

Illinois State Board of Education
Division of English Language Learning

DRAFT Minutes
of the
Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2008
10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Held at the

Oak Brook Hills Marriott

3500 Midwest Road, "Court G"
Oak Brook, Illinois

Members Attending: Carmen Acevedo, David Barker, Maritza Guillamo, Stephanie Jordan, Rebecca Kolda, Julie Luck Jensen, Ricardo Meza, Diep Nguyen, Richard Orem, Irma Perez, Josie Yanguas, Diane Zendejas.

Members Absent: Maria August, Debbie Armendariz, Kim Zinman and Natividad Hernandez.

ISBE Staff Attending: Robin M. Lisboa, Division Administrator, English Language Learning; Seng Naolhu, Bill Garcia, Naomi Velazquez, Barry Pederson, Irma Snopek, and Sonia Serrano.

Attending Guests: Linda Flowers, Carbondale SD; Michelle Gambardella, Berkley SD 87, and Harriette Herrera.

Call to Order

Chair David Barker welcomed members, ISBE Staff and guests. The meeting was called to order at 10:22 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Council

Josie Yanguas moved that the minutes of the 11/16/07 Special Meeting of the IACBE be approved. Richard Orem seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved. There were no abstentions.

Josie Yanguas moved that subcommittee reports (Illinois Early Learning Committee) and (Bilingual Special Education subcommittee with corrections) noted by Julie Luck Jensen be accepted by the IACBE. Rebecca Kolda seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously were accepted. There were no abstentions.

ISBE DELL Report

Robin M. Lisboa

Robin thanked the IACBE members David Barker, Diep Nguyen, Josie Yanguas, ISBE Division Administrator Joyce Zurkowski, Harriette Herrera and Barry Pederson for their input and hard work in advising the ISBE and the State Superintendent regarding 2008 ISAT accommodations for ELLs.

In addition to information published at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/listserv/2008/jan7.htm> concerning ISAT Accommodations for ELLs , Robin reassured the IACBE that

- additional workshops would be scheduled in Illinois regions, ROEs, ISCs, the Chicago Public schools between the last week of January 2008 and the first week of February 2008
- in daily sessions at the Thirty-first Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers of Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students scheduled for January 8 - Friday, January 11, 2008 at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort
- at the NCLB Conference scheduled for February 6-8, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. Additional information concerning these workshops would be published by ISBE's Assessment Division.

Following questions from the IACBE, Chair David Barker read accommodations published by ISBE Assessment on 1/7/08 and now found at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/listserv/2008/jan7.htm> .

Robin closed her presentation by reminding the IACBE that the Illinois State Board of Education was waiting on a response from the US Department of Education regarding testing recent immigrant students in the US for less than two years. The current directive from the US Department of Education is one year.

IACBE Action on Accommodations

Council

Acknowledging ISAT Accommodations for ELLs as a temporary assessment practice and following additional questions and discussions,

Diep Nguyen moved that ISBE move expeditiously to accept the 11/29/07 recommendations of the IELLAAC committee and publish a Request for Sealed Proposal no later than Spring 2008 that would include the continuum of assessment listed below:

1. Native language state achievement tests (ISAT and Prairie State). These tests would be translated into Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Urdu, Korean, Philipino/Tagalog, Cantonese, Gujarati, Vietnamese and Russian. [Top ten highest incidence languages spoken in Illinois.]
2. A modified English test for students that don't understand [languages listed above] with appropriate accommodations.
3. The development of a Spanish Academic Test aligned to the Illinois Learning and Spanish language Arts Standards previously approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Carmen Acevedo seconded the motion and the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education voted unanimously to accept the motion. There were no abstentions.

Following this discussion and action by the IACBE, Josie Yanguas moved that ISBE review and align their accountability policies with newly developed assessments.

Diep Nguyen seconded the motion and the IACBE voted unanimously to accept the motion. There were no abstentions.

Following this discussion, Ricardo Meza inquired about the possibility that ISBE Superintendent Chris Koch could outline ISAT Accommodations in a simple non technical letter to ELL parents. While there was much discussion and genuine concern in communicating with ELL parents, the IACBE took no formal action on this request.

Public Comments

Audience

Michelle Gambardella of Berkeley SD 87 indicated that she attended the November 16, 2007 Special meeting of the IACBE. She went on to thank the IACBE for being responsive and hearing concerns from local school districts.

Announcements

Council

The next meeting of the ISBE Board of Education will occur on January 16-17, 2008 at Chicago HS for Agricultural Sciences, 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois. Individuals that are interested in attending this meeting should see <http://www.isbe.net/board/Default.htm> .

The next meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children and Illinois Association for Gifted Children will be held at the Marriott Chicago-Schaumburg, Schaumburg, Illinois on February 1-2, 2008. The Regional Academy Series is entitled "Overlooked Gems: Working With The Low Income and Culturally Diverse Gifted Learner". For more information see <http://www.iagcgifted.org> .

Adjourn**Council**

Josie Yanguas moved that the meeting be adjourned. Maritza Guillamo seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.