WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

11:00 a.m.    BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

   Agenda

        Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
        DoubleTree Hotel
        198 E. Delaware Place
        (Will include a working lunch for members)

   Agenda Cover

1:00 p.m.    WORK-STUDY SESSION I

    Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
    DoubleTree Hotel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00 a.m.    STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

   CLOSED SESSION/Breakfast

    Park Avenue Café D - Second Floor
    DoubleTree Hotel

8:30 a.m.    WORK-STUDY SESSION II

    Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
    DoubleTree Hotel
    (Will include a working lunch for members)

12:45 p.m.   Depart for Whitney M. Young Magnet High School

1:30 p.m.    PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

    Library - Second Floor **
    Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
    211 S. Laflin Street **

* All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. See attached page.

** Directions to Whitney M. Young Magnet High School are provided on the attached page.
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
Chicago, Illinois

December 15, 1999

11:00 a.m.*

AGENDA

A. Update on Board and Superintendent Evaluation
B. Proposals for Board Learning Seminars
C. Meeting Dates and Locations
D. Proposals for Board’s 25th Anniversary
E. Superintendent Travel Review
F. Other Business
G. Adjourn

* This meeting will include a working lunch for Board members.

Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

Library - Second Floor*
Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
Chicago, Illinois
December 16, 1999
1:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

A. Call to Order/Roll Call
B. Minutes of November 17-19, 1999
   • MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION
   • MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION
   • MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
C. Special Greetings from Assistant Principal Roger Prietz
D. Public Participation
E. General Consent Agenda
   1. Review of Minutes of Closed Meetings
      o General Consent Cover
F. Items for Immediate Action
   1. FY 2001 Budget
   2. Legislative Proposal - Quality Educators
   3. Special Education Certification: Structure and Standards
   4. Least Restrictive Environment Policy
   5. Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program
      o Qualified Zone Academy Cover
   6. Annual Reports to the General Assembly
      o Annual Report Cover
      o Supply and Demand for Education Staff Overview
      o Supply and Demand for Education Staff
      o Charter Report Cover
      o Report to the General Assembly
      o Charter annual report
   7. Board Meeting Schedule for 2000
G. Items for Future Action
   1. Cumulative Waiver Report to the General Assembly
      o Waiver Report Cover
   2. Early Childhood Position Statement
      o Early Childhood Cover
      o Early Childhood Care and Education Document
   3. Proposed Rulemaking - Secular Textbook Loan Program
      o Textbook Rules Cover
Textbook Rule Changes

H. Announcements and Reports
I. Other Business
J. Adjourn
  * Enter through Door 1

** This meeting will begin as close to this time as possible.

Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777
MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz           Marilyn McConachie           Vincent J. Serritella
David P. Gomez             Sandra M. Pellegrino           Janet Steiner
William E. Hill             Connie Rogers

Glenn W. "Max" McGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (Mr. Serritella joined the meeting at 7:03 a.m.)

Motion
Dr. Steiner moved that “the State Board of Education go into closed session 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; and

-- Section 2 (c) (21) for the purpose of reviewing executive session minutes.

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

Mrs. Rogers 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.

Dr. Hill - yes   Mr. Gidwitz - yes   Ms. Pellegrino - yes
Dr. Steiner - yes  Mr. Gomez - yes   Mrs. Rogers - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes
The meeting recessed until breakfast was served and then went into closed session at approximately 7:30 a.m.

Adjournment  The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

___________________________________
Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

___________________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman
MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz   Marilyn McConachie   Vincent J. Serritella
David P. Gomez   Connie Rogers

Glenn W. "Max" McGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
William E. Hill, Sandra M. Pellegrino, Janet Steiner

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

The Chairman indicated that some Board members were absent due to their travel conflicts.

Approval of Minutes
Mrs. McConachie moved that the minutes of the November 17-19, 1999, meetings of the State Board be approved. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Board was very pleased to be able to hold its last business meeting for this century in a public school building. He noted that the Board was grateful to Principal Joyce Kenner and her staff for welcoming the Board here at Whitney Young. He commented that the Board also wanted to thank Joyce Bristow and her staff in the Central Office for assisting in arrangements.

The Chairman reported that the Board specifically chose Whitney Young because of its focus on academics and because of its outstanding academic record; therefore, the Board would like to take a few minutes from the regular schedule to hear from Assistant Principal Roger Prietz and student representative Scott Velasquez about their school and their views on academic excellence. He indicated that Scott is active in various organizations and was the Junior Class President last year, and Mr. Prietz is in charge of various aspects of the School's assessment program. He thanked Mr. Prietz and Scott for allowing the Board to meet in their school and for joining the Board at this meeting.

Mr. Prietz indicated that on behalf of Principal Kenner, he welcomed the Board members to Whitney Young, and they were glad to finally have a State Board meeting
in the school. He commented that the parents, students and people who work at Whitney Young share a vision, and that is a powerful force in education. He noted that their average ACT score is 24.4 and has risen every year since 1990. Mr. Prietz indicated that the students say that they would not have been able to do as well as they do in college without the teachers at Whitney Young.

Scott, a senior who is captain of the baseball team and has a 30 composite on his ACT, welcomed the Board members to Whitney Young on behalf of the students. He noted that Whitney Young draws from the whole city and from all backgrounds. He believed that they are number one in reading in the 1999 ISAT scores.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Public Participation.

The Chairman indicated that, because of schedule conflicts for some Board members, he would call for public participation at various times throughout the meeting.

Bill Thoman, Director of Special Education for East Aurora School District and representing the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education, provided a written summary of 90 instances in the proposed special education rules where the Illinois rules exceed the federal rules, and the organization requests changes in the current draft rules before they are approved and sent to JCAR. He indicated that he opposed the elimination of the approval process in Illinois for teachers to work in a special education area and believed that the suggestions that Dr. Riffel made to look at maintaining that approval process have value. Mr. Thoman indicated that this is not the first time that cross-categorical special education has been identified as a teacher shortage area, and he hoped that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission can be prompted not to eliminate cross-categorical special education from the category of scholarships.

Sister Margaret Farley, representing the Archdiocese of Chicago and Illinois Coalition of Non-public Schools, commented that the Coalition was pleased that the Illinois Textbook Loan Program and the Transportation Reimbursement Program are in the proposed budget.

Richard Laine, on behalf of the Illinois Business Roundtable, indicated that the business community is very interested in what the State Board does and very interesting in working together with the Board. He commented that in reviewing the budget, there were not a lot of details, and as the Board moves forward and schools start apply these dollars, it will be important to have the details to work together to get the results we want to achieve.

Mr. Laine reported that the Business Roundtable and the business community would again introduce a push to get school level financial information. He indicated that regarding the adequacy panel, which is in law to be set up and has to report in less than a year, will be staffed by the Board, and he urged the Board to encourage the Governor's
office to get that panel appointed so it can start to look at the issues of how we spend the money, what the basic level of funding is and look at the property tax issue underlying the funding in the system of revenues. He commented that the State Board needs to consider all future increases in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) -- are we spending the money on operations to achieve better learning for students or just paying for retirement of teachers. Mr. Laine noted that regarding aligning resources to results, performance of students on the ISAT and students meeting the standards, we need to push much more aggressively and to think about holding schools, students and teachers accountable. He indicated that if the Board can start to align budgets to results and accountability to flexibility, he thought the Board would have a better and strong partner in the business community.

Superintendent McGee responded by noting that, for the first time, the Board has had all of the divisions write their own business plans and the budget was developed based on those plans. The Superintendent also noted that, as President of TRS, he was concerned about the funding request and saw a need to get a better return on that organization's investments.

Heidi Biederman, representing LUDA, commented on the Urban Education Partnership Program and indicated that it has proven to be one of the Board's finest in terms of what it is able to accomplish with a minimum amount of money. She noted that one critical part of the Program has been the ability of the Board's staff to visit and work with each school to offer support, serve as a resource and to make sure that the schools are living up to the expectations of the grant. She asked that at some point the Board consider increasing the budget so that additional staff could assist these schools, and more schools could be involved. Ms. Biederman invited the Board members to visit an urban grant school and see how the program works and how the staff and community feel about it.

Agenda Item F.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F.1., Items for Immediate Action, FY 2001 Budget.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that this item was discussed in detail earlier in the day, and the motion for final action reflects that discussion.

Superintendent McGee thanked staff and the Board for its support and looked forward to showing some results at the end of the year.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the FY 2001 budget for elementary, secondary and adult education, with a total request of $5,947,076.6 in General Revenue Funds and a total for all funds of $7,813,118.5, and with specific requests as shown in Attachment 1. The Board further approves the proposed consolidation of line items for the budget, as shown in Attachment 2."
The State Superintendent and staff are directed to present this budget, with the proposed consolidation of line items, to the General Assembly for adoption during the spring 2000 session. In addition, the Superintendent and staff are asked to provide appropriate information to the educational community and to Illinois citizens.

As appropriate to circumstances that arise during budget deliberations, the Superintendent is authorized to make necessary changes to federal and other non-General Revenue fund requests. Changes to the General Revenue Funds requests may be made at the Superintendent's discretion, or in consultation with the Chair or the Board, depending on the magnitude of proposed changes (Addendum II).

Mrs. Rogers 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.

Mrs. McConachie - yes  Mr. Gomez - yes  Mr. Serritella - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes   Mrs. Rogers - yes

Agenda Item F.2.

Legislative Proposal -- Quality Educators. This agenda item was deferred until it could be discussed by the Joint Education Committee in January.

Agenda Item F.4.

Least Restrictive Environment Policy.

Superintendent McGee reported that, as discussed on December 15, further changes to the proposal were needed, and he asked the Board to defer action on this item until January. Chairman Gidwitz agreed to do this.

Agenda Item F.5.

Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program.

Superintendent McGee asked Associate Superintendent Gary Ey to provide background and an explanation of the recommended action on this item.

After Mr. Ey's brief comments, discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the applications submitted by the school districts listed below for 1999 Qualified Zone Academy Bonds.

  Board of Education of the City of Chicago  $12,000,000

  Board of Education of West Aurora Public School District #129  $ 996,000"
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Board of Education of Mendota Community
Consolidated School District #289 $ 500,000

Board of Education of DeKalb Community
School District #428 $ 500,000

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion

Vote on
Motion The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda
Item F.6. The Chairman called for Agenda Item F.6., Items for Immediate Action,
Annual Reports to the General Assembly (4).

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that four annual reports to the General Assembly are due in
January. He noted that drafts of three of these reports are in the Board packet, and the
Board members received the fourth under separate cover (SBE Annual Report, Supply
and Demand, Charter Schools and Teacher Certification System). He commented that
the Board's goal is to endorse the reports to the General Assembly, with direction for
further refinement as needed.

Superintendent McGee indicated that the supply and demand report is particularly
relevant to what the Board is trying to do in the budget to support teacher
retention/recruitment efforts, that it ties in with the earlier remarks made by
Mr. Thoman about the shortage of cross-categorical teachers and that its conclusions
should be considered in the further discussions that will be held regarding special
education certification. He asked Division Administrator Connie Wise and Jim
Sweeney to give a brief overview.

Ms. Wise indicated that the Supply and Demand study was a result of legislation that
was passed in the spring session and enacted into law last summer. The statute
essentially requires that the State Board report annually to the Governor, the General
Assembly and to institutions of higher education that produce teachers on the supply
and demand of education staff in the public schools. She briefly commented on the
study and noted that the Board would receive periodic updates as new or additional
information becomes available.

Mr. Sweeney commented on the data, some conclusions and future information to be
compiled.

The Chairman suggested that it might be helpful to describe in an executive summary
what methodology was used.
Mrs. McConachie suggested that the first page under "study limitations" be stated differently to increase the creditability.

The Superintendent commented that part of the responsibility for data collection is at the regional level. He noted that he would be meeting with the Regional Superintendents on January 12 to make sure they understand the expectations for their role in collecting data on this issue.

In response to Mrs. Rogers' inquiry if the task was only to look at teachers, Ms. Wise indicated that there was a problem in getting the data on administrators and non-certificated staff.

Chairman Gidwitz suggested that this report be put on the Board's website.

**Motion**

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby endorses the general direction of the draft reports to the General Assembly on teacher supply and demand, charter schools, the state teacher certification system and the condition of education in Illinois, and authorizes staff to make necessary improvements before their submission by the respective required dates."

Mr. Gomez seconded the motion.

**Vote on Motion**

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Agenda Item F.7.**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F.7., Items for Immediate Action, Board Meeting Schedule for 2000.

Chairman Gidwitz asked for a motion to set the Board meeting schedule for 2000.

**Motion**

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the following meeting schedule for 2000.

- **January 18-20**: Chicago
- **February 16-17**: Springfield
- **March 15-16**: Springfield
- **April 19-20**: Springfield
- **May 17-18**: South Suburbs
- **June 15-17**: Oak Brook (includes the Annual Work Conference)
- **July**: No meeting scheduled
- **August 23-24**: Champaign-Urbana
- **September 20-21**: Quad Cities
- **October 18-19**: Mt. Vernon
- **November 15-16**: Chicago
Mr. Serritella seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion
The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation
The following individuals spoke to the Board regarding special education.

Susan Shea, representing the Illinois Education Association, recommended that the LRE policy have the term "public" included, reviewed for grammatical errors and distributed for public comment. Regarding the draft rules, she thanked the Board for recommending to retain the 50 percent level for special education self-contained programs and to change the reporting to the federal government to 60 percent. She also thanked the Board for changing the draft rules where it was implied that individuals had to be eligible to receive 20 percent of their services in a day or 20 percent of services in a week in order to qualify to be counted for funding in order to be in special education services. Ms. Shea indicated that by correcting the state law to be in compliance with the federal law, the Board could change the developmentally delayed to nine and would not have to give them a categorical label at all. She noted that this would be a perfect opportunity to end the dispute, and the IEA would support non-categorical.

Lonnie Johns indicated that a more appropriate standard for the Board to set would be to require compelling reasons for the new proposed certification structure, and he asked where the research was in support of this new structure and the data on educational outcomes, on student achievement and on academic progress in support of requiring all new special education teachers to be trained in all seven areas of disability listed under mild/moderate. He commented that the quality of teaching is the key to student achievement, and repeated national reports have stated that the quality of college and university teacher training must be dramatically improved and restructured. Mr. Johns noted that no school has ever been put on the academic watch list since it became effective eight years ago, and with the change in the law, the Board has now named schools to the Academic Early Warning List for two years. He indicated that the Board could have put schools on the Academic Watch List for the first time in the history of Illinois this year. He commented that next year, there will not be 10th grade ISAT but voluntary ones. Mr. Johns urged the Board to be careful in seeking further changes in the law, and he noted that it is hard to support new accountability proposals when the Board has not implemented current law.

Nancy Dunton thanked the Board for: (1) recommending the consideration of severity waiting for speech-language pathology caseloads, (2) putting off consideration of moving SLP's from the type 10 to the type 73 until the Board can survey those most directly involved, and (3) its further consideration of the special education certification redesign. She commented that regarding the Superintendent's recent brochure on the
certification redesign, it did not mention special education and how special educators would exchange their certificates. She asked if there were plans for a separate brochure for special educators. Ms. Dunton indicated that on December 15 at the Board meeting, there was some mention of supplying speech-language impaired teachers with bachelors instead of masters degrees so that this would decrease the shortage area. She noted that at the same time the Board members are considering raising and increasing rigor and standards for all, they should not be considering decreasing qualifications for some.

