

**Education Policy Planning Committee of the Whole**  
**April 15, 2009**  
**1:30 p.m.**

(This meeting will begin immediately following lunch.)

**All open meetings will be audio cast on the Internet at: [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)**

**AGENDA** *(timeframes are estimated for planning purposes)*

1. Roll Call
  2. Board Member Participation by Other Means
  3. Public Participation 1:30 – 1:45 p.m.
  4. Minutes of the March Education Policy Planning Committee Meeting **(pp. 2-3)**
  5. Joint State Stimulus Applications & Opportunities (verbal update) 1:45 – 1:55 p.m.
  - \*6. Common Core Standards *(Superintendent Koch)* 1:55 – 2:20 p.m. **(pp. 4-5)**
  7. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items 2:20 – 2:25 p.m.
  8. Committee Wrap-up *(Superintendent Koch)*
  9. Adjourn
- \* Items listed with an asterisk (\*) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.

**EDUCATION POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
2:00 p.m.  
Springfield, Illinois

**Committee Members Physically Present**

Dr. David Fields, Chair  
Andrea Brown  
Vinni Hall  
Joyce Karon  
Lanita Koster

**Other Board Members Physically Present**

Dean Clark  
Brenda Holmes  
Jesse Ruiz  
Chris Ward

**Members Participation Via Phone Conference**

None

**Board Members Absent**

None

**ISBE Staff**

Superintendent Chris Koch  
Connie Wise

The Education Policy Planning Committee (EPPC) meeting convened at 2:00 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MEANS:** Dr. David Fields stated that all board members were present. Therefore, there was no need for board member participation by any other means.
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Ms. Laura Elizabeth Fay, along with her children, Arielle and Forrest, were present to comment on the proposed renewal of the Prairie Crossing Charter School.
3. **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2009 EPPC MEETING:** Dr. Hall moved to approve the minutes of the February 2009 EPPC meeting and Ms. Koster seconded the motion. The Committee, by voice vote, approved the minutes of the February 2009 EPPC Meeting.
4. **PRAIRIE CROSSING CHARTER RENEWAL (Patrick Murphy, Jo Ann Price):** Board Member Jesse Ruiz suggested and the Committee discussed, that a five-year conditional renewal be granted. Discussion centered around the need for Agency staff to bring a report on Prairie Crossing's progress on the stated conditions back to the State Board annually for its review, so as to ensure the conditions and expectations have been met, and the need for all conditions to be as clear and objective as possible. Dr. Fields stated that this item will move to plenary on Thursday.

Res Vazquez, attorney for the Prairie Crossing Charter School, along with Myron Dagley, Executive Director of Prairie Crossing, were asked to speak, and questioned the need to for the Board to take action with respect to Prairie Crossing an annual basis.

The Committee asked Dr. Koch and General Counsel Reisberg to modify the Board packet motion in accordance with the Committee's discussion and present the revised motion to the Board in Plenary Session the next day.

**5. COMMITTEE AGENDA PLANNING/ADDITIONAL ITEMS (for April):**

- Dr. Vinni Hall requested a study group to focus on polices the agency has pertaining to student safety. NASBE has provided resources to our state on Student Assistance Programs. Dr. Carl Bell and Pauline Lipman of the University of Illinois could provide their expertise on this issue. Board Member Lanita Koster added that we should possibly gather some initial information on what is being done with communities with regard to this issue.
- Board Member Joyce Karon renewed her request for a work study on Quality School Indicators.


**6. COMMITTEE WRAP-UP (Superintendent Koch):**

- Prairie Crossing Charter School Renewal ~ staff will work on language for motion to make sure we are clear and fair with expectations.
- April - Career and Technical Education Work Study
- Potential Work Studies include:
  - School Safety Issues
  - Technical Assistance Programs in the agency
  - Quality School Indicators

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** Dr. Ward moved to adjourn the EPPC meeting and Ms. Karon seconded the motion. The EPPC meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**April 15-16, 2009**

**TO:** Illinois State Board of Education

**FROM:** Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education 

**Agenda Topic:** Commitment to Common Core of State Standards

**Materials:** None

**Contact(s):** Christopher A. Koch

**Purpose of Agenda Item**

On April 17, 2009, I will be attending a meeting to discuss Common Core Standards among states. At some point, Illinois will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU will become the basis for a joint state application under the "Race to the Top" initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

**Relationship to/Implications for the State Board's Strategic Plan**

This initiative supports Strategic Goal 1: Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.

Standards that prepare students for college and careers are essential in today's global economy. Coherence between standards, curriculum, instruction, assessments and college entry expectations is needed.

**Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item**

Board approval to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Background Information**

The Board voted to join the American Diploma Project in June 2008. States involved with ADP over time have identified a common core of standards in Math and English/Language Arts which provide a basis for agreement on what it means for students to be ready for college and career success in these areas.

Competitive funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be made available in July and the Council for Chief State School Officers is convening states in Chicago on April 17 to seek support for a collaborative application. Secretary Duncan has indicated that he would like to see states collaborate on an application of agreed upon common standards and assessments. Common assessments have the potential for significant cost savings. Illinois has had a positive experience with regard to collaborative assessments through the development and use of ACCESS, a standards based, criterion referenced English language

proficiency test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English.

**Superintendent's Recommendation**

The Superintendent recommends the following motion be adopted:

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Board.

**Next Steps**

The Superintendent will keep the Board apprised of the outcome of the April 17 meeting.