

Minutes for the TOPSS Committee Meeting
March 22-23, 2024
Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, Washington, DC

Participants: Virginia Welle, MS (Chair); Terri Lindenberg, MA; Natasha Alston, MPS; Michael Berndt, MEd; Stephanie Franks, MA; Emily Polacek, Melissa Rogers, MEd; Jennifer Thompson, PhD; Frank Worrell, PhD*

Guests*: Nicole Barnes, PhD, Senior Director, Center for Psychology in Schools and Education; Thema Bryant, PhD, APA Past President; Cynthia de las Fuentes, PhD, APA President; Aliza Epstein, Director, Elections and Volunteer Leadership; Arthur Evans, Jr., PhD, APA CEO and Executive Vice President; Amy Fineburg, PhD, Chair, Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology; Debra Kawahara, PhD, APA President-Elect; Hideko Sera, PhD, APA Board of Directors; and Alissa Fogg, PhD, Senior Advisor to the CEO; Janan Wyatt, PhD, Assistant to the Advisory of the CEO

APA Staff: Emily Leary Chesnes, MBA and Sue Orsillo, PhD.

*Partial attendance

1. Draft minutes of the TOPSS March 17-18, 2023 Meeting

The TOPSS Committee was asked to review and approve draft minutes of its March 17-18, 2023 meeting.

ACTION: The draft minutes of the March 17-18, 2023 TOPSS Committee meeting were approved and will be posted to the TOPSS website.

2. TOPSS Call Schedule for 2024

The TOPSS Committee was asked to consider a schedule for holding committee calls over Zoom for the rest of the year. The Committee agreed to hold calls at 7:30 PM eastern on the third Monday of each month. No call will be held in June. The Committee recommended planning for both small group and full committee discussions during these calls.

ACTION: TOPSS will hold calls at 7:30 PM eastern on the third Monday of each month, although not in June.

3. TOPSS Resources

The TOPSS Committee was asked to discuss TOPSS resources and consider how TOPSS can increase the impact of these resources. The Committee reviewed analytics of its resources and developed a plan for maintaining and disseminating high-quality resources. Small groups of TOPSS members also met to develop a plan for reviewing and revising specific resources in 2024.

Plans to Update TOPSS Pacing Calendars

Virginia Welle, Mike Berndt, and Melissa Rogers discussed the revision of the collection of pacing calendars TOPSS provides on its website. They agreed that collecting updated calendars for block, regular, and trimester calendars for on-level and Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and block and regular calendars for International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. The subgroup suggested putting out a call to TOPSS members in April or May and asking for drafts by August.

Plan to Revise the TOPSS New Teacher Resource Manual

Virginia Welle, Natasha Alston, and Melissa Rogers discussed plans for updating a resource manual for new high school psychology teachers that was written by previous TOPSS committee members and last revised in 2018.

ACTION: TOPSS recommended having Committee members review at least one resource each year to assess analytics, check for broken links, and determine if content needs to be updated. Updated resources could be highlighted on the TOPSS Facebook page and in TOPSS chair eblasts to members. They also created plans to review resources in 2024. Terri

Lindenberg will review the exam wrapper and Mike Berndt will review the value of the high school psychology course for students. Virginia Welle will draft a call for updated pacing calendars to post to the TOPSS membership in April. Virginia Welle, Natasha Alston, and Melissa Rogers will continue plans to update the resource manual for new high school psychology teachers. TOPSS will revisit these discussions and recommendations as needed this year.

4. Regional Teaching Networks

TOPSS was asked to discuss and consider how to promote the growth of regional teaching networks and deepen their impact.

TOPSS recommended the following actions to promote the growth of networks:

- Starting two funding tracks for the APF Outreach grants in 2025: one to support establishing a new network and another to support previously funded networks.
- Adding a second November 1 deadline for the APF Outreach grants, mentioning that the November grant cycle would depend on available funding.
- Offering a webinar to potential applicants, possibly including teachers who host regional networks and who can share their experiences.
- Reviewing the how-to guide to see if updates are needed.
- Encouraging new networks in Texas, North Carolina, and New York.

TOPSS recommended the following actions to deepen the impact of networks:

- Encouraging regional networks to play the new video on TOPSS and using the regional networks to encourage TOPSS membership and TOPSS resources.
- Every five years, TOPSS could provide a presentation about TOPSS and TOPSS resources to the regional networks to keep connection with TOPSS.

ACTION: Staff will add a November 1 deadline to the APF High School Psychology Outreach grants call and the two funding tracks will be added for the 2025 grant call. Mike Berndt will review the how-to guide and make recommendations for updates as needed. TOPSS will revisit the recommendations to contact regional networks about TOPSS, to hold at least one webinar for interested regional network contacts before or after the July deadline with a panel of teachers with experience hosting regional networks, and to encourage new networks in Texas, North Carolina, and New York to plan for next steps.

5. TOPSS Elections

The TOPSS Committee was asked to discuss the TOPSS election process. Aliza Epstein gave an overview of the elections process for other APA boards and committees.

TOPSS discussed how the Committee can best represent the TOPSS membership and also how membership can represent the larger teaching community. Following a discussion of qualities the Committee would like to see for future election candidates, TOPSS recommending editing the 2024 elections call to state that TOPSS is particularly interested in candidates from outside the United States, those with experience teaching on-level psychology (those teaching only on-level psychology are particularly encouraged), and/or early career teachers within their first 10 years of teaching. These qualities will also be highlighted when the elections open to members. Candidates may be asked to address how they align with the priorities that TOPSS has set.

The Committee also discussed how the slating process could be used to bolster representation. Specifically, the committee could use their advertised priorities to select candidates for the slate. Committee members underscored the importance of being transparent about the slating process. In particular they thought it was important to clarify that not all nominees would automatically be added to the ballot.

Committee members highlighted the importance of individual outreach and encouragement of potential nominees. A webinar for teachers who are interested in leadership roles and/or running for office was mentioned as a potential idea for this or next year.

TOPSS recommended encouraging people who run for office, but who are not elected, to stay involved with the committee and to re-apply in future years. The National Association of School Psychologists was mentioned as a potential collaborator since some school psychologists may teach high school psychology and may therefore be potential candidates for the TOPSS election.

ACTION: Natahsa Alston and Virginia Welle will work with staff to update the elections call this spring and will develop a slate for the 2024 TOPSS elections. All Committee members will help encourage member voting this year. Further discussion and planning are needed to determine if TOPSS will host a webinar for teachers who are interested in leadership roles and/or running for office.

6. TOPSS Project on Broadening Diversity and Representation in the High School Curriculum

The TOPSS Committee was asked to discuss the TOPSS project on broadening diversity and representation in the high school psychology curriculum and develop a plan for the third phase of this initiative, to be implemented in 2024. The Committee recommended that the third phase focus on national origin and immigration status and recommended potential subject matter experts.

The Committee also discussed how this work can be disseminated to teachers.

ACTION: Staff will follow up on the outreach for the third phase of this project.

7. Communications

This item was provided to TOPSS to discuss the opportunities to communicate with high school teachers. The Committee discussed possible authors and topics for articles for the *Psychology Teacher Network* (PTN) news digest.

ACTION: Staff and Committee members will follow up on article recommendations for the *Psychology Teacher Network* (PTN) news digest.

8. TOPSS Unit Lesson Plans

The TOPSS Committee was asked to discuss what goals it has had to date for developing unit lesson plans and consider next steps regarding these resources. The Committee recommended removing the *Childhood Obesity* lesson plan from the website and agreed that lesson plans published before 2022 should be archived on the TOPSS website.

Some members noted that teachers may not have access to textbooks. As the Committee works on its revisions to the new teacher handbook, they may consider including resources that elaborate on the basic content to include in a course as defined by the National Standards (e.g., textbooks, AP curriculum resources, Crash Course, OER General Psychology text Lumen Learning) and/or offering professional development or graduate courses.

ACTION: Staff will remove the *Childhood Obesity* lesson plan from the lesson plan website and update the website to list the older lesson plans as archived. TOPSS can continue these conversations on future calls.

9. National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula

The TOPSS Committee was asked to develop a plan to implement their 2024 workplan initiative regarding dissemination of the *National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula* to states and consider priorities it has for the *National*

Standards in this and future years. The Committee recommended ways to encourage teachers to engage with the standards, by mentioning the standards in any webinars and at the summer workshops and APA 2024 sessions.

The Committee engaged in some preliminary brainstorming and mentioned ideas like asking if the Department of Education and/or College Board might share the standards as a teaching resource. The Committee also wondered if Dr. Kawahara's presidential initiative in 2025 would allow opportunities to increase awareness of the standards.

ACTION: Staff will share a list of states for possible outreach in 2024 at an upcoming Committee meeting. TOPSS will continue to brainstorm, plan, and implement actions aimed at promoting the adoption of the National Standards.

10. Membership

The TOPSS Committee was asked to reflect on the current TOPSS membership and consider potential actions the Committee could take to enhance and diversify membership. Surveying lapsed members to find out why they left or what value TOPSS can offer was mentioned. The Committee considered how to engage members and how to incentivize TOPSS resources.

ACTION: The Committee will revisit this discussion on a later call to consider how to engage members and how to incentive TOPSS resources.

11. Professional Development for Psychology Teachers

This item was provided to the TOPSS Committee for discussion on professional development opportunities for high school psychology teachers. All Committee members offered to promote the Oregon State Workshop on social media before the April 15 application deadline.

In discussing the one pending workshop in response to the Request for Proposals to Support Teaching Workshops, the Committee recommended experienced high school teachers who may be able to present at the pending workshop.

Stephanie Franks and Mike Berndt were tasked with discussing plans to hold TOPSS webinars in 2024. The suggested TOPSS plan for three webinars:

- A webinar on TOPSS resources in late May, potentially run by Stephanie and Mike.
- A webinar on embedding research into the course in August.
- A webinar on equity, diversity and including in October or November, possibly on how to create a global and inclusive classroom. TOPSS may want to survey TOPSS members about what they want to hear on a talk on this topic. Dr. Bryant's documentary could be featured in this webinar.

The Committee also suggested leveraging the APA 2024 talks for more teachers to watch. If it is possible to tape the TOPSS talks, staff or TOPSS would need to consider if APF grant funds could cover the cost.

ACTION: All Committee members will promote the Oregon State Workshop on social media before the April 15 application deadline. Stephanie Franks and Mike Berndt will finalize webinar topics, dates, and speakers on future TOPSS calls and work with staff to promote these offerings. Staff will explore if the TOPSS invited addresses at APA 2024 can be taped.

12. APA 2024

This item was provided to TOPSS for discussion on APA 2024, being held August 8-10, 2024, in Seattle, Washington. The Committee reviewed the list of TOPSS speakers for APA 2024. Outreach to teachers to share the TOPSS invited speakers should start this spring. Additional outreach opportunities were discussed.

ACTION: Staff will work with Committee members to broadly disseminate the TOPSS invited speakers and information about APA 2024 to teachers.

13. Psi Alpha

This item was provided to TOPSS for discussion on Psi Alpha, a national honor society for high school students who plan to major or minor in psychology or who simply have an interest in psychology. It was noted that Dr. Kawahara's presidential initiative for 2025 might fit well with Psi Alpha.

The Committee asked if a staff contact from Psi Alpha could join a TOPSS call to start a conversation of how TOPSS can be useful to them and what potential collaboration can look like. It might be possible to promote the *National Standards* through Psi Alpha.

ACTION: Staff will work with Natasha Alston, the TOPSS representative on the Psi Alpha Advisory Board, to invite a Psi Alpha staff member to join a TOPSS call.

14. Open Discussion on the TOPSS Mission and Impact

The TOPSS Committee was asked to reflect on the alignment between the TOPSS mission statement and 2023-2024 initiatives to begin the process of brainstorming possible future areas of focus/initiatives and to consider what future initiatives might deserve consideration to assess points of close alignment. The Committee shared their perspective that they were engaging in initiatives that further all aspects of their mission. It was noted that TOPSS priorities also align to other priorities at APA but that TOPSS should consider the new APA strategic plan.

Statement E of the TOPSS mission statement (to "encourage recruitment and retention of students, particularly minorities, in the field of psychology") was noted as a priority. However, the committee discussed the importance of updating the language to be consistent with inclusive language guidelines. The mission to "enhance the visibility and legitimacy of high school psychology" fits with Dr. Evan's call to address public education about the field.

ACTION: Staff will share what steps are needed to edit the TOPSS mission statement via the Association Rules. The Committee will continue these conversations in 2024 as it plans for its 2025 workplan.

15. TOPSS 2023 Annual Report

The TOPSS Committee received the 2023 TOPSS Annual Report as an information update.

16. TOPSS 2023 Annual Report

The TOPSS Committee received the 2023 APA Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education (CABE) Annual Report as an information update.

Visitor Reports

Visit with Thema Bryant, PhD, APA Past President; Cynthia de las Fuentes, PhD, APA President; Arthur Evans, Jr., PhD, APA CEO and Executive Vice President; Debra Kawahara, PhD, APA President-Elect; Hideko Sera, PhD, APA Board of Directors; and Alissa Fogg, PhD, Special Assistant to the CEO; and Janan Wyatt, PhD, Assistant to the Advisory of the CEO

Virginia Welle shared an overview of TOPSS priorities and goals for 2024. Dr. Bryant shared that her Belonging Matters presidential initiative will include a discussion guide, as recommended by TOPSS last year.

Dr. de las Fuentes and Dr. Kawahara shared their planned presidential initiatives; Dr. Kawahara invited TOPSS to help with her initiative on the psychology workforce.

Dr. Evans encouraged TOPSS to consider how APA can help educate the public about psychology. He also asked the committee to consider why myths and misinformation about psychology persist despite widespread education through high school and introductory psychology.

Visit with Amy Fineburg, PhD, Chair, Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology

Amy Fineburg, PhD, shared a brief update from the Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology and engaged TOPSS in a discussion of how we can be an advocate for people studying psychology.

Meeting with the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA)

Virginia Welle shared an overview of TOPSS priorities and goals for 2024 and the Committee engaged in discussion with BEA about mutual areas of interest.