Marty Ricconi, Executive Director of LaSalle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education, expressed concern about the recommendation of Panel A regarding the abolishment of temporary approvals for special education personnel. He indicated that the elimination of the temporary approvals would have a devastating effect on all LEA's in the state, and flexibility is needed in the regulations -- in order to make sure that students with disabilities have services available. He commented on the shortage situation and recommended short-term initiatives.

1. Continue temporary approvals.
2. Initiate the "letters of non-jeopardization" process for special education teachers.
3. Initiate an alternative certification program such as that available in regular education.
4. Require all special education teachers, who are not fully qualified for the position they hold, to take the necessary coursework and training to become fully qualified.
5. Expand reciprocity to include all states.

Mr. Ricconi noted that on behalf of IAASE, he would like to see the merger of the mild and moderate and moderate/severe categories into one which would truly solve some of the confusion and allow more flexibility for special education administrators to fill classes, as well as to make sure that the state regulations, as they are finalized, do not exceed federal regulations except where it is absolutely necessary.

Geri Palmer, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children, expressed concern regarding the final recommendations of the special education advisory panel. She indicated that regarding recommendation #1, they would like the Board to consider the implications of the numbers of disability categories under each designation that teachers would be mandated to have specific knowledge in. She noted that such a wide-range of disabilities in one classroom setting has the potential to cause teachers overwhelming difficulty in delivering effective quality education. Ms. Palmer also noted that many children need one-on-one attention and with the new designations that could be lost. She commented on the teacher shortage issue and indicated that their other concern was recommendation #7 -- the discontinuation of letters of approval for types 3's and 9's to teach special education after taking three or four courses may prove detrimental to public and nonpublic schools alike. She indicated that it was their hope that the Board would revisit the proposal, and individuals are available to dialogue with the Board members to continue discussions.
Jerry Wasson, Director of Mid-State Special Education, addressed the discussion of the elimination of temporary approvals and expressed concerns regarding recommendation #7 contained in the final report of the special education advisory panel. He indicated that placing the "highest quality professional" in the special education classrooms is the goal of his cooperative; however, under current conditions, fully certified special education staff are not always available and temporary personnel approvals allow classrooms to be staffed. Mr. Wasson noted that severe personnel shortages in special education is a statewide problem, and he commented that just because an individual meets the rigorous standards proposed in the "standards" document does not necessarily mean that they are the highest quality professional. He indicated that temporary approvals are used by cooperatives throughout the state just to staff existing special education programs, and as the number of special education students increase, the personnel shortages will only become worse.

Paula Smith reported that last night she received by fax three letters from Adelle Renzaglia (U. of I at Urbana-Champaign -- Dept. of Special Ed.), Kathlene Shank (EIU -- Dept. of Special Ed.), and Suzanne Lee (Urbana teacher/parent), and all three individuals are in support of the recommendations from Panel A related to special education certification. These were submitted to staff for the record.

Jeanne Carter, representing IAASE/Region III Special Education, highlighted and reiterated the comments made by Mr. Ricconi about reciprocity for other states. She indicated that she thought the Board should appoint another committee to look further at the issue of special education teacher certification. Ms. Carter reported that IAASE supports multi-categorical training, and she thought that the panel supports the multi-categorical concept that is already somewhat in practice. She thanked the Board for recommending the delay on the certification decisions. Regarding the rules, she reiterated what Mr. Ricconi said about the concerns that the field has on their perception that the proposed rules exceed the federal language, and she hoped that they would have the opportunity in the field to meet with State Board staff and try to come to terms on that issue.

Chairman Gidwitz encouraged Ms. Carter to meet with the Board staff and encouraged the Superintendent to see that that is done.

Donna Baiocchi, Executive Director of ED-RED, thanked the Board for the input analysis that was provided on the special education rules and regulations in the preliminary report that was given on December 15, and she reported that ED-RED supports four of the five items with the exception being on the one on developmental delay. She noted that the concerns that the Superintendent and staff have are valid, but ED-RED believes that those concerns could be addressed in other ways. She commented that when they put their testimony together, their goal was to focus on the rules not exceeding federal requirements. Ms. Baiocchi indicated that in the report it was listed that those five topics received the most testimony, and she pointed out that
just because they did not submit petitions, etc. there were other topics. She noted that they look forward to seeing the rest of those topics being reported at the next meeting.

Ms. Baiocchi pointed out that they had a proposal to change language that would address a full and individual educational evaluation for a student that would be signed and dated with parental consent and would establish the starting date of the timeline for completion of the child's evaluation. That new language would clarify the meaning of a referral. Ms. Baiocchi indicated that they were pleased to see in the legislative report that the State Board is going to continue to pursue the special education funding formula, and they pledged their support to that as they have for the past several years. She noted that they would also be very supportive of the legislative proposal on life/safety changes.

**Agenda**

**Item G.1.** Cumulative Waiver Report to the General Assembly.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item G.1., Items for Future Action, Cumulative Waiver Report to the General Assembly.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the State Board is required to report to the General Assembly each February regarding the waivers that have been received since the waiver law was adopted in 1995. He noted that the Board is also required to make recommendations for legislative changes that are indicated by the character and/or volume of the waiver requests. He indicated that the report before the Board today is due in February, so the Board will take final action in January.

Superintendent McGee reported that this year's cumulative waiver report, like those in previous years, highlights the fact that the majority of waiver requests fall into two areas: daily physical education and legal school holidays. He indicated that therefore, the recommendations proposed for the Board to forward to the General Assembly in February call for legislative changes to do the following.

For school holidays -- authorize school districts to hold school on certain holidays if the person or event being honored by the holiday is recognized through instructional activities that day or at another time during the school year. In addition, the local board would be required to hold a public hearing before taking such action.

The holidays that would be affected by this change would be as follows.

- Martin L. King, Jr.
- Abraham Lincoln
- Casimir Pulaski
- Columbus Day
- Veteran's Day

For daily physical education -- the proposed change would add to the reasons
students may be excused from daily physical education in grades 9 - 12. More significantly, the proposed changes would authorize school districts to provide physical education on less than a daily basis when the amount of time devoted to P.E. is equal to the amount that would be offered on a daily basis. Again, this change would require a public hearing at the local level before it could be implemented.

The final proposed recommendation to the General Assembly addresses the issue of who is eligible to seek a waiver. The proposal would add joint agreements made up of local school districts and public university lab schools approved by the State Board. The Joint Agreement eligibility issue is one which this Board has previously supported.

The Superintendent reported that as the Chairman indicated, this report is for future action, so the Board can have additional discussion in January.

Motion
Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the cumulative waiver report to the General Assembly and the specific recommendations presented in the report. The State Superintendent is authorized to submit this report to the General Assembly by February 1, 2000, and to work with the General Assembly as it considers the recommendations."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion. This item will come back to the Board for final action in January.

Agenda Item G.2.
Early Childhood Position Statement.

Superintendent MCGee reported that as part of the Board's priority plan for the birth to eight early learning initiative, the Board needed to adopt strong early childhood position statement. He noted that the proposed statement was developed in concert with several groups and individuals who are leaders in the early childhood field. He pointed out that the statement emphasizes consistent programs from birth through eight as opposed to the usual zero to three, three to five, and five to eight. He also indicated that he was personally delighted to see supporting provision for full-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Associate Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato and Division Administrator Kay Henderson briefly commented on the position statement.

Mrs. Rogers reported that when the Board had its constituent meetings this summer in the field, one of the things that she heard about was kindergarten, and many individuals did not want full-day kindergarten. She noted that these individuals said that long-term research did not support that. She requested that when the Board discusses this item
further, she would like to have the research elaborated on regarding what it does show on this, the progress and the long-term effect on that issue.

The Superintendent responded that they would provide ample research to support full-day kindergarten.

