ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
State Board of Education Office
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois
March 21, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Marjorie B. Branch       Marilyn McConachie       Janet Steiner
Judith A. Gold           Connie Rogers              Beverly Turkal

Respicio F. Vazquez, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Vincent J. Serritella, Richard A. Sandsmark

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by the Vice Chair, Mrs. McConachie, who asked Alison Harbour, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Ms. Harbour called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that Chairman Gidwitz, Mr. Serritella, and Mr. Sandsmark were unable to attend the meeting. She indicated that Ms. Gold would be participating in the meeting via telephone.

Approval of Minutes
Ms. Branch moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the February 20-21 and March 13, 2002, meetings as published.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation
The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Public Participation. The following individuals spoke to the Board.

Ron Babcock, a member of the State Teacher Certification Board, spoke to the Board regarding the Initial Standard Teaching Certificate. He indicated that he has been a math teacher for 31 years in School District 300 in Carpentersville. He noted that the teacher evaluation process has changed and improved over the years. He reported that the Certification Board has been involved with many good things in the five years that he has been a member. He noted that many of these good things are gatekeeping and training procedures.

Mr. Babcock stated that the Certification Board met by conference call on March 18 regarding the Initial Standard Certificate proposal (see Addendum II for notes from this meeting).
Jay Runner, a coordinator for the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education organization in Rantoul, spoke to the Board regarding the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education Annual Report (see Addendum III). Mr. Runner informed the Board that Ag Day had been held at the State Capitol on March 20. He noted that he was speaking on behalf of Jim Guilinger of the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education. He distributed copies of this Committee’s annual report and stated that the focus of this report is curriculum development and how that development has impacted student performance in local programs.

Mr. Runner also informed the Board that the fifth curriculum compact disc will be finished in June. He noted that this compact disc will hold curriculum material regarding animal and plant sciences, and it will made available to all high school and community college teachers. He also explained that this compact disc will contain 150 lessons that are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards, the Occupational Skill Standards, and the Work Place Skill Standards. He indicated that 36 states were using the curriculum compact discs to teach agricultural and horticultural education in their schools.

In closing, Mr. Runner reported that the National FFA is also considering using these compact discs for a nation-wide agricultural education curriculum. He thanked the Board for its support.

Barb Grace, director of the Southern Region Early Childhood Programs, spoke to the Board regarding the Early Childhood Block Grant. She indicated that these programs have been in existence for 15 years and serve 965 children and their families in four counties. She also noted that these programs have a partnership between 24 public schools districts and Southern Illinois University. She said that the Early Childhood Block Grant programs have been very successful, especially by involving parents in the education of their children.

Ms. Grace indicated to the Board that she was very concerned about keeping the Early Childhood Block Grant intact where it belongs within the State Board of Education. She thanked the Board for its time and support.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Induction, Mentoring, & Standard Certificate

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Induction, Mentoring, and Standard Certificate.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that this agenda item was discussed at yesterday’s Board meeting, and the Superintendent asked that action be deferred until April pending further discussion with stakeholders. She said that the Board would meet in a special session on Thursday, March 28 to discuss this topic.

Rules – Part 240

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Rules – Part 240, Alternative Learning Opportunities Program.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that this agenda item was discussed at yesterday’s Board meeting and there were no questions or requests for further information. She called for a motion regarding this agenda item.

Motion

Dr. Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (23 Illinois Administrative Code 240), including publication of the proposed rules in the Illinois Register.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

The Vice Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

Ms. Branch - yes  Mrs. McConachie - yes  Dr. Steiner - yes
Ms. Gold - yes  Mrs. Rogers - yes  Mrs. Turkal - yes

Rules – Part 25

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Rules – Part 25, Foreign Language Certification, Bilingual Certification, Certification Testing.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that this agenda item was also discussed at yesterday’s Board meeting and a question was raised for further staff exploration. She noted that the rule amendments, as originally proposed, would have made a change only with respect to holders of the Transitional Bilingual Certificate.
The Vice Chair explained that the Board had requested one modification which added holders of the Provisional Vocational Certificate, the Temporary Provisional Certificate, the Temporary Foreign Language Certificate, and Substitute Certificate holders who are employed on a full-time basis in the Chicago Public Schools (see Addendum IV).

The Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the modified proposed rules for distribution and public comment.

**Motion**

Mrs. Turkal moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

Certification (23 Illinois Administrative Code 25), including publication of the proposed amendments in the *Illinois Register*.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

**Vote on Motion**

The Vice Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

- Ms. Branch - yes
- Mrs. McConachie - yes
- Dr. Steiner - yes
- Ms. Gold - yes
- Mrs. Rogers - yes
- Mrs. Turkal - yes

**Chairman**

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Chairman. She noted that there was nothing further to report due to the Chairman’s absence.

**Supt.**

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Superintendent.

Superintendent Vazquez noted that the Board had passed its initial budget in January requesting an increase of $250 million. He indicated that he has been doing his best to and try and justify the Board’s budget request but the revenues are just not there. He said that he will continue to work with staff in justifying our request before the General Assembly, particularly at the Senate Appropriation Hearing that is scheduled for April 9.

**Committees**

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Committees.
Vice Chair McConachie reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has met several times to discuss the Bylaws. She noted that the Board would continue its discussion regarding the Bylaws after lunch today. She also indicated that the Committee will be meeting in the near future regarding education policy planning issues.

Mrs. Rogers stated that the Search Committee continues to meet with Nancy Noeske of PROACT Search, Inc., regarding facilitating and guiding the search for the next State Superintendent. She indicated that PROACT will interview over 30 people to obtain their input regarding the Superintendent profile. She commented that PROACT has already obtained input from 15 State Board staff members.

Mrs. Rogers explained that the Search Committee would also be meeting with an advisory panel on April 5 regarding the profile that the Board is looking for. She noted that the advisory panel will be giving the Committee names of people that they believe should be considered for the position of State Superintendent. She indicated that the Board hopes to hire a new Superintendent by the end of the summer.

Members

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Members.

Mrs. Rogers reported that she wanted the public to know that Board members will be meeting in the near future in different regions of the state regarding the Middle-Level Standards.

Vice Chair McConachie welcomed new State Board member Judith Gold. She also thanked staff members who prepared the meeting materials, who gave presentations, and the staff that helped the Board through the decision process.

The open meeting recessed for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

The Board continued its discussion regarding the Bylaws, specifically concentrating on legislative issues.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff member Peter Leonis assisted in responding to questions.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Adjournment The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

__________________________________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary

__________________________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman