

# **EDUCATION FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD**

**March 9, 2005**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Ill. State Board of Education  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Springfield, Illinois**

## **MINUTES**

### **Board Members Answering the Roll Call:**

- 1. Senator Arthur Berman**
- 2. Mr. Ramon Cepeda, Jr.**
- 3. Mr. Steve Demitro, Chairperson**

**Chairperson Demitro called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.**

**Chairperson Demitro made opening remarks and introductions, welcoming the Board Members, thanking the public participants for attending and gave a brief summary of his background. He asked the attending Board Members to provide a summary of their backgrounds.**

**Senator Arthur Berman stated that he had the honor of serving in the Illinois General Assembly for 31 years, specializing in education issues. He stated that he looked forward to serving on this important Board.**

**Mr. Ramon Cepeda, Jr. stated that he was employed by LaSalle Bank, in the Commercial Lending Division. He also stated that he was looking forward to serving on the EFAB Board.**

**Mr. Jonathan Furr, General Counsel for the Illinois State Board of Education, alerted the Board Members that the EFAB meeting was subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act and gave a brief summary of the Act.**

**Chairperson Demitro opened the public comment portion of the meeting.**

**Mr. Sean Noble, Senior Policy Associate for Voices for Illinois Children thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and for their commitment to working on the issue of school funding. Mr. Noble made the suggestion that the EFAB formula be changed from the current 67% of students meeting State standards to 100% of students meeting NCLB standards.**

**In closing, Mr. Noble provided the Board with copies of the February, 2005 Issue Brief newsletter from the Voices for Illinois Children and offered his help and expertise in the EFAB project.**

**Senator Arthur Berman informed the Board of his positive experiences with the Voices group and stated that he appreciated their good work.**

**Mr. Bill Schreck, CEO of AgriEducator Consulting, representing the Agriculture Education community and FFA, expressed a concern about the Block Grant funding and the possibility that funds may not be spent for their intended purposes. He thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak and provided the community with written testimony (attached).**

**Chairperson Demitro asked if any of the participants via the conference call would like to testify, with none seeking recognition, the Chairperson asked the Board Members for closing remarks.**

**Senator Arthur Berman and Mr. Ramon Cepeda, Jr., both thanked the public participants for their comments.**

**Chairman Demitro stated that the next EFAB meeting would be on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 P.M. in the 9<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago.**

**At 7:40 P.M. the Chairperson moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Ramon Cepeda, Jr.**