



# Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair  
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

## ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Special Board Meeting

**August 31, 2005**

3:00 p.m.

Board Room, 4th Floor

***Public Conference Call Access Number:***

***1-866-297-6391 (listen only)***

***Confirmation # 1 2 5 4 9 2 5 6***

### AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Public Participation (regarding the Strategic Plan)
3. Review and possible adoption of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary & Secondary Education
4. Adjourn

### **Illinois State Board of Education**

100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

**Illinois State Board of Education Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 31, 2005**  
**Springfield, Illinois**

<p><b>1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call</b></p>	<p>In the absence of Chairman Jesse Ruiz, Vice-Chairman Chris Ward called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Ward asked Jean Ladage to call the roll. A quorum was present. Dr. Randy Dunn, Interim State Superintendent of Education, was also in attendance. The Board members, Dr. Dunn, and anyone who wished to join them faced the American flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p><b><u>Members Present:</u></b>  Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman  Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary  Dr. Andrea Brown  Dr. David Fields  Mr. Edward Geppert, Jr  Ms. Brenda Holmes  Ms. Joyce Karon</p> <p><b><u>Members Absent:</u></b>  Mr. Dean Clark  Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman</p>
<p><b>2. Public Participation</b></p>	<p>There was no one signed in for Public Participation.</p>
<p><b>3. Review and possible adoption of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan</b></p>	<p>Vice Chairman Ward reviewed the timelines</p> <p><b>September 14, 2004:</b> Governor signed SB 3000 (which became Public Act 93-1036), requiring the State Board to consult with the educational community, hold public hearings, and receive input from all interested groups in drafting a Strategic Plan. This law required a draft Strategic Plan within 6 months and a final 5-year Strategic Plan to be submitted to the General Assembly within one year after the effective date of this Act. (Effective date: September 14, 2004)</p> <p><b>At its initial Strategic Plan Development Committee meeting on December 23, 2004,</b> the Board charged Interim Superintendent Randy Dunn with outlining a number of broad policy areas that might serve as potential goals for a comprehensive strategic plan as required by PA 93-1036. Superintendent Dunn came back with approximately twelve areas for the Board's initial consideration and discussion.</p> <p><b>January Board meeting</b> – State Board began discussions about goal areas.</p> <p><b>January/February</b> – Board asked ISBE Management staff to rank the proposed goal areas. Board members also individually ranked goals in a separate exercise. Board and Management came together to discuss the outcome of the ranking process.</p> <p><b>March</b> – Board reviewed &amp; adopted the <b>Preliminary Strategic Plan</b> for submission to the General Assembly.</p> <p><b>April/May</b> – Board discussion of Draft Work Plan for implementation.</p> <p><b>May through July:</b> Superintendent and Board conducted statewide hearings on the Preliminary Strategic Plan.</p>

**August 11** – Board discussion of the Final Draft of the Strategic Plan. Board members discussed with Superintendent Dunn changes in wording or direction for the Strategic Plan.

**August 31** – After eight months of collaboration, planning, writing, and listening to education constituents and agency personnel, we have a final product for our review and consideration. This final document is due to the General Assembly on or before September 14, 2005.

Vice Chairman Ward then opened the floor to other Board members for any comments or discussion regarding the process or the document that is before the Board for consideration.

Ms. Brenda Holmes asked a question regarding the statement in regards to developing toolkits for classroom teachers to address “Learning Standards missed in state tests.” Ms. Holmes asked exactly what that meant.

Superintendent Dunn indicated that the wording may not be optimal. It is an inclination of Health, Fine Arts Standards, etc. We really mean “absent” from state tests. It is not intended to mean that we forgot something, and that can certainly be clarified prior to submission should the Board choose to take action today.

Ms. Holmes also asked what kind of response Superintendent Dunn received from internal staff. Dr. Dunn responded that he did not circulate the document again after the most recent wordsmithing was completed. Prior to those most recent changes, there was little feedback.

Dr. Andrea Brown asked if there was any response regarding the implementation process. Dr. Dunn responded that discussion with division staff and determining which divisions are responsible for the various parts will follow the adoption of the final plan. It will be important for cross-communication to be continuous.

Ms. Joyce Karon asked about timelines for the phases. Dr. Dunn indicated that the he envisions the phases will be rolled out over 6-month intervals. Phase I would start September 1, or depending on when the Board adopts. After 2½ years, we would hope to hit phase five, and hope to get through the plan at the end of the five years. That being said, we need to keep in mind that the Board will be reviewing this plan quarterly and a very good review on an annual basis. This plan is a living document and it could be that this plan will change substantially after a few quarterly reviews & a couple of annual comprehensive reviews.

Ms. Karon also wanted to make a second point. It may be difficult for the Agency to work on all of the initiatives in Phase I or Phase II of all three goals at the same time. At some point in the quarterly reviews, the Board may need to reset priorities and timelines as we proceed.

Dr. Dunn commented that he sees the framework for the quarterly would be more of a “nuts & bolts” review (what’s worked well, what hasn’t). As that discussion takes place, when the Board gets to the annual review, you have an idea of what needs to be changed, dropped or added.

Ms. Karon reminded the Board that there were many important goals considered and we had many discussions to get to three goals that appear in the final document. We have to keep that in mind or we will continue to second guess ourselves.

Dr. Fields commented the Board needs to also be reminded that the Plan is not all-inclusive. There are many other things the staff has to continue to provide the districts, while at the same time implementing this Strategic Plan. This first Plan is a starting point and from time to time phases will have to be adjusted. There is no five-year plan that goes without adjustment.

<p><b><u>Motion</u></b></p>	<p>Dr. Dunn offered that there is nervousness on the part of staff, too, as far how they will be able to do one more thing. It is part of management's responsibility to help staff determine priorities, or how to do things differently so that we can get these things done. He stressed that if there isn't a Strategic Plan, some of these things may never get done.</p> <p><b>Dr. Vinni Hall moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary &amp; Secondary Education and authorizes its submission to the General Assembly on or before September 14, 2005, as required by PA 93-1036. Mr. Ed Geppert seconded the motion.</b></p> <p>Dr. Ward took this time to comment that he was struck by the fact that the Board started this process quite some time ago, but at the very first meeting every topic visited was part of how we were organizing and envisioning how this process was going to go. The first meeting was very significant for all of the Board members, because we all felt strongly that a five-year strategic plan needed to be a living document, be assessed at certain intervals, and be flexible enough to allow a change in course. We were sensitive toward accomplishing what we were being charged to accomplish, but without taking away from what has to be done at this agency. In that first discussion we limited ourselves to three goals. Dr. Ward indicated that he really feels that this plan reflects this Board and this Agency's commitment to building relationships with the many human resources that currently exist out there that can play a vital role in the success of Enhancing Literacy, Improving Educator Quality for All Children and Expanding Data-Informed School Management and Support Practices. The use of phasing in this process is also a reflection of that this Board truly wanted to ensure the plan is manageable for school districts. That first meeting was a key meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Ward asked for a roll call vote on the motion. <b>The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</b></p> <p>On behalf of Chairman Jesse Ruiz, Dr. Ward commented that he wanted to thank all the members of the Board for the amount of work each individual put into this process; as well as a huge thanks to Superintendent Dunn and his staff who really brought the expertise on the operational side of how this gets done. He particularly wanted to thank Becky Watts for her staffing the hearings and the detailed notes that she kept which were a tremendous help to the Board in responding to suggestions and concerns that were heard throughout the process.</p> <p>Vice Chairman Ward announced that the agenda had been completed and asked if there was a motion to adjourn.</p>
<p><b>4. Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Ms. Joyce Karon moved that the State Board of Education meeting be adjourned. Dr. David Fields seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>An audio compact disc of the meeting is available by contacting the ISBE Board Services Division at 217/557-6626.</b></p>

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Vinni Hall  
Board Secretary

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Mr. Jesse Ruiz  
Chairman