The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, 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.

The Chairman indicated that Mr. Sandsmark would not be attending the meeting this month, Mrs. Turkal would be joining the meeting by telephone, Ms. Gold would be joining the meeting momentarily, and he and Mr. Serritella would not be attending tomorrow’s meeting.

The Chairman called for a motion to go into closed session.

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting on March 20 at 11:05 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m. or at the conclusion of today’s meeting, and on March 21 at 8:00 a.m. under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:

- Section 2 (c) (1) for the purpose of discussing information regarding appointment, employment or dismissal of an employee.

- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

She further moved that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed.

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.
Vote on Motion
The Chairman 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
Mr. Gidwitz - yes      Mrs. Rogers - yes         Mrs. Turkal - yes
Ms. Gold - not present to vote  Mr. Serritella - yes

The public meeting recessed at 11:10 a.m. and the Board went into a closed meeting at 11:15 a.m. The closed meeting recessed at 1:00 p.m. and the public meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Ms. Gold joined the meeting during the closed session.

HR 1
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, HR 1: Overall Plan and Communication.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that this agenda item has been discussed during the past two Board meetings, and would be a regular discussion item in the future. He indicated that in today’s meeting the Board would be spending a lot of time reviewing the HR 1 components that have significant implications for policy and Agency implementation, as well as a timeline for addressing many of these issues.

Superintendent Vazquez commended the staff on the significant amount of work that has already been done translating the requirements of this legislation. He indicated that it has definitely become a total Agency effort. He noted that there are many provisions of HR 1 that parallel the direction and intent of the state school reform effort. He explained that they include the following components:

- A system aligned with learning standards;
- The availability of high quality teachers for all students; and
- The assurance that every school and district is accountable for every student’s progress.

The Superintendent reported that the State Board will have many challenges with this information, especially the intensive timelines and work to be completed in such a short timeframe. He indicated that it is a possibility that the Board will wait until May to complete all action on these issues.
Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Gail Lieberman, Randy Burge, Pat Ryan, Rob Sampson, and Mike Long assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum II).

Chairman Gidwitz introduced new State Board member Judith A. Gold and welcomed her to the Board.

**Induction, Mentoring, & Standard Certificate**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Induction, Mentoring, and Standard Certificate.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that staff has been working on the development of a Standard Examination Certificate with the Standard Examination Advisory Committee since spring 2001. He stated that this Committee has worked for many months in an attempt to come to agreement on the type of assessment and options for assessment that the State Board might consider. He explained that during today’s meeting staff members will provide an overview of the status of the Standard Certificate Examination.

Superintendent Vazquez commented that over the past several weeks, many discussions have occurred indicating the need to reconsider the direction of the Standard Certificate Examination. He said that he would not be requesting or recommending action on this agenda item this month. He explained that he wanted the Board to have ample opportunity to review all the information and have plenty of time to discuss it with key partners.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch and Frank Llano assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum III).

**Rules Overview**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules Overview, Part 240: Alternative Learning Opportunities Program, and Amendments to Part 25: Foreign Language and Bilingual Certification, Certification Testing.

The Superintendent noted that two sets of rules are being provided today for review and tomorrow for approval so that they may go forward to obtain public comment.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Sally Vogl, and Lou Ann Reichle assisted in responding to questions.
An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

Financial Assurance & Financial Profile System

Superintendent Vasquez stated that this System originated in 1988 and has evolved from a simple structure to the Financial Assurance and Accountability System (FAAS). He reported that the State Board would like to take this System in a new direction, and he asked staff members David Wood and Gary Ey to review and discuss this plan (see Addendum IV). He also stated that he would be asking for the Board’s acceptance of the 2002 Financial Watch List and the Financial Oversight Panel Lists, bringing closure to the FAAS process.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members David Wood, Gary Ey, and Nona Myers assisted in responding to questions.

The open meeting recessed at 3:30 p.m., and the Board went into a closed meeting at 3:45 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m.

The open meeting reconvened on March 21 at 9:10 a.m. and was called to order 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 Ms. Gold were unable to stay for today’s meeting. She noted that Ms. Gold would join the meeting by telephone. She also indicated that Mrs. Turkal, who participated in yesterday’s meeting by telephone, was able to join the meeting today in person.

Board Bylaws Discussion

The Vice Chair reported that at last month’s meeting, the Board asked the Strategic Planning Committee to give additional consideration and attention to the responsibilities of Board committees and the implications for Board and committee meeting schedules and agendas.
The Vice Chair also indicated that the Strategic Planning Committee has worked with the Superintendent and his Core Team to develop the principles that were printed in the Board meeting packet, and the additional materials that the Board received by mail prior to this meeting. She noted that these materials include the following information.

- Proposed changes to the responsibilities of each committee;
- Meeting scenarios; and
- Preliminary draft of Board Bylaw changes.

Vice Chair McConachie stated that the Board’s goal for this meeting was to discuss these materials and give direction to the Strategic Planning Committee and the Core Team about additional refinements. She explained that at the April Board meeting, the Committee will present formal recommendations for Bylaw changes. She stated that this will constitute the “first reading” as required by the Bylaws. She indicated that the Board plans to vote on the Bylaw changes in May, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that the transition to the new committee structure would occur over a three-month period following final Board action, but no later than August 2002.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

Vice Chair McConachie stated that the Universal Preschool agenda item report would be postponed for a short time due to the delay in the arrival of the presenter. She indicated that at this time the Board would continue its discussion regarding the proposed amendments to various certification rules, and she called upon staff members Chris Koch and Sally Vogl to answer any questions that Board members might have.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that the Board would now hear a report from the Joint Education Committee (JEC).

The Board reviewed and discussed a draft resolution developed for the Joint Education Committee regarding high school graduation requirements and other issues related to high school organization and curriculum.
Vice Chair McConachie also distributed a document regarding teacher quality enhancement in the middle grades in Illinois, and a document regarding the legislative update on the Governor’s Education Summit recommendations (see Addendum V).

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff member Lynne Haeffele Curry assisted in responding to questions.

**Universal Preschool Report**

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, Governor’s Task Force on Universal Access to Preschool Report.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that Governor Ryan’s Universal Access to Preschool Task Force has submitted its report and recommendations to the Governor. She said that although some State Board staff – namely Kay Henderson and Mary Jayne Broncato -- participated in the work of this Task Force, the Board has not had a chance to hear about its findings or about the direction the Task Force believes is appropriate for Illinois.

Superintendent Vazquez also commented that the Board has not discussed the policy issues related to universal access to preschool, the implications of the recommendations for current programming, the State Board’s budget, or the State Board’s long-term goals. He explained that today’s discussion is intended to provide the Board with a base of information and allows them to explore questions of particular interest. He said that staff will then be asked to analyze the Task Force Report and provide the Board with appropriate recommendations in April.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Margie Wallen, Policy Coordinator on Universal Preschool for the Governor’s office, assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum VI).

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 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

__________________________________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary

__________________________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman