

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois

AGENDA AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
January 18-19, 2006

NOTE: Staff presentations and detailed Board discussion typically take place during Committee meetings one month prior to State Board action in the plenary session.

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

- 10:00 a.m. Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole**
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 5 9
- Noon Governor's State of the State Address**
Illinois State Capitol
- 2:30 p.m. Governmental Relations Committee**
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 5 9
- 2:30 p.m. Education Policy Planning Committee**
Board Conference Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6394 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 7 2
- * 4:30 p.m. Finance & Audit Committee of the Whole**
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 5 9

* The meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.

Thursday, January 19, 2006

- 8:00 a.m. Board Operations Committee**
Board Conference Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 6 9
- 9:00 a.m. ISBE Plenary Session**
Board Room, 4th Floor, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 6 9

NOTE: Chairman Ruiz will call for a break in the Board Plenary Session on Thursday at which time the Board will go into closed session over lunch.

All State Board of Education meetings listed on this agenda will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the date prior to the meeting. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of Education, Phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 17-782-1900; Fax: 217-785-3972.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Room, 4th Floor, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois
Thursday, January 19, 2006
9:00 a.m.

Public Conference Call Number: 1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation #: 1 3 5 9 4 5 6 9
The Plenary Session will also be audio broadcast via the Internet.

NOTE: Staff presentations and detailed Board discussion typically take place during Committee meetings one month prior to State Board action in the plenary session.

Plenary Business Meeting

A. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

B. Public Participation

C. Approval of Minutes

1. December 15, 2005 (*pp. 3-20*)

D. Announcements and Reports

1. Superintendent's Announcements
2. Chairman's Report
3. Committee Reports
4. Members' Reports

E. Superintendent's Report

* Consent Agenda

All action consideration items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and vote. Any board member who wishes separate discussion on any item listed on the consent agenda may remove that item from the consent agenda, in which event, the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

Action Considerations

- *1. Rules for Initial Review
 - a. Part 226 (Special Education) (*pp. 21-23*)
- *2. Rules for Adoption
 - a. Part 25 (Certification) (*pp. 24-67*)
 - b. Part 235 (Preschool Educational & Coordinated Model Preschool Educational Programs) (*pp. 68-97*)
- *3. Approval of Cumulative Waiver Report (*pp. 98-120*)
- *4. Approval of WIDA Spanish Language Arts Standards (*pp. 121-137*)
5. FY07 Budget Recommendation (*p. 138*) (*additional materials in Finance & Audit packet beginning on p. 51*)
6. Determination of Approval of Harrisburg Community Unit S.D. # 3 Financial Plan (*pp. 139-154*)
7. School District Reorganization Legislative Initiative (*p. 155*) (*additional materials in Governmental Relations packet, pp. 18-98*)
8. ISBE 2001 Policy for Physical Development and Health (*p. 156*) (*additional materials in Governmental Relations packet, pp. 9-17*)
9. Release of Closed Session Minutes (as needed)

Information Items

1. Monthly Informational Reports
 - a. Monthly Status Report on Rulemaking (*pp. 157-162*)
 - b. SBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports (*pp. 163-177*)

F. Adjourn

Illinois State Board of Education Meeting
MINUTES
 January 19, 2006
 100 North First Street
 Springfield, Illinois

<p>ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Jean Ladage, Assistant to the Board, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Dr. Randy Dunn, State Superintendent of Education, was also in attendance.</p> <p>The Board members, Dr. Dunn, and anyone who wished to join them, faced the American flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz announced that the Board meeting was being audio-cast live over the Internet.</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary Dr. Andrea Brown Dr. Dean Clark Dr. David Fields Mr. Edward Geppert, Jr. Ms. Brenda Holmes Ms. Joyce Karon</p> <p><u>Members Absent:</u> None</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz stated that there are copies of the Board's proposed budget on the back table for public review and that the recommendations will be addressed by the Board and voted on later in today's meeting. Chairman Ruiz welcomed comments on the proposed budget.</p>
<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p>	<p>Ms. Suzanne Woods represented Ms. Therese Devine, Chair of the Illinois State Advisory Council (ISAC) on the Education of Children with Disabilities who was unable to attend the Board meeting. Ms. Woods stated that ISAC is required by state and federal law to advise the State Board of Education on special education policy issues, specifically, rulemaking. Ms. Woods stated that the revisions to Part 226 Special Education rules are substantial. Unfortunately, it appears that the rules, as proposed, are even more dramatically altered than the reauthorization of IDEA would require. Ms. Woods stated that the ISAC Committee met on January 10th to do a cursory review of the proposed rules and provide suggestions to ISBE staff for changes in language, agreement about matters included, and criticism of the format. Arising from that meeting, ISAC took several actions which Ms. Wood presented to the Board in her public comment handout. Ms. Wood commented that ISAC wants the State Board to know that though the rules include some worthwhile and exciting changes that they wholeheartedly support, the format of the draft proposed rules is terribly confusing and burdensome and they need to be simplified. Ms. Wood thanked the Board for their time.</p> <p>Dr. Fran Karanovich, Superintendent of Macomb Community Unit School District #185 and a member of Western Area Career System #265 Board of Control, was accompanied by Ms. Emily Platt, a teacher from Macomb</p>

High School, **Dr. Steve Breckon**, Superintendent of Hamilton Community Consolidated School District #328, a former industrial education teacher and member of Western Area Career System #265 Board of Control, and **Mr. Mark Twomey**, Assistant Principal of Macomb Senior High School. Dr. Karanovich spoke on Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) an innovative, state of the art, high tech initiative that originated in Arkansas. EAST allows high school students to work in teams to solve real problems in their schools and communities. The EAST Initiative is funded through partnerships with tech-related businesses throughout our nation. It has created a foundation that provides intense professional development, technical support, software and hardware at about 10 cents on the dollar to educators committed to helping students learn in teams using leading technology found in today's work environment. EAST requires that the teacher, who will become the class facilitator must commit to 21 days of professional development the first year. She also noted that EAST meets some of the goals of the ISBE Strategic Plan. Dr. Karanovich asked that the Board support the EAST Initiative for the high school students in Western Illinois.

Ms. Emily Platt talked about her visit to the Arkansas school where the EAST lab program originated and the high levels of pride and success she witnessed from the students while there. Ms. Platt commented about how excited and proud the students were to tell them about their EAST projects and how the program has affected their careers and educational paths. She feels that the EAST program will give her students another place to excel, and is equally excited to see how it will prepare her non-college bound students to be successful in the work force, or to open possible career paths that they hadn't considered before this exposure.

Mr. Mark Twomey stated that as Principal of Macomb High School he must take full responsibility for preparing the students who graduate through their doors to face the workforce of the 21st century. Mr. Twomey stated that he feels no other subject matter or classroom accomplishes that task more effectively than an EAST Lab. EAST works because it inspires the students to reach into areas of unfamiliar territory and to conquer the challenges they find there. Mr. Twomey stated that a trend study done by Work Force Investment Group shows that our educated work force is leaving west central Illinois and businesses are not relocating there due to the lack of workforce readiness. EAST will give the students in small rural schools of the area an opportunity to become skilled in areas of global interest, increase our ability to develop intellectual capital and help develop partnerships among our schools, communities and businesses. Mr. Twomey thanked the Board for their time.

Dr. Steve Breckon stated that he was here today to represent Western Area Career Center #265. The system serves 4,392 students in 4 counties, the largest being Canton High School with 804 students and the smallest being Historia High School with 96 students. The EAST program is designed to serve the schools on a regional basis. Mr. Breckon stated that EAST is a step into the future. It is an investment in productive citizens through an environment of problem solving, team orientation, and learning to work successfully with the technology of the emerging industries. The skills developed by EAST students are needed in Illinois, the USA, and literally around the world. Mr. Breckon asked for the Board's support in getting the EAST Program started in Western Illinois.

Dr. Fran Karanovich closed by asking the Board to support the EAST Lab

Initiative by putting the money necessary in the ISBE annual budget. Ms. Kranovich thanked the Board for their time.

Ms. Nicki Rosenbaum, retired Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools and Co-Chair of Induction for the 21st Century Educator was accompanied by **Ms. Vicki Hensley**, Assistant Regional Superintendent for Schools in Kankakee – Iroquois Counties and also a Co-Chair of the Induction for the 21st Century Educator. Ms. Hensley stated that the Induction for the 21st Century Educator initiative has been funded and supported by ISBE and that they were here to give the Board an update on the initiative. The initiative has nine days of training; three days of educational leader training that is approved by the Illinois Administrator Academy and six days of mentor training for local district mentors. Every superintendent and administrator in the state has received the Induction for the 21st Century Educator packet, so that they know that this training is consistent and available. The formative assessment part of the initiative allows a new teacher with their mentor to do a self assessment, by reviewing the eleven professional teaching standards. Ms. Hensley commented that few states offer this in their programs and are very proud of fact that Illinois does. They have over 55 trainers for the educational leadership program and 155 coaches that train the local district mentors across the state. Illinois school districts are spending over \$244 million dollars to replace teachers that leave the education field. Ms. Hensley closed by quoting Dr. Dunn from a January 11, 2006 Chicago Sun Times article “Strong steady support in the first few years of teaching helps new teachers grow into skilled instructors who remain committed to the profession. We would be much better off if we invested in mentoring induction support to give new teachers the skills they need to succeed and we know how to do this.” Ms. Hensley commented that they are very proud to be a part of this initiative and thanked the Board for their time.

Dr. Andrea Brown commented that the Induction for the 21st Century Educator is not only aligned with the standards but also with Charlotte Danielson’s work that is used by colleges in their student teaching. Dr. Brown stated that this rubric is very much an application level and sustaining level to any type of training.

Mr. Daryl Morrison, Illinois Education Association (IEA), spoke on the upcoming proposed rules on Highly Qualified. Mr. Morrison commented that IEA has been working with ISBE workgroups and the Certification Board on the proposed rules and that he has been informed by state affiliates that there are no federal government approved multi subject HOUSSE in any other states. Mr. Morrison stated that IEA is looking at an initiative that would make sure that their national association takes the steps to secure that the federal government is listening to the states on the multi subject HOUSSE for Special Education and sixth grade elementary. Mr. Morrison also commented that he is aware that Part 226 proposed rules are up for public comment for the next six months and that IEA would like to continue to work collaboratively with ISBE to make sure that IEA members have representation in the proposed rules. Mr. Morrison stated that he has spoken with Dr. Koch and that that Dr. Koch assures him that of that. Mr. Morrison thanked the Board.

