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

Robert E. Schiller, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Ron Gidwitz
Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.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 and Mr. Serritella were unable to join this month’s meeting, and Ms. Gold would be joining the meeting during the closed session.

Closed Session
The Vice Chair called for a motion to go into closed session.

Motion
Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting 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.

Dr. Steiner 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. Rogers – yes  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Sandmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes

The Board went into closed session at 12:02 p.m. and Ms. Gold joined the meeting at that time. The closed session ended at 1:15 p.m. and the public meeting reconvened at 1:22 p.m.

Education Showcase

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, Education Showcase: Museum of Science and Industry Educational Programs.

Vice Chair, Mrs. McConachie reported that the Board was very pleased to continue a series of discussions with representatives from educational organizations or school districts. Mrs. McConachie introduced Jeanne Franczyk, Vice President of Education, Museum of Science and Industry.

Ms. Franczyk gave the Museum’s mission. She covered three topics including K-12 programming, public programs, and non-school audiences. She stated the Museum tries to demystify science to ages 7-12, teachers and families. Approximately 360,000 to 400,000 students per year go through their educational program.

Ms. Franczyk introduced Mr. David Mosena, President of the Museum. He invited everyone to take advantage of the museum and what it has to offer to the public.

Ms. Franczyk stated their labs all meet the Chicago Academic Standards and the Illinois State Goals as well. She explained the different agencies, schools, and businesses that are their partners. She provided an overview of their website and explained how to navigate it to find out all their learning opportunities.

NCATE

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, NCATE (National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education) Protocol and Partnership Agreement.

Vice Chair McConachie reported the Board had discussed this last month, staff had reviewed the content and made a number of suggestions. The NCATE
Partnership Agreements are made every five years. She noted that is a high stakes agreement for the 56 teacher preparation programs in the State of Illinois, and that NCATE continues to revise partnership protocol to improve them. Mrs. McConachie stated that the Board might see some details in the near future that they will have to review.

Superintendent Robert Schiller said that many of the suggestions and changes from the October meeting were incorporated. He explained that they have shared this with the Partnership Committee and State Teacher Certification Board, and that the additional recommendations issued by these groups have been introduced into the agreement and the protocol now considered for review.

The Superintendent asked Dr. Chris Koch, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Mr. Michael Long, Division Administrator of Professional Preparation and Recruitment, to highlight the changes articulated in Attachment #1.

Dr. Koch said they were asked to collect information on the cost institutions while going through this process. He also said, since the last meeting, NCATE has contacted Mr. Long and indicated they are thinking about a 7 year review cycle as opposed to a 5 year cycle.

Mr. Long said the principle changes presented before and after the October meeting have been incorporated. Following Mrs. McConachie’s direction at the October meeting, they identified areas where there was congruency between what NCATE was expecting and what ISBE was expecting and explained those areas where there was a difference.

Mrs. McConachie said that the Board might ask Dr. Schiller if the Board could see those pros and cons in early spring. Mr. Long said he hoped to get that information to them by January or February 2003. Mrs. McConachie said they might be handled at the staff level, but there are implications for budgeting and staffing, and also for the institutions.

Mrs. McConachie complimented them on their good work.
Alternative Teaching Certificate, while the second alternative certificate law created the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification (ILCS 105 5/21-5c). Mrs. McConachie turned the discussion over to Superintendent Schiller.

Superintendent Schiller congratulated Chris Koch and Mike Long on the work they did.

Mike Long stated that there was confusion between the two laws, and said they might fit better combined. He said there was not a need for two different pieces of legislation. Any differences that remain could be accommodated.

Board member Connie Rogers asked if they wanted to come back to the Board with options. Mr. Long agreed.

Board member Janet Steiner mentioned the principal shortage and voiced concerns regarding certification for principals. Mr. Long said the problem was that the alternative administrative certificate law excluded principals and assistant principals from that opportunity – it specifically stated that in the statute. He said that the Board might want to consider a revision in the statute that would allow alternative training of principals and assistant principals.

Board member Beverly Turkal said it appeared that there were not many candidates for school superintendents. Mr. Long said the internship was a problem.

