



Illinois State Board of Education

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Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Illinois State Board of Education announces emergency meeting for July 21, 2009.

Springfield, Ill. – State Board of Education Chairman Jesse H. Ruiz hereby calls an emergency meeting under the Open Meetings Act for 10 a.m. July 21, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.

This State Board of Education meeting 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: 217-782-1900; Fax: 217-785-3972.

This meeting will be audio cast on the Internet at: www.isbe.net

WHO: Illinois State Board of Education

WHAT: Emergency Meeting

WHEN: 10 00 a.m.
July 21, 2009

WHERE: **Springfield Location:** ISBE Board Room, 4th Floor, 100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

AGENDA

A. Roll Call

1. Consideration of and Possible Actions on Any Requests for Participation in Meeting by Other Means

B. Public Participation

C. FY 10 State Board of Education Budget

D. Adjourn

Illinois State Board of Education Emergency Meeting
July 21, 2009
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois

**ROLL CALL/
PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Marsha Moffett to call the roll. A quorum was present. Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent of Education, was also in attendance.

Members Present:

Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman
Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman
Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary
Dr. Andrea Brown
Dr. David Fields
Ms. Joyce Karon
Ms. Lanita Koster

Members Absent:

None

Chairman Ruiz stated that Illinois State Board of Education is holding this Emergency Board meeting to act upon the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

Jack Wuest from the Alternative Schools Network Re-enrolling Student Program was joined by teachers, **Matt Rodriguez** and **Dennis Chamin**, and students **Ionna Joyce**, **Marvin Seitz**, **Joseph Ruiz** and **Ramon Sanchez**. Mr. Wuest spoke of the effects the loss of funding from \$4 million to \$2 million would have to the Alternative Schools Network programs. The students explained how the Re-Enrolling Student Program has changed their individual lives in a positive manner. Each student asked that the Board continue to fund the Alternative Schools Network Programs. Mr. Wuest thanked the Board for all of their support.

Karen Johnson, Executive Director of the North West Suburban Education Careers Partnership, thanked the Board on behalf of all of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators, current and future students for level funding on Career and Technical Education, and spoke of the maintenance of effort for federal funds. She encouraged the Board to maintain CTE funding as they get to their final budget. A list of Career and Technical Education Educators in attendance at the meeting with Ms. Johnson is as follows:

Jeff Jardee, Director of Career and Technical Education, Township High School #214
Ron Pieper, Director, Indian Valley Vocational Center, Sandwich
Don Smoot, CEO and Director, Three Rivers Education for Employment System, Joliet
Brian Gordon, Director, Peoria Education Region for Employment and Career Training
Chris Clemens, Director, Clinton-Marion-Washington County CTE
Tom Frazier, Director, Bloomington Area Career Center and System Director for McLean-Dewitt Vocational System.

Jennifer Garrison, Superintendent at Sandoval District #501 and a National Board Certified Teacher spoke in support of funding for National Board Certified Teachers. **Ms. Lynn Gaddis** accompanied Ms. Garrison and spoke in support of funding for National Board Certified Teachers and the effects of reduced funding.

Ellen Reeder, Illinois FFA State Reporter, **Adam Merrick**, FFA State Treasurer and **Kerstin Kayzee**, State FFA Secretary asked that the Board continue to invest and support funding for Agricultural Education.

Joanne Dempsey, Director of the Illinois Council for Economic Education/Econ Illinois asked that the Board restore partial funding of \$100,000 to the Council to help them maintain at least a minimal level of programming for schools. Ms. Dempsey stated that state funding plays a crucial role in helping secure private sector funds and even a reduced amount of \$100,000 will help the Council preserve those private dollars.

Cindy Hamlin, Director of the Illinois Virtual School and **Vicki Dewitt**, Director of Area 5 Learning Technology Center, thanked the Board for the support they receive from the Technology for Success line which funds the Illinois Virtual School and the Learning Technology Centers throughout the state. **Dr. Gerry Brookhart**, Peoria County Regional Superintendent of Schools also thanked the Board and Superintendent Koch for all the hard work they do and the difficult decisions they must make.

Michael Butler, Representative of Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers thanked that Board for supporting and funding Agricultural Education at 50%. These funds are used to improve the lives and education of students. **Linda Woods**, Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor at Lincoln High School stated that they understand the importance of this funding to prepare students for the innovative careers of tomorrow. **Corrine Smith**, a teacher at Galesburg High School, receives funding from three programs; Agricultural Education, Career and Technical Education and Technology. Ms. Smith commented that 60-70% of her students are low socioeconomic students and only about ¾ of them will graduate. The school tries whatever they can to maintain student interest in school. **Jesse Faber**, agriculture teacher at Pontiac Township High School and a welding instructor at Livingston Area Career Center thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of Agricultural Education and Career & Technical Education. Mr. Faber shared with the Board the opportunities his students have had due to the Ag Education and CTE line items and stated that they would love to be level funded but they are very grateful for the 50% funding they have received.

Barbara Perkis from the Illinois Instructional Materials Center for students who are blind and visually impaired spoke on the progress the children have made in the past three years. **Terrence Longin**, Chief Operating Officer of the Chicago Lighthouse, shared that their increased funding over the last three months created some spectacular results; most notably the increase of applications for their college scholarship programs. These students will go on to become productive, independent adults, and this would not have been possible without the increased funding. **Jim Mullis**, a teacher for the blind and visually impaired spoke on the materials that are needed for blind and visually impaired children to learn to read and write. Mr. Mullis noted that 80% of the visually impaired individuals in this state are unemployed. **Janet Milkovich** from Recording For The Blind And Dyslexic (RFB&D) introduced **Ellen Gallagher** and **Meg Harty** who are staff of RFB&D who work in the field with students, teachers and schools throughout the state. Ms. Milkovich shared an informative summary with the Board on how the funds are spent. She stated that RFB&D will continue to work with our elected officials to get the funding that they need to help the children of Illinois. Ms. Milkovich stated that they do work collaboratively with the Materials Center. The Materials Management Center and RFB&D are able to cover a large area of Illinois with the materials they provide.

Stephen Andrews from Grow Your Own Illinois thanked the Board and ISBE staff for the past support they have given them. Mr. Andrews stated that they are committed to working with the Governor and legislature for the additional revenue that is needed. Mr. Andrews introduced **Veronica Aranda** one of the 475 candidates that are currently moving towards graduation as fully certified teachers. Ms. Aranda is from the Logan Square Neighborhood and studying to be a bilingual teacher through the Grow Your Own Program. She asked that we continue to support the Grow Your Own Program.

Rebecca Woodhall, Director of the Illinois Office of Educational Services-Southern Illinois University, spoke on behalf of the 345,000 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, 3,000 teachers and the 726 schools in the state that offer CTE programs. She also represents the colleges and university staffs that provide teacher preparation, support and technical assistance to these programs. Ms. Woodhall stated

that these programs would be lost without our state's match for federal funding; they would stand to lose \$48.8 million dollars in federal funds without our state funding. Ms. Woodhall asked that we continue to fund CTE programs and match the federal dollars so that we can have successful students

Josie Yanguas from the Executive Board of the Illinois Association for Multilingual Multicultural Education (IAMME), and also a member of the Illinois Advisory Council for Bilingual Education, thanked the Board for their continued dedication to the students of Illinois during these harsh economic times. She also expressed their thanks to the Board for recognizing the importance of quality instructional programs for our state's English Language Learners. IAMME will continue to work with elected officials to make sure there is a state commitment in the Illinois School Code, and to ensure that the Bilingual Education mandate is fully funded.

Charles Carol a retiree from of Chicago Public Schools and current principal of St. John de la Salle Catholic School in the Arch Diocese of Chicago shared his concerns with pending ISBE rule 25.65 which relates to Section 21-5b of the Illinois School Code concerning Alternative Teacher Certification. In his community it is difficult to attract talented teachers in their neighborhoods because of the areas they are in and the number of at-risk children they serve. Mr. Carol asked that the Board give this issue their utmost consideration and thanked them for their time. **Joshua Hale**, Executive Director of the Big Shoulders Fund, a non-profit foundation that supports 93 intercity catholic schools indicated that with 25,000 children in the city of Chicago, 80% are minority and 60% are living in poverty. Mr. Hale pointed out that these children consistently perform above the national norm on standardized tests and 96% of their students graduate from high school. Of those students, 89% go on to college. Mr. Hale stated that is on behalf of these children that he is voicing his concern over ISBE rule 25.65 and how it will negatively impact poor inner city children. **Claire Hartfield** is Chief Operating Officer of Inner city Teaching Core (ITC), an organization that prepares teachers through alternative certification to teach children in Chicago's most underserved communities. ITC teachers are trained by Northwestern University, one of the finest universities in our country. They request that ISBE leave the provision as it currently stands in practice. **Gary Sircus**, Program Coordinator for the Alternative Teachers Certification for Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy indicated they are proud to work with ITC. Mr. Sircus indicated that 25.65 would deprive these schools of highly qualified teachers and cause significant adverse impact to the neighborhoods and communities that they serve as well as the Chicago educational system as a whole. Mr. Sircus stated that on behalf of the Inner city Teaching Core, Northwestern University, and the students and teachers they serve he asked that the Board reconsider this proposed rule change. **Pat Ryan**, Founder of Inner city Teaching Core and CEO of Incisive Technologies, spoke about the schools they work in to coach and prepare new teachers. Mr. Ryan believes alternative certification is often misunderstood. He believes this is already the most rigorous of programs. He stated that the ITC/Northwestern partnership program is the only program authorized under 21b. The program has teacher coaches; the same ones that work in Chicago Public Schools hired by the Board of Education. They are certified teachers, master teachers who are experts in what they do. Mr. Ryan asked that 25.65 remain unchanged.

Darren Reisberg informed the public participants who spoke on the Proposed Part 25.65 (Alternative Teacher Certification) that the public comment period will close on July 27, 2009. If they have not submitted public comment he suggest that they do that before July 27th so that it can be considered formally as they bring the rules back to the Board for adoption. Mr. Reisberg stated that these rules will come before the Board at the September 16 & 17, 2009, Board Meeting.

Ricardo Meza, Regional Counsel from Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), quoted several court cases that he believed justified the

mandate for bilingual education programs. Mr. Meza stated that despite the fact the State of Illinois has a policy to ensure equal educational opportunities to every child and despite the fact that schools are required to provide ELL services, the ISBE budget shows reductions of bilingual education program funding. ISBE bilingual budget cuts come at a time when the ELL student population has increased, and additional funds rather than fewer funds should be allocated. Mr. Meza commented that MALDEF appreciates and understands the fiscal crisis our state is in and does not quarrel with the fact that a reduction in school funding may be needed. However, to the extent these deductions are made, MALDEF simply asks that the limited and scarce funds be distributed equally to all children. Mr. Meza stated that on behalf of the thousands of ELL students who do not often have a voice MALDEF urges ISBE to fully restore bilingual education funding.

Chairman Ruiz suggested that Mr. Meza share his testimony with the legislature, as mandates require that school districts offer bilingual education, but the General Assembly does not award enough funding to cover the cost; therefore the burden is put on the local school district to find the funding and ISBE, as regulators, cannot let them off the hook.

David Piciolli, School Finance Director for the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT), represents the 95,000 members of the IFT; the majority of them being in Pre K-12 education. Mr. Piciolli asked that the Board fund the programs that serve the most vulnerable and at-risk students. He hopes that these budget cuts are only temporary. Mr. Piciolli stated that IFT will continue to advocate for new revenues.

Daryl Morrison, Education Policy and Education Director for the Illinois Education Association, spoke on behalf of the IEA's 133,000 members. Mr. Morrison stated that IEA will continue their work with organizations like IFT and fair funding coalitions for their members, the children, and the State of Illinois.