Ms. Kathlene Shank represented the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE), which is an organization that is part of the Council for Exceptional Children with over a 1,000 members. Ms. Shank stated that IAASE cannot support the addendum to Part 25 that adds an

exclusion for private school teachers. Ms. Shank commented that in special education, public moneys follow individuals with disabilities into private settings that are served by private school teachers. IAASE has strongly asserted at the federal level and commented on IDEA 2004 that this cannot happen. Private school teachers must be subject to the same requirements that public school teachers are, and particularly in special education. Ms. Shank also stated that ISBE needs to pass Section 25, Appendix D and that it should be considered a living document, not a static document that would be considered unchangeable. It is very important that Illinois continue to strive as IEA said for multiple subject HOUSSE. IDEA 2004 in its language provides that special educators may meet in multiple subject HOUSSE and the congressional record clearly states that it is Congress' intent that there is a multiple subject HOUSSE for special educators. The record even states that the reason they not be asked to meet individual HOUSSE for each subject, is because it would be to onerous and would further contribute to shortages of teachers in special education. IDEA 2004 provides for a multiple subject HOUSSE and the Congressional Record states that intent. It is very important that we in Illinois continue to be a leader in education and strive to put forth a multiple subject HOUSSE that will work. IAASE believes that US Department of Education staff understands NCLB, but we do not believe they understand IDEA 2004 rules and regulations that will be out in Fall 2007. IAASE feels that this is very important. Ms. Shank thanked and applauded Superintendent Dunn and staff for their remarks and their intent to look at the general curricula test more closely and to strive for a multiple subject HOUSSE. Ms. Shank stated that IAASE stands ready to continually be involved in the process, and to offer their expertise and knowledge base along with teachers and parents with children with disabilities in Illinois. Ms. Shank thanked the Board for their time.

Ms. Kathlene Shank also represented Eastern Illinois University as Chair of the Special Education Department. Eastern Illinois University believes that it is very important that we continue to work on a multiple subject HOUSSE and that we go back and look at all those standards that our personnel preparation programs in Illinois met when they prepared special education teachers. Professional preparation for special education is the only major that requires general curricular standards be tested on. Special education teachers are also taking more tests, paying for more tests, and demonstrating their content knowledge across more test than any other majors in the state of Illinois. These things need to be recognized and when we move forward we need to make sure that what we change and pass today is better for children with disabilities. One of the concepts that we need to keep in mind is that general education requirements for the elementary teachers should be the same as for special education teachers in every approved program in the State of Illinois. Yet, in this document today, you are saying that special education teachers have to take another test; the elementary and middle grade test when they are in fact meeting the same general education requirements as elementary majors. Ms. Shank thanked the Board for their time.

Ms. Julie Adrianopoli from the Illinois Arts Alliance and the Project Director for the *Illinois Creates* arts education initiative spoke on how grateful these two groups are for the \$2 million appropriation in last year's budget for arts education and foreign languages. She also acknowledged their gratefulness for the State Board position that was posted in October for Arts Education and Foreign Languages. However, Ms. Adrianopoli commented that they are concerned that as of January 19, 2006, there has been no

	<p>grant program announced for the \$2 million appropriation. The \$2 million dollar appropriation was very symbolic and if distributed appropriately can help school districts begin to build stronger arts programs that would help prevent further erosion of arts education in Illinois public schools. Ms Adrianopoli stated that research shows that 90% of the principals and superintendents believe that the arts are an essential part of a quality education. Yet, they are always the first to be cut when there is financial crisis in a school. Arts education is not a required subject in Illinois. The School Code only requires that school districts make available instruction in the arts but it does not require that the arts are taught to all students. The Illinois Arts Alliance and the Illinois Creates Coalition, which includes over 200 organizations and thousands of individuals, urge the Governor, the Board and the General Assembly to seriously consider increasing the appropriation for the arts to \$5 million dollars this year, which would be a \$3 million dollar increase. With this money schools can prevent the cuts that are already happening and begin to build and integrate arts into the school curriculum at elementary, middle and high school levels. Ms. Adrianopoli also urged the Board to place someone in the arts position at the State Board. The position has been vacant for almost two years and there needs to be a qualified person in the position, so that we can work together with the state, schools and school districts to implement the fine arts learning standards, and to make arts education strong and thriving again in Illinois public schools. Ms. Adrianopoli thanked the Board.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz commented that it is not the Illinois State Board of Education that cuts funding to arts education in the schools it is the decision of the local district.</p> <p>Mr. Stuart Edwards represented Illinois Computing Educators and is a recently retired classroom and media specialist teacher from Argo Community High School District #217. Mr. Edwards stated that he has over thirty years experience in public education where most of his role was to build technology infrastructure under the leadership and financial direction of this Board. Mr. Edwards commented that there was beginning to be a very effective technology infrastructure and that he is now concerned that the interest in technology has changed and that the funding for technology has plummeted over the years. Mr. Edwards stated that he was heartened as he noticed on the funding addendum today that there is funding for technology because the infrastructure needs maintenance. Mr. Edwards commented that school administrators as well as boards of education throughout the state look to the Board for leadership and direction when spending their funding on the items that are most important to their district, so he ask that the Board to please remember technology and technology education. Mr. Edwards also invited the Board members to attend Tech 2006 at the Capitol Rotunda on February 16, 2006.</p>
<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p>	<p>Dr. Vinni Hall moved that the State Board of Education minutes be approved for the meeting held on December 15, 2005. Ed Geppert seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p>
<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:</p> <p>Superintendent's Announcements</p>	<p>Superintendent Dunn thanked Fran Karanovich, Superintendent Steve Breckon and the others and stated that he appreciates their hard work and passion to take on this effort for the students in the Macomb School District. Dr. Dunn also noted that Dr. Karanovich had just completed her year as IASA Superintendent of the Year.</p> <p>Superintendent Dunn then acknowledged Vicki Hinsley and Nicki</p>

Rosenbaum for all the work they do across the state with Induction and Mentoring. Dr. Dunn noted that his weekly message to the field included information on events and initiatives on Induction and Mentoring and to look forward to more upcoming information.

Dr. Dunn commented that if the Rules Committee of the Whole sees the opportunity to go back and review multi subject HOUSSE and the notion of how we do highly qualified in this state, we will do so. Superintendent Dunn stated that he agrees with Ms. Kathlene Shank from IAASE that he does not want this to be a static document and if we see the opportunity for flexibility we will partner with a number of groups to review multi subject HOUSSE and that we appreciate IEA's offer from Daryl Morrison to work with us.

Superintendent Dunn commented that he wanted Julie Adrianopoli, who spoke in support of Arts Education, to know that ISBE is working very hard to get the agency arts position filled and to get the arts funding out to the school districts and that it would be happening soon.

Superintendent Dunn stated that Lt. Governor Pat Quinn has the responsibility of doing a Service Evaluation Survey on the State Board of Education and the Regional Offices of Education and that he would be sharing the results of the survey in written form with the Board. Dr. Dunn did point out a few pieces of information from the survey for the public record.

- The Illinois State Board of Education overall rating in 2005 was 65.6% Satisfactory, 20.9% Excellent compared to the previous year our excellent ratings have jumped a little over 7%. The movement from 2004 to 2005 reflects a significant change.
- The survey reported that ISBE's best remarks were in communications where they were rated more than 90% satisfactory or excellent.
- Regional Offices of Education overall service was 88.6% satisfactory and above. ISBE was 86.5 % satisfactory and above, and we increased the excellence score.
- ISBE was up 5% to 6% in Program Leadership from 2005 to 2004.

Superintendent Dunn commented that we still have work to do but that the survey suggests that we are achieving what staff has intended to accomplish across the agency and to keep up the good work.

Dr. Dunn introduced Ms. Judy Erwin, Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education and a former Legislator. Ms. Erwin stated that she was glad to be here today and delighted to be the new Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education. Ms. Erwin stated that on behalf of Board Chairman Jim Kaplan and the Board, she want to convey their interest to work and develop collaboratively a P-20 integrated system in the State of Illinois so that students and individuals have a seamless path to their goals. Ms. Erwin commented that many of the causes of the Board of Higher Education and those of the Illinois State Board of Education are the same; such as improving academic programs, mentoring and indication and improving the quality of teacher education programs. Ms. Erwin feels that the two agencies need to be much more integrated, and she looks forward to more meetings and working together with our agency senior staff. Integrating not only ISBE and BHE but ICCB, ISAC and other education

	<p>silos would give our agencies a better ability to establish data integration for more accurate student information to our Boards, the legislature and the Governor. Director Erwin also commented that she and Superintendent Dunn have talked about reinvigorating the Joint Education Committee to implement a P-16 Plan and the possibility of placing an ad hoc board member to each other's boards. Ms. Erwin thanked Dr. Dunn and the Board and welcomed any suggestions from ISBE that might help students and individuals access education.</p>
<p>Chairman's Report</p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz commented that on Jan 9, 2006, he had the opportunity with Superintendent Dunn, Dr. Chris Ward, Becky Watts and Kay Henderson to meet with representatives of Univision Television. Univision Television is the number one news casting station in Chicago and they would like to do a news segment every quarter on education issues. Univision is asking us to assist them in setting the agenda for what the focus will be in these education segments. Chairman Ruiz stated that the education segments can be seen on Sundays on the 5:00 p.m. news and possibly during a public affairs news show that is viewable on the weekends. Hopefully this will encourage other news stations to highlight the importance of education and its issues.</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Board Operations Committee Dr. Chris Ward reported that he and the following committee members were in attendance: Dr. David Fields, Dr. Vinni Hall, Ms. Joyce Karon, and Chairman Jesse Ruiz. Other members in attendance were Dr. Andrea Brown, Mr. Ed Geppert, and Ms. Brenda Holmes. Dr. Ward commented that the committee discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed nominations for Board recognition and will have recommendations at January meeting; • Discussed emerging issues of increasing high school student performance and schools restructuring; • Reviewed and discussed Board retreat locations. <p>Dr. Ward thanked the staff for the preparation for the Board Operations Committee meeting.</p> <p>Education Policy Planning Committee Dr. Fields reported that he and the following committee members were in attendance: Dr. Andrea Brown, Mr. Ed Geppert, Dr. Vinni Hall, and Ms. Joyce Karon. Dr. David Fields commented that the committee discussed the following topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee approved the minutes for the December 2005 committee meeting; • Committee heard a presentation and request for funding by Janet Milkovich of the Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic; • Becky McCabe and Sam Klug of MetriTech gave a brief overview of the cut scores for ISAT. The proposed cut scores will be presented at the February meeting for Board approval; • Jeff Mays of the Illinois Business Roundtable and Bob Nielson of the Large Unit District Association (LUDA) shared their comments with the Committee on the ISAT Cut Scores.

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Edward Geppert reported that he and the following committee members were in attendance: Dr. Andrea Brown, Ms. Brenda Holmes and Mr. Dean Clark. Mr. Geppert reported that the committee discussed the following topics:

- Committee approved the minutes for the December 2005 committee meeting;
- Received public participation by five public members seeking assistance under the FY07 budget;
- Received a quarterly update from staff on the FY04 A-133 Statewide Single Audit & FY04 Annual Audit and Compliance Audit Findings;
- Received a report concerning the Harrisburg Community School District # 3 Financial Plan for School Districts Certified in Financial Difficulty and will presented to the Board in the plenary session for their consideration;
- Received a financial update on the Whithrop Harbour School District and are waiting on the outcome of their upcoming referendum issue;
- Committee discussed recommendations for FY07 Budget and will present these recommendations to the Board at the plenary session.

Mr. Geppert stated that included in the packet today is a copy of the proposed budget. On the first page is a statement of only the increases and not the total budget item for each of these. On the two following pages is a detailed version of the FY06 appropriation, as approved, and the request in percentage and dollar amounts of change. Mr. Geppert stated that he was pleased with all the hard work, from 130 budget hearing presenters who made suggestions to the Board as well and the staff guided by Linda Mitchell and Ronny Wickenhauser, and the full membership of the Board acting as a Committee of the Whole. We were able to come to a resolution on submitting a budget that would increase General State Aid in excess of 6% and move forward many important programs. Mr. Geppert commented that all Board members realize that the funds we have suggested today are nowhere near adequate for the needs of Illinois public education but we are thankful that Governor Blagojevich is leaning forward to maintain increases in public education.

Chairman Ruiz thanked Mr. Geppert for leading the effort to have the budget hearings across the state and formulate a budget.

Governmental Relations Committee

Ms. Brenda Holmes reported that she and the following committee members were in attendance: Mr. Dean Clark, Mr. Jesse Ruiz & Dr. Chris Ward. Ms. Holmes reported that the members of the committee discussed the following topics:

- The Committee will present the Cumulative Waiver Report to the Board for adoption;
- Discussed and removed language from the 2001 Policy Statement for Physical Development & Health that no longer applies and will

	<p>continue to work on a the policy for a solution in the future months;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a presentation on school district reorganization which is a legislative initiative. Ms. Holmes asked that the Board review the information (power point presentation) and support the concept of streamlining reorganization; • Received a legislative update from Nicole Wills; • Received presentations from the public on reorganization proposal; • Dave Bennett from the Illinois Press Association spoke to the Committee on his opposition to the provision that would remove the requirement for the Statement of Affairs to be published in the newspaper; • Agnes Nunn, Vice President for Business Affairs of Springfield School District #186 spoke in support of the Less Red Tape provision concerning the State of Affairs; • Received an update on State Board proposals and can expect to receive more information in the future; • Discussed the ISBE legislative breakfast.
<p>Members' Reports</p>	<p>Chairman Jesse Ruiz commented that on behalf the Board he wanted to thank Superintendent Dunn and all of ISBE staff for their efforts to make the outcome of the Service Evaluation Survey a success, and more importantly, effectively servicing the students of the State of Illinois.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz also thanked General Counsel Jon Furr and his staff for all their work on the school consolidation project.</p> <p>Dr. Chris Ward commented that he had the opportunity to attend the NCTAF-MetLife Foundation Education Policy Forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Superintendent Dunn also attended the forum as a featured speaker.</p> <p>Dr. Ward stated that he spoke to a large group of Rotarians from Will County and also met and discussed education issues with about 20 Superintendents from the southwest suburban area.</p> <p>Ms. Joyce Karon stated that she had the opportunity to participate along with First Lady, Patty Blagojevich and Miss Illinois, in a Child Lures Program at Algonquin Middle School in Des Plaines.</p> <p>Ms. Brenda Holmes commented that she spoke at the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools Meeting at the Northfield Center in Springfield. Ms. Holmes said that she had several issues that she would like to discuss with the Board relative to the agency's working relationship with the Regional Superintendents.</p> <p>Mr. Dean Clark stated that he will be attending the NASBE Commission on Financial Literacy and Investor Education in Alexandria, Virginia on January 27-28, 2006. Mr. Clark also stated he has been meeting with the LEND Group of DuPage to give them updates on the Board's progress.</p> <p>Mr. Ed Geppert commented that he, Dr. Andrea Brown and Ms. Joyce</p>

	<p>Karon will be attending the Education Trust Tri-State Conference on the Distribution of Teachers on January 26-27, 2006 in Chicago.</p> <p>Dr. Vinni Hall stated that she will be attending the NASBE Study Group on Early Childhood in Washington, D.C. on January 20-21, 2006 and the Illinois Early Learning Council on January 23, 2006 in Chicago. Dr. Hall also stated that she will be the keynote speaker for the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children and will attend the Early Learning Council Meeting where she will participate on a research project with the University of Illinois at Chicago that will deal with traditionally trained teachers and alternative route to certification.</p>
<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p> <p>Consent Agenda Agenda Items and Motions</p> <p>Rules for Initial Review</p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz commented that all items listed with an asterisk (*) on the agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and vote. Any board members who wish separate discussion on any item listed on the consent agenda may remove that item from the consent agenda, in which event, the item will be considered in its normal sequence.</p> <p>Superintendent Dunn gave the Board members a brief summary on the items on the consent agenda.</p> <p>General Counsel Jon Furr reported to the Board regarding the background on the rules for initial review and gave a general update on the status of rules streamlining. Mr. Furr noted that on Part 226 (Special Education) there will be an extended public comment period and the rules will not be brought back to the Board for adoption until the federal rules are finalized. Mr. Furr stated that during the public comment period staff would continue to work with outside groups that have an interest in these rules.</p> <p>Robin Lisboa, Division Administrator for English Language Learning, asked that the Board approve the recommendation for the WIDA Spanish Language Arts Standards. Ms. Lisboa stated that the WIDA standards will allow us to have uniform expectations, provide benchmarks for learning Spanish, and provide a framework for curriculum articulation across grade levels and instruction assessment. Ms. Lisboa closed by saying that if the Board approves the WIDA Spanish Language Arts Standards today, Illinois will be the first state nationally to adopt such standards.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked for a motion regarding the consent agenda items.</p> <p>Motion: Dr. Chris Ward moved that the State Board of Education hereby approve the consent agenda items with the exceptions of items E.1.a. Part 226 (Special Education) and E.2.a. Part 25 (Certification) which will be considered as separate items for discussion. Ms. Joyce Karon seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. Dr. Vinni Hall was not present for the vote.</p> <p>Mr. Ed Geppert commented that he supports the Part 25 Certification Rules for Adoption and is very satisfied with the way the staff is moving forward on the rules and the timing of the process. He commented that staff has always been good to rectify any concerns he has, but he is still very concerned over nonpublic school teachers not meeting the same qualification requirements as public school teachers. Mr. Geppert stated that public dollars require quality service to be rendered for them, and giving</p>

	<p>lower standards to nonpublic educators does not service our children or education in Illinois. Mr. Geppert urges the staff while doing their reviews to make this a central issue to be resolved.</p> <p>Dr. Vinni Hall commented that the federal government has not yet completed its rules for Part 226 and that she hopes that we are not sending a mixed message to them. Dr. Hall also commented that because this information will be used by so many people she would like it to be a more user friendly document. Dr. Hall stated that she is happy to hear there will be six months of review before it is brought back to the Board for final adoption. Dr. Hall stated that she does not want Part 25 (Certification) adopted, that it is not fair to special educators and that she was glad to hear from Dr. Kathlene Shank who iterated that the training many special educators receive goes beyond what many regular educators get. Dr. Hall said that she is pushing strongly for ISBE to take a leadership role in developing a multi subject HOUSSE and she would be glad to work with anyone necessary to get this done.</p> <p>The following motions were approved by action taken in the consent agenda motion:</p>
<p>Rules for Adoption</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rules for Adoption</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Part 235 (Preschool Educational & Coordinated Model Preschool Educational Program</p> <p>The State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Early Childhood Block Grant (23 Illinois Administrative Code 235), and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Preschool Educational and Coordinated Model Preschool Educational Programs (23 Illinois Administrative Code 235),</p> <p>Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical or nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>Notice of the adopted rules will be submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules to initiate JCAR's review. When that process is complete, the adopted rules will be filed with the Secretary of State and disseminated as appropriate.</p>
<p>Approval of 2006 Cumulative Waiver Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Approval of 2006 Cumulative Waiver Report</u></p> <p>The State Board of Education hereby authorizes submission of a legislative proposal to amend Section 24-2 of the School Code to allow the use of legally mandated school holidays honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Casimir Pulaski, Christopher Columbus and all veterans of foreign wars for student attendance and other uses as described in this report, provided appropriate instruction is given to students, certain notification requirements are met, and the board's exclusive collective bargaining agent (s) has agreed in writing to work on such day(s); and</p> <p>The State Board of Education hereby recommends that the General Assembly consider whether to increase the maximum amount that districts can change for Driver's Education.</p>

<p>Approval of WIDA Spanish Language Arts Standard</p>	<p><u>Next Steps</u> Staff will prepare the final report for transmittal to the General Assembly before February 1, 2006. Staff will prepare the statistics contained in the 2006 Cumulative Waiver Report and in Attachment A and forward them to Representative Eddy shortly after the conclusion of the January 2006 Board meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Approval of WIDA Spanish Language Arts Standard</u></p> <p>The State Board hereby approves the adoption of the WIDA Spanish Language Arts Standards for Illinois.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> Upon receipt of Board approval, staff will distribute standards in English and Spanish to school districts, ROEs and schools of education and will offer workshops for teachers and school administrators on the new standards.</p> <p>END OF CONSENT AGENDA</p>
<p>Rules for Initial Review</p> <p>Part 226 (Special Education)</p>	<p>General Counsel Jon Furr explained that staff realizes that there is a challenge in front of them, and they intend to meet it. We are aware of the need for appropriate guidance documents for parents and educators that explain these rules, as well as federal requirements, state law, federal law and other ISBE guidance documents. We do understand the need for guidance and we will continue to work on this in the coming months.</p> <p><u>Motion</u> Dr. David Fields moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes the solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Special Education (23 Illinois Administrative Code 226), including publication of the proposed amendments in the <u>Illinois Register</u>.</p> <p>Mr. Dean Clark seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote; Dr. Vinni Hall and Ms. Brenda Holmes both cast "No" votes.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> With the Board's authorization, staff will submit the proposed amendments to the Administrative Code Division for publication in the <u>Illinois Register</u> to elicit public comment. Additional means such as the Superintendent's message and agency website will be used to inform interested parties of the opportunity to comment on the proposed rulemaking.</p>
<p>Rules for Initial Review</p> <p>Part 25 Certification</p>	<p><u>Motion</u> Mr. Ed Geppert moved that Part 25 (Certification) be accepted, minus the page 42 revisions distributed today. Ms. Joyce Karon seconded the motion for the purposes of discussion.</p> <p>Dr. Chris Koch stated that it is his understanding that removing the Suggested Revisions to Clarify Inapplicability of Appendix D to Nonpublic School Teachers wouldn't necessarily mean that it applies to them; it just means that we would be silent on the private school issue in the rules. Dr. Koch stated that they anticipate that this issue will be clarified in federal IDEA regulations, so there will likely be further guidance.</p> <p>Mr. Furr commented that the reason for this language change was to clarify</p>

	<p>the rules' applicability to teachers in nonpublic special education facilities and that, after reviewing the federal statutory language and regulations, we feel comfortable stating that they do not apply. Counsel Furr stated that the intention to clarify this language was because of the concerns that were expressed from a number of people to the Board, and we did not see any harm in being explicit on this clarification in the rules, given that our legal interpretation would be that they do not in fact apply to these teachers.</p> <p>Dr. Hall stated that she has concerns that a private school that works with students with severe or profound disabilities may have to have multi subject HOUSSE. Dr. Hall is afraid that we may limit the effectiveness of these schools for the students that really need them.</p> <p>Mr. Dean Clark asked what would happen if we don't pass this rule today?</p> <p>Dr. Ginger Reynolds responded that the field is waiting for definitive information and that the rules are part of the four things that the state has to prove in order to receive extra flexibility from USDE. The agency's ability to secure this flexibility would be jeopardized if the rules are delayed. Dr. Reynolds also let the Board know that by not voting they would be making a statement about HOUSSE and to be aware of what that statement might project.</p> <p>Mr. Geppert stated that he has no problem with the legal opinion but he does have a problem with putting this statement into an Illinois rule.</p> <p>Dean Clark commented that the timeline issue on this is very important and that it outweighs his other concern with the rules.</p> <p>Mr. Ed Geppert repeated the motion that is on the floor and called for a vote. Mr. Geppert moved that Part 25 (Certification) be accepted, minus the page 42 revisions distributed today. Ms. Joyce Karon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote. Dr. Vinni Hall cast a "No" vote.</p>
<p>FY 07 Budget Recommendations</p>	<p>Superintendent Dunn gave a brief update on the FY 07 budget materials the Board had made determinations on acting as a Finance & Audit Committee of the Whole. He then asked Linda Mitchell or Ronny Wichenhauser if they had any further comments.</p> <p>Ronny Wichenhauser, Division Administrator for Budget & Financial Management, stated that he made one adjustment to the General Funds budget and it was for the Illinois Math and Science Academy who declined their funds because they are no longer in operation. The line was zeroed out for next year and that it was \$250,000.00. Ronny Wickenhauser reminded the Board that last night the committee only discussed the General Funds budget, but before them is an all funds budget. He also made mention to the Board some changes in the other funds and the federal funds budget. The other funds changes are for personal services and related matters. There is a change in the Teacher Certification Fund because last year, as part of the budget, the entire Teacher Certification division was moved to be funded under the Teacher Certification Fund. That brought down the balance and because that was a one-time occurrence, we had to shift some of those people back to General Funds. The only issue with federal funds that you should note is that this ensures that we have enough appropriations authority to spend all of our federal</p>

	<p>funding.</p> <p>Motion Mr. Ed Geppert moved that the State Board of Education adopt the FY07 budget recommendation as presented. Mr. Geppert further moved that the Board authorize staff to convey the FY07 budget recommendation to the Governor and to the General Assembly for their consideration. Mr. Dean Clark seconded the motion and it passed with the following roll call vote:</p> <table data-bbox="643 478 932 751"> <tr><td>Ed Geppert</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Vinni Hall</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Brenda Holmes</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Joyce Karon</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Chris Ward</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Jesse Ruiz</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Andrea Brown</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Dean Clark</td><td>Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>Dave Fields</td><td>Yes</td></tr> </table> <p>Ms. Joyce Karon acknowledged and thanked Mr. Geppert for all the work that he did keeping the Board members updated on the budget.</p> <p>The Board Members thanked Linda Mitchell, Ronny Wickenhauser and all the staff involved that helped with budget preparation for FY07.</p>	Ed Geppert	Yes	Vinni Hall	Yes	Brenda Holmes	Yes	Joyce Karon	Yes	Chris Ward	Yes	Jesse Ruiz	Yes	Andrea Brown	Yes	Dean Clark	Yes	Dave Fields	Yes
Ed Geppert	Yes																		
Vinni Hall	Yes																		
Brenda Holmes	Yes																		
Joyce Karon	Yes																		
Chris Ward	Yes																		
Jesse Ruiz	Yes																		
Andrea Brown	Yes																		
Dean Clark	Yes																		
Dave Fields	Yes																		
<p>Determination of Approval of Harrisburg Community Unit School District #3 Financial Plan</p>	<p>Mr. Ed Bradley, Superintendent of Harrisburg Community Unit School District # 3, was accompanied by Ms. Suzette Harris, Director of Curriculum. Debbie Vespa, Division Administrator for School Business and Support Services commended Superintendent Bradley for his diligent work on this Financial Plan. Ms. Vespa also wished Ms. Harris the best as Superintendent Bradley steps down from his duties this year and Ms. Harris assumes his position. Ms. Vespa commended them both for all their hard work to put the Harrisburg Financial Plan together.</p> <p>Superintendent Bradley noted to the Board that the following basic assumptions concerning revenue and expenditures might have an affect on his financial plan. The district has made a \$150.00 increase in General State Aid per student based on the conversation he had with Debbie Vespa and agency staffer, Carl Holman. This increase will be a major component. Superintendent Bradley also stated that after reviewing previous state aid claims they are projecting to lose about 18 students, however their last two years of kindergarten have shown significant increases. Superintendent Bradley noted that the financial plan reflects increases in staff salaries and benefits and that those will be determined by union contract that may be out of his control. He indicated that they hope to have an annual growth in their EAV which over the past few years has reflected a steady constant growth. He also stated that all retiring teachers are being replaced with teachers with Bachelor' degrees or fewer years of experience which is a considerable savings to the district because less is paid into retirement. Superintendent Bradley commented that the school district is very aware of what needs to be done to recover from this financial situation and they are committed to the plan in hopes that in three years the Harrisburg School District will be out of financial debt and on the way to financial recovery. Superintendent Bradley commented that a lot of the financial problem in Harrisburg was created by the 20/20 retirement incentive. The district spent \$1.2 million</p>																		

	<p>dollars on the incentive and hopefully that won't happen again now that new legislation has put a 6% cap on salaries. Superintendent Bradley thanked and applauded the Board for taking the effort to make sure Harrisburg School District takes care of their financial problems.</p> <p>Motion Mr. Ed Geppert moved that the Illinois State Board of Education hereby approves the financial plan submitted by Harrisburg Community Unit School District # 3. David Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz thanked Supt Ed Bradley for coming to several of the Board meetings and wished him well on his upcoming retirement.</p>																				
<p>School District Reorganization Legislative Initiative</p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Brenda Holmes, Chair of the Governmental Relations Committee, for a recommendation on the School District Reorganization Legislative Initiative.</p> <p>Motion Ms. Brenda Holmes moved that the Illinois State Board of Education support the concept of streamlining and updating the current status on reorganization of public school districts. Mr. Ed Geppert seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p>																				
<p>ISBE 2001 Policy for Physical Development & Health</p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Brenda Holmes, Chair of the Governmental Relations Committee, for a recommendation on the ISBE 2001 Policy for Physical Development & Health.</p> <p>Ms. Brenda Holmes moved that the Illinois State Board of Education support the continuation of the current 2001 Policy for Physical Development & Health Development, as revised for a period of six months, at which time we will have further discussion. Dr. David Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote</p>																				
<p>Closed Session</p>	<p>Dr. Vinni Hall moved that the Board enter into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section c 1 for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of an employee;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section c 11 for the purpose of considering pending or probable litigation against or affecting the Board; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section c 21 for the purpose of discussing minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act.</p> <p>Dr. Vinni Hall further moved that the Board may invite anyone they wish to have included in this closed session. Joyce Karon seconded the motion and it was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p> <table data-bbox="592 1675 1388 1831" style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Vinni Hall</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Andrea Brown</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brenda Holmes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Dean Clark</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joyce Karon</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Dave Fields</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Ward</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Ed Geppert</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jesse Ruiz</td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Vinni Hall	Yes	Andrea Brown	Yes	Brenda Holmes	Yes	Dean Clark	Yes	Joyce Karon	Yes	Dave Fields	Yes	Chris Ward	Yes	Ed Geppert	Yes	Jesse Ruiz	Yes		
Vinni Hall	Yes	Andrea Brown	Yes																		
Brenda Holmes	Yes	Dean Clark	Yes																		
Joyce Karon	Yes	Dave Fields	Yes																		
Chris Ward	Yes	Ed Geppert	Yes																		
Jesse Ruiz	Yes																				

Open Meeting Recessed	The open meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m. and the Board went into closed session at 11:15 p.m.
Reconvened	The open meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m. from closed session.
Release of Closed Session Minutes	Dr. Dave Fields move that according to Section 2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act, the State Board of Education has reviewed the minutes of its closed sessions from March through December, 2005, and hereby releases the minutes of August 11, 2005, for public inspection. Dr. Fields further moved that the State Board of Education hereby certifies that the need for confidentiality still exists for the remainder of the closed session minutes. Mr. Dean Clark seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.
Information Items	Chairman Ruiz announced that listings under "Information Items" do not require a presentation during the Board meeting. However, Chairman Ruiz asked that the Board members please read the Monthly Status Report on Rulemaking that can be found on pages 157-162 of the Board packet and the State Board of Education Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Report on pages 163-177.
Motion for Adjournment	Ms. Joyce Karon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Vinni Hall seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary

Mr. Jesse Ruiz
Chairman

Finance & Audit Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

4:30 p.m.

(This meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.)

Board Room, 4th Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)

Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 5 9

AGENDA

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of December Finance & Audit Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-3**)
3. Quarterly Update on FY04 A-133 Statewide Single Audit and FY04 Annual Financial and Compliance Audit Findings (**pp. 4-46**)
(*Deb Scheiter*)
- *4. Harrisburg Community Unit S.D. # 3 Plan for School Districts Certified as in Financial Difficulty
(*Linda Mitchell, Deb Vespa*) (**Plenary Packet pp. 139-154**)
- *5. Winthrop Harbour Financial Update (*Linda Mitchell, Deb Vespa*) (**pp. 47-50**)
- *6. FY07 Budget Recommendation (*Linda Mitchell, Ronny Wickenhauser*) (**pp. 51-60**)
7. Additional Items
8. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

January 18, 2006
Board Room
Springfield, Illinois

Committee Members Present

Ed Geppert, Chair
Dr. Andrea Brown
Dean Clark
Brenda Holmes

Other Board Members Present

Dr. David Fields
Dr. Vinni Hall
Joyce Karon
Jesse Ruiz
Dr. Chris Ward

Staff Present

Randy Dunn
Linda Riley Mitchell
Ronny Wickenhauser
Deb Vespa
Deb Scheiter
Toni Waggoner

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Geppert announced that five people wished to address the Committee.

- Linda Spencer spoke on gifted funding & intellectually-challenged students.
- Nancy Herzog from the University of Illinois spoke on gifted education.
- Representative Kathleen Ryg & Lydia Taylor of the Illinois After School Alliance spoke on the funding for after-school programs.
- Tom Bookler of Illinois Computing Educators spoke on the funding for technology in schools.

2. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Geppert asked if there were any changes or corrections to the December meeting minutes. There were no objections & the minutes were placed on file.

3. QUARTERLY UPDATE OF FY04 A133 STATEWIDE & FY04 ANNUAL FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

Deb Scheiter stated that the FY05 audit will not be out until mid-to-late spring. She reported that ISBE appeared before the Legislative Audit Commission. Ms. Scheiter discussed a Reading First finding that they were able to resolve after locating a former employee.

Linda Riley Mitchell reported that Human Resources is revising the personnel evaluation forms and they are making progress in assuring that they are turned in more promptly..

4. UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR PLANS FROM SCHOOL DISTRICTS CERTIFIED AS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

Ms. Mitchell stated that Harrisburg has submitted their financial plan. The plan is being reviewed, but it appears that it is complete and they have developed a plan that projects their situation is turning. Deb Vespa noted that the agency will have to continue to monitor Harrisburg.

Ms. Vespa noted that the Divernon report would be delayed until the February meeting. Ms. Vespa stated that they would be meeting with the Superintendent to discuss their plan.

Ms. Mitchell discussed the Winthrop Harbour situation and suggested that the agency review them after March when they have a tax referendum. Ms. Vespa noted that their long-term debt is at its maximum.

5. FY07 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Geppert thanked everyone including the 130 people who came to testify in the seven hearings and four committee meetings since October. He also thanked the staff.

Ms. Mitchell began by providing some general background on the budget process. She noted that there is going to be more available this year than last at the state due to higher tax revenues as a result of economic growth. She reported that the total requested in the initial budget recommendation last year was \$65 million. Ms. Mitchell stated that when the budget process concluded, increases in the budget totaled about \$310 million. She pointed out that GSA at a \$160 dollar increase in FY07 would cost about \$280 million. Ms. Mitchell also indicated that the budget for the strategic plan is \$4.4 million.

Chairman Geppert indicated that the Board would talk about increases and decreases rather than each component of the budget. He noted that in FY06 there were targeted initiatives totaling \$25 million. In terms of the total amount, the total of increase is about \$300 million to \$350 million. He also noted that as of December the headcount of the agency was 496. In the proposal for personnel in the agency, the total increase recommended is \$1.464 million. He noted that the agency has had more assessments this year than last. Mr. Wickenhauser explained that the agency spent Title VI funding for assessments. Most of the money is in contractual services.

Chairman Geppert began the discussion by proposing the following increases in the major categories of the budget:

- GSA and Mandated Categoricals \$296.2 million
- Strategic Plan \$4.4 million
- Early Childhood \$30.0 million
- Personal Services and Related \$1.464 million

Chairman Geppert also proposed the following items for increases in targeted initiatives:

- Agricultural Education \$500,000
- Alternative Learning Regional Safe Schools \$500,000
- Bilingual Education \$2,735,000
- Career & Technical Education \$500,000
- Blind & Dyslexic \$350,000
- Consolidation Studies \$150,000
- Materials Center \$1,000,000
- Parental Participation Project \$100,000
- ROE Services Line \$1,000,000
- Technology for Success \$2,000,000
- Grow Your Own Teachers \$ 1,500,000
- Truancy Alternative Optional Education \$500,000
- Phillip J. Rock Center \$165,000
- Community and Residential Services Authority \$52,300

Discussion ensued on Chairman Geppert's proposal. Brenda Holmes questioned the funding for Blind and Dyslexic and for the Parental Participation Pilot Project. Ms. Holmes made a motion that all items except those two be voted on and approved. The motion carried. A separate vote was taken on funding for the Blind and Dyslexic and for the Parental Participation Pilot Project. It was noted by Nicole Wills and Ronny Wickenhauser that the Parental Participation Pilot Project was a legislative mandate that should be funded. The motion on funding both items carried. Mr. Wickenhauser asked for clarification on whether CRSA was included in Ms. Holmes original motion and she indicated that she intended for it to be, but inadvertently left it out. A motion was made to fund an increase for CRSA and it passed. Jesse Ruiz asked for \$100,000 to be added for Autism. An additional \$1,000,000 was added for Arts and Foreign Language. Both items were voted on and it was agreed that they would be added to the budget.

Mr. Wickenhauser was directed to complete the schedule of these additions to the budget and to prepare it for distribution at the plenary Board meeting the next day.

6. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. It passed unanimously.

Governmental Relations Committee

Wednesday, January 18, 2006
2:30 p.m.

Board Room, 4th Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)
Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 5 9

AGENDA

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of the December Governmental Relations Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-8**)
- *3. Discuss Cumulative Waiver Report (*Winnie Tuthill*) (**Plenary Packet pp. 98-120**)
- *4. Discuss 2001 Policy Statement regarding Physical Development and Health. (**pp. 9-17**)
(*Winnie Tuthill*)
- *5. Discuss School District Reorganization Legislative Initiative (**pp. 18-98**)
(*Jonathan Furr, Deb Vespa, Lou Ferratier, Michelle Heninger, Renee Vilatte*)
6. Discuss ISBE Legislative Proposals & General Assembly Legislative Update (**p. 99**)
(*Mark Kolaz, Nicole Wills, Josh Jacobs*)
7. Discuss State Board Legislative Breakfast (*Mark Kolaz, Nicole Wills, Josh Jacobs*) (**p. 100**)
8. Additional Items

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

January 18, 2005
Springfield, Illinois

Committee Members Present

Brenda Holmes, Chair
Chris Ward
Jesse Ruiz
Dean Clark

Other Board Members

N/A

Staff Present

Randy Dunn
Mark Kolaz
Nicole Wills
Josh Jacobs
Jon Furr
Winnie Tuthill
Chris Koch
Darren Reisberg

Committee Members Absent

Others Present

Darrell Morrison, IEA
Laura Arterburn - IFT
Peg Agnos, LEND/SCOPE
Dave Bennet, IPA
Jean Ladage
Robin Miller, LUDA
Elliot Regenstein, Governor's Office
Agnes Nunn, Springfield School District 186

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Chair stated that she intended to have public participation take place during the appropriate agenda item. (The public participation testimony can be found under each agenda item).

2. Information Item

The committee notes were made apart of the record. Chris Ward moved we adopt the minutes from the December committee and Jesse Ruiz seconded the motion.

3. CUMULATIVE WAIVER REPORT

Winnie Tuthill gave a brief overview of the Annual Cumulative Waiver report. The report made two legislative recommendations to the General Assembly regarding school holidays and raising the driver's education fee. With regards to the driver's education fee recommendation, Winnie stated that in the new batch of waivers received, there was an application request to raise the fee limit to \$700.00. Winnie also stated that staff will communicate the information Representative Roger Eddy requested on waivers that are continuously approved and not approved by the General Assembly.

Motion to forward the report as written to the full board by Dean Clark and seconded by Jesse Ruiz.

4. 2001 POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

Brenda Holmes stated that the Board has discussed the physical education waiver policy of 2001 because the General Assembly had made changes to the assessment section of the School Code so as to no longer include physical education and health in the ISAT. On December 10th, Elliot Regenstein from the Governor's office called a meeting to discuss physical education waivers and possible suggestions to revise the policy in order to not increase the number of waivers but provide flexibility for districts.

Since a consensus suggestion was not reached at the meeting, Brenda Holmes suggested that the Board hold the discussion of this policy in abeyance for six months to give the groups attending the meeting an opportunity to forward suggestions for the policy. She suggested that the groups had six months to present the Board with a proposal and the Board would take up this initiative again in June. The committee unanimously hold off on this topic until June.

5. SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

Public Participation: Guy Banicki, Superintendent of Catlin CUSD 45; Jeff Fauver, Board President of Catlin CUSD 45, Mark Janesky and Ron Metzger of Jamaica CUSD 12 and Kevin Forney from Oakwood Unit School District 76 presented before the committee regarding the Reorganization/Consolidation legislation. Board President, Jeff Fauver stated that the group would like cooperative high schools to be included as a part of the new reorganization legislation. Cooperative high schools are allowed under state statute and eligible for construction funds. They believe that cooperative high schools will save on education cost for grades 9-12, that high school education in rural school districts will improve and assist more voluntary consolidation. The group is also in favor of cooperative high schools because not all high

schools are willing to give up local control. These three districts looked at a consolidation in 1991 and it failed 3:1. They believe that if a vote for consolidation were to be held today that it would also fail. They are also in favor of cooperative high schools having the same incentives as other types of reorganizations. There are two House bills right now that would allow cooperative high schools to receive incentive monies (HB 4235 & HB 4365). Additionally, the group believes that allowing a cooperative high school, will help lead to a consolidation later on down the road. Most often consolidations happen when districts are in dire straits. In small towns, schools help form community identity. Under the cooperative high school, grade schools can be maintained, but high school students can be better prepared for a global market place.

Jon Furr stated that even though cooperative cooperative high schools are not in Article 11E. It is still included in Article 10. Not all reorganization types are included in Article 11Es the ones that aren't included, which are deactivations, cooperative high schools and the boundary changes, will still remain an option for local school districts. Additionally, incentives are not addressed or changed in this legislation.

Public Participation: Elliot Regenstein from the Governor's Office stated that the Governor's philosophy is in line with keeping the options open for cooperative high schools. From the Governor's Office standpoint, they have worked with a number of constituencies to make sure the legislation has been looked at and reviewed. He stated that the Governor's Office commitment is to work with any groups with concerns.

Public Participation: Peg Agnos, representing LEND and SCOPE, stated that some of her practitioners have had concerns regarding tax rates and financial aspects of the legislation. The districts she represents are predominately dual districts under tax caps. They still have some questions around authorized rates (actual as opposed to not) and how will assessors look at new rate structures, especially in communities where there may be multiple rates.

Jon Furr, Lou Ferratier, Michelle Heninger, Renee Vilatte and Deb Vespa explained that the goal of the reorganization/consolidation legislation is to add greater flexibility to the consolidation/reorganization process, as well as make it more efficient. All options that are presented in the language are voluntary and none of the new reorganization options will raise taxes without a separate referendum. The final goal for this legislation was to consolidate most the articles for consolidations/reorganizations into one article. The Governor's Commission on Revising the School Code had made this recommendation in 2003.

Jon Furr stated that Illinois is second only to Texas in number of school districts. Two hundred school districts in Illinois are single-school districts. According to the Chicago Tribune, these figures equate to one district for every 2,334 students. This figure makes Illinois the second lowest ratio of 14 states with school populations over 1 million (New Jersey is the only state of the fourteen with a smaller ratio of students per district (1:2,287); Florida has the highest ratio (1:37,709)). Additionally, consolidations and reorganizations can reduce administrative costs, increase the amount of curriculum choices and encourage more curricular alignment. This will also help as the No Child Left Behind Act advances and we are faced with district restructuring and corrective action.

In current law, there are provisions for deactivations, cooperative high schools and dissolutions or detachments. The legislative proposal does not eliminate any of the current options. It only seeks to provide additional options. Jon Furr also explained small unit district conversions (Article 7A), multi-district conversions (Article 11D), unit District formation (Article 11A) and combined school districts (Article 11B).

The reorganization/consolidation proposal creates a new Article in the School Code and provides more options for voluntary reorganizations by eliminating the minimum EAV and population requirements for the formation of unit districts and it authorizes elementary districts within the same high school district to consolidation even if they are not contiguous. The proposal provides for a transition to unit district tax rates. Under current law, elementary and high school districts must go through the referendum process and can exceed the maximum rate. However, unit districts cannot exceed the maximum rate. This proposal would create a stair-step mechanism to reduce the maximum tax levy gradually over time. In the third year, any rate that exceeds the maximum rate for unit districts would be decreased by 10% until it reaches the maximum rate for unit districts.

An optional elementary unit district could also be created. This would be a unit district formed from a high school district and any elementary district that has approved consolidation. This provision would provide that within five years of the new unit district being formed, voters of a district that chose not to consolidate at the time can vote to join the unit district.

Dean Clark asked what would happen if a district with the lowest tax rate decided not to participate in the consolidation at first but later down the road opted in. Jon Furr stated that when voters go out to the polls on this issue they must have a sense of where their tax rates might end up. When they go to vote, the lowest and highest tax rates of all those districts voting would be used to determine the ultimate tax rate. This would continue to be the case even if the district with the lowest tax rate opts not to join in the newly consolidated district. This must be the case otherwise there would be too many potential tax rates and the provisions wouldn't be workable.

A combined high school unit district is also an option and would allow a high school district to combine with a unit district. Both districts must be contiguous. Feeder elementary districts do not have to join, but can later opt-in through approval of the voters within that elementary district.

Overall, this legislation combines the separate statutes and articles that deal with reorganization and standardizes the requirements for resident signatures or board approval of petitions for all types of reorganizations. The hearing requirements and review and approval by the ROE are the same for all types of reorganizations. This legislation also addresses PTELL requirements and makes requirements consistent for all types of reorganizations. Finally, this proposal does not eliminate or alter in any way existing reorganization options not included in Article 11E (cooperative high school, deactivation, dissolution or annexation). It also does not eliminate or make substantial changes to existing reorganization options included within Article 11E.

Dean Clark asked if there is a provision in the legislation for two districts from different counties, one under tax caps and one not. Elliot Regenstein stated that in the initial vote; no one's tax rate can increase without a separate referendum. It is likely where you have feeder elementary districts that all have similar tax rates and this will not be a big issue. There will be some places where if a tax rate is out of line with another one tax rate it will create an issue. This is a state framework in which local districts operate. The Governor's Office would encourage and are going to advocate for this year increasing the amount of money in the budget for districts to study the possibility of reorganization.

Lou Ferratier responded to Brenda Holmes' question as to why it was necessary to mention PTELL in the School Code when before this time it had only been in the Tax Code. Lou stated that they needed the definitive link to the specific language to avoid challenges. Brenda Holmes also asked what the rationalization was for not keeping the separate articles. Deb Vespa explained that it helps streamline the School Code. School districts have various questions regarding the different options and having these provisions in the same Section makes the information easier to understand.

The Chair suggested reaching out to the ROE's, the bond houses and county clerks with the proposed legislation.

Board members concurred to support the concept moving forward.

6. ISBE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Public Participation: Dave Bennett, Executive Director for the Illinois Press Association presented on the Less Red Tape Initiative. The IPA is concerned about the provision that would remove the requirement for the Statement of Affairs to be published in the newspaper. He stated that newspapers throughout Illinois spend millions of millions of dollars a year writing stories about school programs, sports and school boards. Newspapers are not involved in covering schools just for money. The law requires the government to be accountable to the general public in terms of how their tax dollars are spent. Historically this information has been published in newspapers by making it available to the local citizens. Whether citizens read them these specific sections of the paper are up to them, but both state and local government have to disclose information about spending. It is important philosophically for all schools to maintain this independent process whereby they keep the citizens informed on how their money is spent. Brenda Holmes asked Mr. Bennet if the IPA would support that the provision with the information available on the State Board website. Mr. Bennet stated that the reason a third party vehicle has been

used is that there isn't a connection between the publisher of the information and the published information. This purpose is to prevent any tampering with numbers.

Public Participation: Agnes Nunn from Springfield School District 186 presented in favor of the Less Red Tape provision concerning the Statement of Affairs. She stated that last year Springfield District 186 spent \$5,200 to publish the Statement of Affairs. In 1999 the cost per line to publish the Statement of Affairs was \$.75 per line but in 2005 it was \$.89 cents per line. The Chair asked Ms. Nun to respond to Mr. Bennet's remarks that the newspapers are an independent provider of the information. Ms. Nun stated that she didn't agree with his statement because the newspaper is not generating or checking the information. It is simply publishing what the district has given it.

Nicole Wills stated that the General Assembly had upcoming deadlines for bill introductions. The Senate deadline for introduction of bill is Friday, January 20th and the House deadline is the following Friday, January 27th.

Regarding ISBE's legislative proposals, Senator Shadid will be sponsoring the reorganization bill (SB 2795) and Senator del Valle will sponsor the due process initiative (SB 2796). The Less Red Tape initiative does not have a sponsor at the time of the meeting and the information will be sent out to Board members later on. Out of the other legislative proposals from ISBE staff, the school breakfast bill was filed by Senator del Valle as SB SB2336.

Other legislation introduced by members of the General Assembly that should be particularly noted include:

- HB 4401 and HB 4784 would allow counselors and psychologists respectively that have achieved National Board certification to receive a Master's certificate and be eligible for the \$3,000 stipend.
- Representative Kosel introduce HB 4310 that would require school board members to go through certain training and take an oath of office, but the legislation was held in committee to try to work out an amendment with concerned parties.
- HB 1577 would create a voucher program for the City of Chicago that would be administered by the State Board.
- HB 4325 would allow cooperative high schools to receive the same supplementary state aid incentives that all new districts receive.
- HB 4399, introduced by Representative Churchill, would require a district to spend at least 65% of the total operating expenditures on direct classroom expenditures. This is an initiative that is sweeping across the country, however, there are some questions as to what the definition of direct classroom expenditures
- HB 4421 would expand the definition of serious safety hazards (which would open these areas for reimbursement to transportation costs) to include gangs and violent activity. The IL Department of Transportation would still determine safety hazards for vehicular traffic, but the State Board would be required to determine what constitutes serious safety hazards for gang and violent activity.
- Representative McCarthy has a bill that would remove the requirement for the Statement of Affairs to be published in the local newspaper (HB 4614)
- HB 4740 makes changes to the Grown Your Own Teacher Act. SB 2235 is the twin bill.
- HB 4343 would require all districts with grades 6 through 8 to provide instruction in parenting education.
- SB 2167 from Senator Althoff amends the State Mandates Act so that when the General Assembly passes legislation that would impact school districts and contains a provision that says that the legislation is not reimbursable by the State, then the bill must be passed by a vote of three-fifths of the General Assembly.
- SB 2346 removes the requirement that schools must hold a hearing for waivers on a separate day.

7. STATE BOARD LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Board members decided to hold the Legislative Breakfast in a conference room at the Stratton Building so that it would be convenient for legislators to attend.

Nicole Wills presented several catering options for the Committee's consideration and a list of invitees from previous years. A discussion ensued regarding how the Breakfast would be paid for. Superintendent Dunn stated that he would do some checking and work on the issue from his end.

It was decided at the end of the committee that Nicole Wills and the Chair of the committee would work together to plan the details of the breakfast and dialogue with the Board through the process.

8. **ADJOURN:** The Governmental Relations Committee meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Board Room, 4th Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*);
Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 5 9

AGENDA

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of the December Ad Hoc Rules Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-5**)
- *3. Rules for Initial Review
 - a. Part 226 (Special Education) (*Darren Reisberg, Beth Hanselman*) (**Plenary pp. 21-23**)
- *4. Rules for Adoption
 - a. Part 25 (Certification) (*Dennis Williams, Gail Lieberman*) (**Plenary pp. 24-67**)
 - b. Part 235 (Preschool Educational and Coordinated Model Preschool Educational Programs) (*Kay Henderson, Cynthia Zumwalt*) (**Plenary pp. 68-97**)
5. Informational Update: Less Red Tape (*Shelley Helton*) (**pp. 6-20**)
6. Additional Items
7. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, January 18, 2006
10:00 a.m.
State Board Room-4th Floor, Springfield, IL

Committee Members Present

Jesse Ruiz
Andrea Brown
Dean Clark
Ed Geppert
Vinni Hall
Brenda Holmes
Joyce Karon
David Fields

Absent

Chris Ward (for a portion of the meeting)

Others

Randy Dunn
Jonathan Furr
Sally Vogl
Darren Reisberg
Chris Koch
Beth Hanselman
Dennis Williams
Gail Lieberman
Bob Bigham

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The following persons provided public participation:

- A. Susy Woods, ISAC, Chesterfield, IL.** Ms. Wood's public participation related to the proposed rule changes to Part 226 (Special Education). Ms. Woods said that the rules as proposed are even more dramatically altered than the reauthorization of IDEA would require. The ISAC Executive Committee met on January 10 and took several actions which Ms. Woods was asked to communicate to ISBE. 1) It is necessary to include the language from the federal rules, rather than referring to such rule only by statutory reference. The draft proposed state rules are not user friendly for parents, teacher or administrators; 2) a) ISAC is in agreement with and thoroughly supports transition planning in Illinois beginning when the child is 14 ½ ; b) the use of the eligibility category "developmental delay" should be allowed for children up to age 7; and c) IEP's should retain the use of short-term objectives; 3) ISAC also recommends the proposed changes regarding graduation include a clarification that a) an eligible student may continue receiving services through age 21-defined as "through the day before the student's 22nd birthday"; b) if a student completes the minimum state graduation requirements such student shall receive a regular diploma upon exiting school; and c) an IEP team may elect to defer conferring such diploma until the student exits school and instead confer a certificate of completion allowing the student to continue to receive services as specified in his or her IEP.
- B. Penny Richards, Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois, Palos Hills, IL** Ms. Richard's public participation related to the proposed changes to Part 226 (Special Education). Ms. Richards has been a surrogate parent for nine years and referenced the importance of user friendly language for parents. Ms. Richards asked the Board not to approve proposed changes at this time. Ms. Richards is concerned about the language and format and would like to work together before sending the changes out for public comment. Ms. Richards would like ISAC or ISBE to look into an ad hoc committee to look into the Responsiveness to Intervention (RTI) issue.