Ms. McConachie reported that the Board needed to know what research needed to be done here – Illinois based research or else a better collection of national research on fairness, quality, and flexibility in these programs. She stated the Board may want to commission some of the research or influence the Joint Education Committee agenda on this topic.

She also mentioned that the State Board needed, with regard to principals, to know more about alternative programs. She specifically wanted to know if there was a feasible design anywhere in the country and that the Board may need to create an action agenda for recruiting, supporting and retaining principals. Ms. McConachie said Illinois has certified people but they are not taking or staying in the jobs. She stated that this suggests that there other solutions that need to be explored.
With regard to superintendents, she stated the Board needed some ideas for solutions to the internship problem and possibly some research on the effectiveness of alternatively trained superintendents.

Mrs. McConachie stated that she would like a report given to the Board, and to add this topic as a future calendar item.

Technology Plan

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, State of Illinois Five-Year Technology Plan.

Vice Chair McConachie reported the 1995 State Technology Plan created a policy and planning infrastructure that included technology standards for students and educators, systematic planning at the local level, two state funding streams, and a statewide backbone for connectivity. She explained that the 2002-07 Plan was shaped by four key factors including the unfinished agenda from the 1995 Plan, the new federal requirements for technology, the Illinois vision for education in the 21st century, and a set of principals for policy and practice in the future. She reported that at the August 2002 Board meeting, the Board authorized the distribution of the state plan for public comment, and that agency staff incorporated several changes in response to suggestions from members of the State Board and public.

Dick Miguel, Division Administrator for Standards, reported that the Aligned Learning, the Center for Digital Government, and the Progress and Freedom Foundation ranked Illinois number one in education again for the second year.

Dick Miguel said that within 60 days (February or March 2003) the business plan and calendar of when the project would “roll out” would be available.

Mrs. McConachie concluded that the Board would like to see emphasis on leadership and strategies that the Board could take to increase the leadership emphasis on instructional technology to improve performance. She also asked for more information regarding the partnerships that needed to be developed and how the Board would be able to measure the impact on student learning.

Mrs. McConachie asked if the Board should adopt the performance descriptors.

Superintendent Schiller said that it would be appropriate in order to have them formally presented to the public and recommended that it would be on an upcoming agenda for Board consideration.
Part 25 Rules

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, Authorize Solicitation of Public Comment on Rules: Part 25 (Certification).

Mrs. McConachie reported that the Board had a set of rules for consideration subject to Board approval in the plenary session, and that the draft rules would be distributed for public comment.

Superintendent Schiller reported that the rules were reviewed by the State Teacher Certification Board at its November meeting. The State Teacher Certification Board voted to recommend the proposed amendments to the State Board of Education. He noted that several minor changes were subsequently made in the draft to clarify points raised by members of the Certification Board.

There were no questions.

Monthly Reports

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, Standard Monthly Reports: Finance, Audit, Agency Operations Status Reports.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that in addition to the two Finance and Audit related issues the Board would consider the approval of the School District Financial Profile. She noted that this was the fourth in an ongoing series of reports about agency fiscal matters and human resources.

David Wood, Director of Operations, explained the reports. Mrs. McConachie said that she would like to see reported at the December Board meeting the total dollars broken down that the agency receives through the state or federal government, competitive grants, or other donations, and how much is retained for agency services and assessments.

Mrs. McConachie summarized that the Finance Committee would work on reviewing the reports again by defining administration while breaking down what is allocated. She also stated that staff would document the percentage of expenditures across the agency, and schedule training for Board members to utilize the financial reporting system when the new members are on the Board.
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Development Status Report.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that at the August meeting the Board reviewed the budget calendar and the financial and economic outlook for the FY04 Budget. At the September Board meeting, the Board reviewed the recommendations with EFAB’s (Education Funding Advisory Board) Chairman, Bob Leininger. She also stated that in September and October, the Board held four Budget Hearings along with discussions of budget and policy issues with various representatives of the education community. Additionally, staff shared various materials with the Board that outline major budget and policy issues facing the education system.

Superintendent Schiller reported that the Board and staff have been working with the various partner groups to explain the critical areas of funding, how those critical areas could best be presented, and how to potentially position the proposal for funding in light of the agency’s needs and in the transition of a new Governor.

David Wood summarized that for the first time since 1955 that the state had experienced less revenue than the prior year by the amount of $727 million.

Mrs. McConachie said that the Board’s expectation was that they would see an overall budget plan for what the state would spend if it were investing for what was needed for the highest quality of education in the state. She noted that the Board would begin to see the early drafts of a realistic budget next month.

Mrs. McConachie said that the public can look forward to more comment from the Superintendent and Chairman explaining how drastic the situation is for Illinois’ schools. She noted that there were a number of items the Board has proposed in the past that would be in this report, such as changing the way the State funds the TRS (Teacher Retirement System) debt, which would take some pressure off the budget. She explained that this was a priority item that must be addressed.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that Pete Leonis, Division Administrator for Governmental Affairs, that the Committee has been very busy.
Mr. Leonis reported out on the veto session. He explained the following issues:

- A supplemental appropriations bill (HB2306-Hannig) to restore some of the cuts, in particular mental health facilities, prisons, including a $689,000 appropriation in there for ISBE for personal services, was presented before the legislature.
- An attempt was made to amend the TIF legislation to allow backdoor referendum to stop new TIFs. The legislation was defeated in committee.
- The Senate Education Committee took testimony on the fall waiver report. The House and Senate evolved around the PE waivers. No vote was taken.
- Senate Education Committee passed HB 1445- amending law to Focus House, which provides special education services; HB1839 amendment addresses the issue of ROEs (Regional Offices of Education) in Cook County to fill the position of acting ROE Joe Kaczanowski. Legislation was defeated by the full Senate.
- Agreement between the Chicago Public schools and the CTU (Chicago Teachers Union) with regard to changes in the education labor relations act that gives the CTU the ability to bargain on such things as layoffs, class sizes reductions, and privatization. There was an amendment added to expand the number of charter schools in Chicago from 15 to 30. And also in Chicago, within 5 years 75% of teachers in the charter schools would have to be certified. This passed out of the House.

Mrs. McConachie asked for suggestions for how to address the problems of Cook ESCs (Education Service Centers) and regional offices, which are handled differently than any other in the state.

Mrs. McConachie asked that next steps, or suggestions, be given in December. Mr. Leonis said that he would have to get back to the lobbyists for the ROEs.

In his Federal report, Mr. Leonis stated that Congress would reconvene January, 2003.

Hazel Crest
S.D.152.5 Superintendent Schiller gave a report on the Hazel Crest 152 ½ School District situation. (See Addendum #1) He said an oversight panel was established. The district moved forward with two referendums. The referendum was approved on
November 5, but he stated that the Hazel Crest board would not go forward to authorize. He explained that the option of getting private banks to provide assistance has been exhausted. He stated that the community would not move forward with the taxation because not enough preparation was done before the referendum to look at the possible implications. He also stated that a $1.5 million state grant from member initiative funds started to move forward which would pay electricity, heating, the transportation contract for a period of time, and enable the district to meet three more payrolls. He explained that this would get the district through the middle of January.

Superintendent Schiller identified the various options to resolve the Hazel Crest situation. He explained that closing the school district at this time would not be an option. He noted that if an appropriation was made by the General Assembly, it could inject a bailout for the district. He noted that the current oversight panel law allows the oversight panel to recommend dissolution, immediately or effective July 1, 2003. He explained that the problem would not go away and that the children must be taught. Another option that he presented included instituting a school finance authority immediately rather than the one year delay. He reported that this might make it possible to contact private money again under a better position. He explained that also authored in the legislation was a suggestion that a loan of $4,000 per student may be granted to the district ($4 million) and that as a loan it must be paid back. He explained that it would be the last dollar applied – only in the event that public funding could not be secured.

The leadership of the legislature has asked the agency to draft legislation as laid out. He recognized that Hazel Crest was just a tip of the iceberg, with other districts having incredible financial difficulties.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman