - Need to improve score reports and data from interims.
 - Concerns about finding time for teachers to score interim written responses.

Feedback from the District Committee on Assessments *(continued)*

- CogAT Recommendations/Comments:
 - Support to move the CogAT assessment from grade 5 to grade 4.
 - Continue to use the CogAT assessment—a good tool for GATE identification and looks at students' strengths and weaknesses.
 - Move the testing window for grade 1 (December) and grade 4 (October).
 - Provide more information on the test results that are parent-friendly and easier to interpret.

Feedback from the District Committee on Assessments *(continued)*

- DIBELS Recommendations/Comments:
 - Keep DIBELS as the state-mandated screener and continue providing assistance
 - Use professional development modules around the instructional response model
 - Use for Tier 2B instruction and follow-up tools.
 - Plan for long-term funding rather than grants.
 - Help parents understand data.
 - Support teachers in administering DIBELS.
 - Review best practices for test administration.

Feedback from the District Committee on Assessments *(continued)*

- Math Inventory Recommendations/Comments:
 - Support keeping this assessment.
 - The reports are very useful to principals and teachers.
 - This screener provides the most information for teachers to pinpoint where the issue lies for the instructional planning in mathematics.
 - Consider sending messages to students to celebrate growth and learning.
 - Evaluate the timeline for the math inventory on the testing calendar and consider breaking the assessment apart.
 - Try to strategically place assessments to avoid overlap.

NEXT STEPS



Washington County Public Schools will be accepting applications for anyone interested in serving on the next two-year term for the District Committee on Assessments.