Board Member Dr. Vinni Hall questioned Dr. Koch about his recommendations to make this document educator/parent friendly.

Dr. Koch explained the process to develop the proposed Part 226 rules has been inclusive. The parent manual would be updated to reflect changes in federal law and the adoption of the Part 226 rules.

Board Member Dr. David Fields commented on the various groups around the state who have concerns. Dr. Koch indicated staff would work to address these concerns during the first notice period, and staff would not recommend bringing the rules back to the Board for adoption until the federal regulations have been finalized.

Board Member Brenda Holmes asked whether emergency rules could be adopted upon the finalization of the federal regulations. Mr. Furr indicated the agency uses emergency rulemaking very sparingly, and the very fact the Board is considering a process to avoid the need for emergency rules indicates these rules should go through the normal rulemaking process.

Dr. Hall asked if discussion with interested persons could occur during the public comment period. Mr. Furr indicated that public discussion is occurring while the Part 305 School Food Service rules are on first notice, and that is what is envisioned for the Part 226 rules. All comments and discussions are being properly documented.

- C. Tim Thomas, Special Education Administrator, Northern Suburb Special Education District (NSSED).** Mr. Thomas's public participation related to the proposed amendments to Part 226 (Special Education). Mr. Thomas asked that the Board reconsider the proposed rules on case load and class size. Mr. Thomas stated the rules needed additional flexibility in this area.
- D. Judy Hackett, Asst. Supt. in Indian Prairie School District, Naperville:** Ms. Hackett's public participation related to the proposed changes to Part 226 (Special Education). Ms. Hackett noted that ISBE needs to streamline the process and avoid redundancy. Ms. Hackett expressed support for an extended public comment period involving collaboration with interested stakeholders.
- E. Dr. Barbara DeLurie, Jr. High School Principal at the Illinois School for the Deaf.** Ms. DeLurie's public participation related to the proposed amendments to Part 226 (Special Education). Ms. DeLurie suggested to the Board that ISBE needs to meet with her staff and parents to get their feedback on the proposed rules.

2. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER AD HOC RULES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The December Ad Hoc Rules Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. DISCUSSION OF RULES FOR ADOPTION

PART 235 (Preschool Educational and Coordinated Model Preschool /Educational Programs)

Kay Henderson, Cynthia Zumwalt and Shelley Helton came to the Board table.

Mr. Furr explained that the Part 235 rules were placed on first notice at the October meeting. ISBE received 44 items of public comment. In general, staff is not making any recommendations for changes in response to comments on class size, screening criteria, program content and percentages for administrative costs. Staff is recommending changes in relation to staffing qualifications, information required on facilities and DCFS licensure requirements.

Ms. Henderson explained that the School Code requires the classroom teacher to be certified with an early childhood teaching certificate. We received a number of comments on the qualifications of the teaching assistant who is present in the classroom. The ratio in the classroom is one adult to ten children. Ms. Henderson said the first adult is the certified teacher. If the program serves more than ten children, then the second adult assisting would be a teacher aide. Ms. Henderson indicated staff is recommending to impose qualifications for teacher aides consistent with the requirements for state-approved paraprofessionals. Teacher aides would have until 2014 to meet the new requirements.

Mr. Furr described two other changes based on public comment. First, the RFP will require additional information on facilities used in program delivery. Second, the rules will be amended to clarify that only entities required to be licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to operate a child care facility must hold such licensure in order to be eligible to apply for an Early Childhood Block Grant. For example, the DCFS licensure requirements do not apply to public schools.

Board Member Dr. Andrea Brown asked whether early childhood providers are relying on the Early Learning Standards. Ms. Henderson stated ISBE is involved with extensive training to ensure providers are using the Early Learning Standards. Board Member Brenda Holmes congratulated Ms. Henderson and her staff for their hard work with the Early Childhood Block Grant program.

PART 226
(Special Education)

Darren Reisberg, Dr. Koch, Beth Hanselman and Sally Vogl came to the Board table.

Dr. Koch first commented on the description of Part 226 as an all-inclusive "Cookbook." Dr. Koch indicated that Part 226 has never contained all the requirements pertaining to special education. Dr. Koch highlighted components of the rules for changes. In general, the primary strategy in revising Part 226 has been to reference the proposed federal regulations instead of parroting the language and to reserve substantive text in Part 226 only for those circumstances where we are making a conscious decision to either provide more detail or offer more protection to students with disabilities than federal law provides. A few examples of areas where the rules provide more protections than federal law include transition plans, short-term measurable objectives and case load/class size.

Dr. Hall asked about the sanctions for not meeting the proposed class size requirements. Dr. Koch responded ISBE would work with districts to correct the problem, although districts would ultimately have to come into compliance with the regulations. Beth Hanselman commented staff would provide technical assistance to help districts comply with the requirements.

Chairman Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole reconvened at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Chris Ward joined for the afternoon session.

Dr. Koch continued with the discussion of the Part 226 rules. ISAC commended ISBE for involving them with the rules prior to the first notice period. This is the first time they had been involved with the process prior to first notice.

Mr. Reisberg commented on the desire for a "cookbook" version of the Part 226 rules. It is a regulatory document at the State level, which must also be used alongside the School Code, federal statute, federal regulations and ISBE and federal guidance. It has not been, and cannot be, a stand-alone document containing all requirements related to special education.

Ms. Vogl commented on the timeline for the rulemaking process. Once the State Board places rules on first notice, it has one year in which the rules must go into effect. Otherwise the rulemaking is lost. Ms. Vogl stated that if the rules came back to the Board for adoption in November, we would have sufficient time for the second notice period. Ms. Vogl stated that if the State Board waits until the federal regulations are finalized, Illinois rules would not be in place until approximately five months after the date of the board meeting placing the rules on first notice.

Board Member Joyce Karon asked what would happen if the federal regulations are not issued in a timely fashion. Ms. Vogl responded by saying there are several options. The Board could go ahead and adopt rules in whatever version they are ready at that time. That would trigger JCAR's review. If there was an intervening event at the federal level that required changes in the rules before JCAR's review was complete, JCAR would allow us to make the necessary changes.

Mr. Furr asked whether all of Part 226 could be adopted via emergency rules. Ms. Vogl did not recommend this approach. Mr. Furr commented that the rules could always be amended after adoption to address any changes to the proposed federal regulations.

Ms. Vogl suggested a public comment period of six months rather than the norm of 45 days. The Board would then have the opportunity to adopt the rules in September and submit the rules to JCAR in October.

Dr. Koch commented on Section 226.800. This part was left alone due to its Corey H implications. Ms. Vogl recommended that the Board not open up Sections 226.800, 226.810 and 226.820 due to Corey H implications. Dr. Koch indicated the rules would be shared with the Corey H. parties for comment.

PART 25
(Certification)

Gail Lieberman explained that the purpose of this set of rulemaking is to adopt Highly Qualified requirements pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, including the option of obtaining Highly Qualified status through HOUSSE (Highly Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation). The requirements only pertain to teachers in the classroom who teach core academic subjects. The rules need to be adopted to assist districts with their staffing planning for the 2006-07 school year and to meet the deadline of June 2006 for federal reporting. Also, finalizing these requirements may help the State in obtaining a one-year extension from USDE for requiring all teachers in core academic subjects to be Highly Qualified.

Ms. Vogl stated that the most important and prevalent outstanding issue was the lack of ability to provide a multi-subject HOUSSE. A multi-subject HOUSSE would be particularly beneficial for special education and middle grade teachers who are responsible for multiple subjects. Ms. Vogl stated that ISBE's initial proposal was not acceptable to USDE, and USDE has not approved any state's attempt to develop a multi-subject HOUSSE. We have been unable to reconcile this position with other statements of permission in federal law concerning a multi-subject HOUSSE.

Changes have been made to the number of points provided for special education teachers obtaining NBPTS certification to provide consistency with the points allowed for general education teachers receiving NBTS certification. Staff would continue to review opportunities for obtaining Highly Qualified status and/or HOUSSE points, and would bring back further amendments to the Board as warranted.

Ms. Vogl commented on the effect on teachers in non-public special education facilities. Staff do not believe that the highly qualified requirements apply to those teachers and have provided language to clarify this point. After discussion, it was agreed that the language related to teachers in non-public special education facilities would not be added to the rules, although staff could communicate this position to the field.

Dr. Hall expressed her appreciation of staff's collaboration with various constituents on the development of the requirements, and her concern for the impact of the Highly Qualified requirements on special education teachers.

Board Member Dean Clark asked whether any other states have developed a multi-subject HOUSSE. Gail Lieberman responded by saying USDE is not aware of any other state with a multi-subject HOUSSE.

Dr. Brown asked how veteran teachers were obtaining professional development to meet the HOUSSE requirements. Dennis Williams stated professional development is increasingly focused on content area to allow teachers to meet the Highly Qualified requirements.

Board Member Ed Geppert commended the staff for communicating to all the stakeholders and providing a detailed analysis. He encouraged staff to aggressively pursue the one-year extension from USDE. Ms. Lieberman indicated staff was diligently working to prepare the extension request, and the finalization of the rules will help with that process.

Board Member Dr. Chris Ward commended staff for developing the requirements given the restrictions of federal guidelines. Additionally, teachers want to know what will be required.

Mr. Williams said if approved, staff will train ROEs, teacher unions and other organizations on the 30th of January. ISBE will work with the teacher unions and ROEs to get the information out as soon as possible to the field. Ms. Lieberman discussed the spreadsheet being sent to teachers.

4. UPDATE ON LESS RED TAPE

Mr. Furr provided a brief update on the Less Red Tape initiative.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Fields made the motion to adjourn. Dr. Ward seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Board Operations Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2006
8:00 a.m.