Chairman Ruiz commented that these education organizations are very important to our state, and our system of government. He suggested they use their organizational resources to support the legislators that support education, and to voice the frustration of the education community caused by the lack of funding that is needed to keep these education programs up and running.

Chris Roegge from the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative represented all new Induction and Mentoring Teachers throughout the State of Illinois. Mr. Roegge thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of new teacher induction and mentoring through its inclusion in the proposed budget, although it had a 33% reduction. Mr. Roegge noted that although these programs are young (3 years) they have shown immediate benefits in providing useful data. Mr. Roegge stated that the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative will continue to work to fully fund Induction and Mentoring for teachers in Illinois.

Paula Steward a National Board Certified Teacher and a Lead Bilingual Mentor spoke on behalf of National Board Certified Teachers in Chicago and the benefits of being a National Board Certified Teacher. She asked that the Board continue to fund National Board Certified Teachers in these economically troubled times.

Ann Hoffman and Summer Intern **Marie Dienhart** from ED-RED were representing 100 school districts in Suburban Cook, Lake and DuPage Counties. Ms. Hoffman spoke in support of four budget priorities of ED-RED's member districts: Bilingual Education, Early Childhood, Career and Technical Education and the Reading Improvement Block Grant. The Regional Safe Schools and ADA Block Grant are also important programs to the members. Ms. Hoffman shared with the Board a compiled updated list of budget priorities from ED-RED member districts, including information on the impact of a reduction in funding for Bilingual Education, Early Childhood, Reading

Improvement Block Grant and ADA Block Grant. (See Board Services for copy of this document.)

Linda Drust, Director of Williamson County Cooperative in Southern Illinois, spoke in support of Early Childhood funding. Ms. Drust stated that Early Childhood is the beginning structure of our educational system and they would appreciate the Board's continued support. The current budget cut would reduce their enrollment from 600 children today, to 400 tomorrow. Their program truly serves the most at-risk children in their county and throughout the state. Ms. Drust asked that the Board try to restore as much funding as possible for Early Childhood Education.

**END OF PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

**SUPERINTENDENT/
STAFF
COMMENTS**

Superintendent Koch commented that it is a sad day for all of those in education. He stressed that ISBE staff have worked many hours to try to come up with a scenario for the state with the limited dollars that we have been given by the General Assembly. Dr. Koch stated there is no satisfaction in delivering the budget before the Board today. He cautioned that he fears more fiscal constraint for FY 2011 as there will be no federal stabilization dollars for FY2011. This is a very serious situation and we need everyone to be aware of the fact that we will need \$1 billion just to maintain where we are now in the budget, with the reductions being absorbed today.

If revenue had been passed by the General Assembly, money would have been coming into the Treasury, but that hasn't happened. Even if revenue comes in through a tax increase later this year we would not get funding soon enough. Dr. Koch stated that we will have to think creatively and further question each formula, block grant and match that we have in this state to get through this next fiscal year.

The Board proposed its FY10 budget very strategically to reach as many students as possible and provide the greatest flexibility to districts. Dr. Koch said there is hope with our Race for the Top application but that will require simultaneous reform efforts in order to bring those dollars into the state. He added that the Board will need to finalize a budget today so districts can begin preparing their budgets for next year.

Linda Mitchell commented that as the Superintendent noted, over the last few years we have had a history of ISBE budget increases; \$300 million or more since 2005, and as recently as 2008 there was a \$577 million increase in the budget. This year we are facing about a \$180 million decrease compared to last year. The budget document handed out today reflects that \$6.5 billion dollars of our budget's \$7.2 billion dollars goes to General State Aid and Mandated Categoricals. When we refer to a 50% budget we are talking about the money besides the \$6.5 billion. There is another billion dollars or so that we spend on these grants and programs and we do not have the money this year to spend.

General State Aid increased \$169 in the foundation level to \$6,119. Mandated Categoricals were fully funded at \$1.9 billion, General State Aid Hold Harmless at \$15 million. The General Assembly chose not to close the door on General State Aid Hold Harmless, but elected to do what they hoped to be a 50% pro-ration. However there are now 110 districts that will receive General State Aid Hold Harmless compared to 84 districts last year; 26 new districts with 9 of these districts never having received Hold Harmless before. Whereas we really needed \$18 million dollars to fully fund Hold Harmless, we were given \$15 million. Therefore, there will be about a 42% proration for Hold Harmless.

Ms. Mitchell announced that the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Ms. Karon will update us on their budget hearing process for FY11. Ms. Mitchell also noted that new Education Funding Advisory Board will hold its first meeting on August 13, 2009 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago.

Ms. Mitchell anticipates that there might be some further changes and additional work from the General Assembly in November. The Agency has some technical changes and cleanup that need to be resolved due to the lump sum allocations process. We will have to make decisions about how to fund some of the line items in our budget with respect to utilization of the ARRA funds and the Common School Fund because the General Assembly focused on the General Revenue Fund and ignored some the other items in the budget. We also anticipate that the Governor will veto something with respect to General State Aid (GSA), however we don't expect this to impact the foundation level increase.

We are very aware of the fact that the ARRA dollars as much as we appreciate them do provide some administrative burden to school districts. We want to be very careful on our allocations so that we don't make a lot of extra work for the districts.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Ms. Karon stated that the budget process began in September and the Board set priorities to touch as many children as they could and provide districts with the most flexibility; hence General State Aid and Mandated Categoricals. The Board and staff separately looked at all of the line items and then came together so that we had some in-depth understanding of each line item. Cooperatively, we arrived at what we felt was a reasonable increase and a very responsible budget; the revenues did not hold true to fund that budget. Our staff have anguished, as has the Board, in what we have to do today. The process of reviewing line items was not to weigh one program against another, but to provide a quality educational program to the 2 million plus students in Illinois. Ms. Karon added that each student deserves to have an educational experience that fits their need and it is heartbreaking to have to present this budget.

Chairman Ruiz wanted people to know that certain programs were not impacted due to the fact that federal dollars might be lost if we reduce state funding. The federal government requires us to maintain a level of effort that was established in past years. For that reason we did not make any reduction, for example, to Career and Technical Education.

Superintendent Koch added that there are line items that reflect contractual or grant obligations that have already occurred. Summer Bridges being one example where they have already had the program over the summer.

Ms. Koster asked that the cut to Homeless Education be explained. Superintendent Koch responded that we have federal money to cover the Homeless Program.

Chairman Ruiz thanked everyone for the effort put into this budget. We need to take this opportunity and be energized and work together to express our views and demand that our public officials give us strict plans on how they are going to invest in education as they did with the capital budget. Remember that the workers we are trying to employ because of the capital budget have to be educated and trained so they are capable of doing those jobs. Educators are creating the future workforce and the jobs are not getting any less technologically sophisticated and most of the jobs at least require a high school education and possibly a two-year associate degree. Chairman Ruiz stated that our economic recovery plan is investing in our children and he feels badly that we are taking a step backward today.

BUDGET MOTION

Motion:

Dr. Ward moved that the State Board of Education assign the lump sums appropriated to the State Board by the General Assembly for the FY 2010 budget in accordance with the discussion at this July 21, 2009, Emergency Board Meeting. The State Board authorizes the State Superintendent to designate those programs and operational expenditures to be partially or fully funded with those funds from the line item related to the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. The FY 2010 budget, as approved by the State Board, shall be posted on the ISBE website. Dr. Fields

seconded that motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Ward commented that somehow our school districts and their staff will do the best job they can with the dollars they have been provided. We cannot thank them enough for their work, regardless of the funding provided. He added that although he is disheartened, he remembers being in school districts facing other kinds of serious financial challenges and knows that, somehow the job will get done for the children.

Chairman Ruiz closed by encouraging listeners to continue to question legislators about how they plan to invest in education. We, as citizens, need to become very discriminating consumers of our public officials.

**MOTION FOR
ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Hall moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Koster seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary**

**Mr. Jesse Ruiz
Chairman**