Board Conference Room, 4th Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)

Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 6 9

AGENDA

- 1 Public Participation
- *2. Discussion Items
 - a. Minutes of the December Board Operations Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-4**)
 - b. Review New Nominations for Resolutions of Recognition (*Chris Ward*) (**pp. 5-22**)
 - c. Emerging Issues Update (*Chris Ward & Ed Geppert*) (**p. 23**)
 - d. Board Retreat Planning (*Joyce Karon*) (**p. 24**)
3. Decision Items
4. Additional Items
5. Adjourn

* At the conclusion of any discussion item in which the committee is ready to make a decision, a discussion item may be immediately moved for a decision.

** Items listed with a double asterisk (**) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.

BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 19, 2006
8:00 a.m.

100 N. First Street, Springfield, Illinois

Committee Members Present

Chris Ward, Chair
David Fields
Vinni Hall
Joyce Karon
Jesse Ruiz

Committee Members Absent

None

Other Board Members

Andrea Brown
Ed Geppert
Brenda Holmes

Staff Present

Randy Dunn
Jean Ladage
Jon Furr
Marsha Moffett
Ginger Reynolds
Becky McCabe
Mark Williams
Dana Kinley

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Chairman Chris Ward asked if there was anyone that wished to speak to the committee for public participation. No one came forward.

2.a. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Vinni Hall moved that the minutes of the Board Operations Committee for the December committee meeting be approved. Dave Fields seconded the motion and it passed with voice vote approval.

2.b. **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Dr. Ward indicated that there are two nominations for Board recognition before the committee today. Tracie Tobin, Culinary Arts Instructor at Wilco Career Center in Romeoville and Jaclyn Keeney, a student at Milton Pope School in Marseilles. Dr. Dave Fields moved that the two nominations be recommended for Board approval at the February Board meeting. Dr. Vinni Hall seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

Dr. Hall mentioned that she will be making a formal presentation to Sharon Coleman at a teacher institute at Corliss High School. Ms. Coleman is very appreciative of this recognition.

2.c. **EMERGING ISSUES**

Increasing High School Student Performance in Literacy & Numeracy

Dr. Ward reviewed that the Board had agreed that the Board would partner their work with that of the agency staff and the education community.

Becky McCabe gave an overview of the preliminary planning for a statewide conference to focus on High Schools. The dates that have been set are June 19th & 20th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Sponsoring organizations will be ISBE, IPA, LUDA, IASA, IASB, IEA, IFT, and North Central Association. Tentative business support may come from Princeton Review, ACT, and State Farm.

Dr. Vinni Hall suggested that the State Board's Student Advisory Council be involved in this study as well.

Highlights of the conference:

- Tentative presenters: Katy Haycock, Richard Elmore, Bill Daggett, Ed Rust
- Breakout sessions
- Panel wrap-up
- Tour of Mitsubishi plant

The intent of the conference is twofold:

1. To provide the board view of high school issues – global and statewide, to create thought-provoking questions which will encourage high school administrators and teachers to consider changes and challenges that need to be addressed in their local situations.
2. To spark interest in workshops to be held throughout the year. The workshops will be set up regionally for teams of high school administrators and teachers. They will be designed to use data from the PSAE to inform and then address the instructional, leadership and system challenges at a more intense and local level. This workshop approach will be based on best practices for a professional development structure.

Dr. Vinni Hall suggested that one of the breakout sessions be on “Best Practices.” Dr. Dave Fields indicated there are two exceptional reports by The Education Trust on successful high schools that are thriving under the most adverse conditions. It would do us all well to read those two reports.

Dr. Andrea Brown indicated that we need to make sure that the RESPROs get into those schools. We have to ask ourselves if we have implemented intervention at the status schools. We, as a State Board, need to make sure that they are aware of the interventions that are available to them. If we don't do that, we are as much to blame as they are.

Dr. Hall suggested that in the meetings, instead of being talked at, the team is given a case model and the team has to come up with solutions. Ms. Brenda Holmes wondered if there might be an opportunity for us to reinforce what sorts of grants/opportunities or assistance is available to them. No matter how many times we mention that there may be one entity that hasn't heard of this particular opportunity.

Superintendent Dunn commented that perhaps the speakers set the stage for the discussion and problem solving that will be carried out in the break-out sessions. Many of us have heard what these experts have been saying, but perhaps we let them set the stage and then work with our teams to apply that information to our case models.

Dr. Dave Fields suggested that there could be an opportunity for looking at this from a systems approach as well. The strength of a high school comes from the elementary and middle schools that feed the students into the high school. When you have an exemplary high school, it is important to look at what is happening before those kids get to there.

Dr. Hall also suggested that if there is going to be some sort of work product distributed at the conference, that we ask for outside input as to what interventions are working across the state, so that we can share that information at this conference. An outreach such as this would promote a buy-in of the importance of this topic.

Dr. Chris Ward indicated that, time permitting, the committee will pick up on this topic again next month. He asked that members focus on the Board perspective and think about what involvement members want to make in this process.

School Restructuring & District Corrective Action

Mr. Ed Geppert commented that Dr. Hall asked Assistant Superintendent Ginger Reynolds to compile a compilation of rules on accountability and restructuring plans. Now that the Finance & Audit Committee has moved past the budget production process, we can figure out where we want to start. Dr. Andrea Brown mentioned that the members realize that schools are already down the road on the restructuring process. Superintendent Dunn indicated that although there is a tentative process given to districts to work from, staff realize that it may not be the most optimal of all plans. Over the next year, the Board and interest groups can give some guidance to staff as to how to move forward.

Dr. Ginger Reynolds suggested a conference call between Mr. Geppert, General Counsel Jon Furr and herself to discuss what has been given to districts and where to go from here. Mr. Geppert indicated that he would like for that call to take place the week of January 23, as he will be out of town following that week.

2.d. BOARD RETREAT PLANNING

Joyce Karon discussed with members some suggestions on locations. Ms. Karon suggested a central Illinois location so that staff involved for one-day could travel back and forth within a day and eliminate overnight expenses and the time expenditure for staff.

Board members agreed that Bloomington would be a convenient location. Joyce Karon and Jean Ladage would secure a site, and would ensure that cell phone service is available.

Board members agreed that they would prefer two good days of work, coming in on Wednesday evening for a dinner together and begin working from 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. on both Thursday and Friday. It was agreed that the retreat would adjourn by 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

It was determined that the dates are tentatively set for August 24-25, 2006 (with Board members arriving the evening of Wednesday, August 23).

Dr. Ward also reminded Board members to review the evaluation forms for any suggestions for revision.

3. DECISION ITEMS

Some decisions have been made during this committee meeting, and they were acted upon during discussion.

4. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Election of Officers

Committee Chair Chris Ward commented that he reviewed SB 3000 regarding election of officers. The law indicates that in February of odd-numbered years the Board is to elect officers. Dr. Ward reminded members that this new Board was appointed in the fall of 2004 and elected officers in October 2004. The next opportunity for an election of officers came around only 4 months later. Dr. Ward just wanted to make members aware that the next opportunity for an election of new officers will not be until February 2007. Board members agreed that this was not a problem.

5. ADJOURN: Dr. Vinni Hall moved that the committee be adjourned. Joyce Karon seconded the motion and the Board Operations Committee meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Education Policy Planning Committee

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

2:30 p.m.

Board Conference Room, 4th Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6394 (*listen only*),
Confirmation # 1 3 5 9 4 5 7 2

AGENDA

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of the December Education Policy Planning Committee Meeting (*pp. 2-4*)
3. ISAT Cut Scores (*Becky McCabe*) (*pp. 5-7*)
4. Additional Items

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE

January 18, 2006

2:30 p.m.

Board Conference Room, 4th Floor
100 North First Street, Springfield, IL

Committee Members Present

Dave Fields, Chair
Andrea Brown
Ed Geppert
Vinni Hall
Joyce Karon

Other Board Members

Others

Supt. Dunn
Ginger Reynolds
Cleo Boswell

Board Members Absent

The Education Policy Planning Committee convened at 3:20 p.m.

1. **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2005 EPPC MEETING:** The Committee approved the minutes for the December 2005 EPPC Meeting.
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Janet Milkovich of *Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic* gave a presentation on the organization's digital materials and how they can train teachers in the effective use of recorded textbooks in the classroom and the organization's request for funding in Fiscal Year 2007.

The Committee also heard discussion and comments/concerns throughout the meeting from Jeff Mays of the Illinois Business Roundtable regarding the ISAT Cut Scores. Mr. Mays' concern is if we are moving away from standards and inserting the national norm test to determine if we are out of line or not and if we are going ahead with this, are we bringing the 67% "meets" down? The result in the change is that more students and more schools will "meet"? (Jennifer Ross of IBRT accompanied Mr. Mays, but she did not speak).

Dr. Bob Nielsen of the Large Unit District Association (LUDA) (along with Robin Miller) was in attendance to share his comments on the ISAT Cut Scores. Dr. Nielsen believes the new ISAT is a significant step forward for the state of Illinois and agrees that students need to meet the standards. He further stated that the 8th grade students suffer loss of accountability and believes we will actually be able to show growth over time for each child. He then added that the changes being proposed will bring a sense of reliability and that LUDA endorses the current proposal and encourages the ISBE to adopt it.

3. **ISAT CUT SCORES (Becky McCabe and Sam Krug (ISBE Staff Members Rense Lange and Megan Forness were also on hand for questions)):** Becky McCabe introduced Sam Krug of Metritech who gave a brief overview through a PowerPoint presentation of a recommendation that has gone through an extensive process for ISAT Cut Scores. Becky stated that they are requesting the proposed cut scores for the ISAT to be approved at the February board meeting.

Sam commented on how the cut scores are the point at which students are considered "meeting" the Illinois standards or not. He stated that in 2006, ISAT will be reported in reading and math in all grades 3 through 8, which this means this will add three more grades to the testing. Dr. Krug further added that the process requires a group of math and reading teachers and administrators to examine the test questions and establish a reasonable place for the "meets" cut score. This was done in 1999 when the ISAT became the state test for grades 3, 5 and 8. Dr. Krug also stated that during the current process, there was information that linked the cut scores to the national percentage, which every "meet" cut score in reading and math was near the 38% except for the 8th grade math, which was at 67%. 8th grade is at a very high standard. In addition, we had to establish cuts for 4th and 6th. Nothing has changed in the reading, those numbers correspond to the same level as in 1999. However, the standards increase each year.

Dr. Krug also added that the State Testing Review Committee met on January 4th to review the process as presented by Dr. Krug. The State Testing Review Committee recommended the adjustment to 8th grade to reflect the 38% and then to accept the cut scores as presented and be reviewed when preliminary data comes back from the ISAT 2006 test.

Student Assessment staff are going to provide more information on this, per Board Member Andrea Brown's request.

Board Member Joyce Karon asked if the SIS has helped in preparing this test. Becky McCabe responded by saying we have close to 700 districts with ID numbers and that the districts are working really hard to be ready.

4. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:** There were no additional items.

ADJOURN: The Educational Policy Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.