**Motion**
Mr. Serritella moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed position statement on early childhood care and learning and directs staff to use it as a guide for actions that will implement its provisions (Addendum III)."

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. This item will come back to the Board for final action in January.

**Agenda Item G.3.**
Proposed Rulemaking -- Secular Textbook Loan Program.

Superintendent McGee reported that the proposed changes to the Textbook Loan Program are small but important to districts and entities that are affected. He indicated that in essence, the proposed rules will change the basis for calculating the amount available for the program from the previous year's fall enrollment and housing report to the student enrollment of the last school day in September of the current school year. He noted that this will make it easier for schools that begin operation during a funding cycle.

The Superintendent reported that other changes are administrative clarifications, including a provision to allow electronic submission of textbook request forms. He indicated that this is an item for future action, and if the Board members agree, the proposed rules would be distributed for public comment.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

**Motion**
Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed amendments to the Secular Textbook Loan Program (Part 350)."

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. This item would be returned to the Board for final action at the conclusion of the public comment period.

**Agenda Item F.3.**
Special Education Certification: Structure and Standards.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that this was discussed in detail during the December 15 Work Study Session, and the motion for Board action reflects that discussion.
Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby defers action on the recommendations presented by the Special Education Advisory Panel until the March 2000 Board meeting.

The Board directs the State Superintendent to submit to the federal court that is supervising implementation of the Corey H. Settlement Agreement a report describing actions taken to date, issues that have been identified, and a request to extend the reporting date regarding a new special education certification system until April 1.

The Board further directs the State Superintendent to meet with key stakeholders and educational experts, and to take other appropriate actions, to evaluate the issues and options that have been suggested during the public comment period."

Mr. Gomez seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that he had expressed to the General Counsel that he would be willing to meet with the court monitor if that would be helpful.

Agenda Item E.1

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.1., General Consent Agenda, Review of Minutes of Closed Meetings.

General Counsel Michael Hernandez reported that the Board members have reviewed the minutes for the closed meetings for the last six months as required to do under the Open Meetings Act, and he recommended that those minutes be made available to the public.

Hearing no objections, Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the General Consent agenda was approved.

Agenda Item H

The Chairman called for Agenda Item H., Announcements and Reports.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that Mrs. McConachie and Mrs. Rogers would be attending the National Association of State Board of Education (NASBE) meetings in Washington in January. He indicated that Mrs. McConachie has been appointed Chair of a new NASBE study committee on "Helping Students Move Through School: Alternatives to Retention and Social Promotion," and Mrs. Rogers has been appointed to serve on the Governmental Affairs Committee. The Chairman congratulated both of them on these appointments, and he commented that the Board expects great accomplishments on behalf of children.
Superintendent McGee recognized the special accomplishments and achievements of several staff members.

- Technical Advisory Team -- for working long hours over the weekend to rid the agency of the computer virus.

- Linda Kopecky -- for her aggressive recruiting efforts to enable the State Board in Illinois to become one of the leaders among the states in having National Board Certified Teachers.

- Clara Basch -- for her fine work in the urban education grant, as noted by Heidi Biederman of LUDA.

- Sandy Thompson and Sue Rechner -- for their work to ensure that the newly ratified union contracts were up-to-date and employees could get paid before the new millenium.

The Superintendent commented on plans by LUDA for collaborative development of a virtual high school, and he noted that he is very excited about that project. He congratulated LUDA on their vision and indicated that the Board will hear more about this in the future.

Mrs. Rogers reported on behalf of the Board Operations Committee that the Superintendent's travel was reviewed and is in order.

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 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

___________________________________
Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

___________________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman
AGENDA

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

B. Quality Educators: Legislative and Budget Recommendations
   - Quality Educators Cover
   - Quality Educators Issues and Recommendations
   - Quality Educators Budget and Legislative Recommendations

C. Special Education Certification: Structure and Standards
   - Special Education Teachers
   - Forum Comments

D. Least Restrictive Environment Policy
   - LRP Cover
   - LRP Policy Document

E. Continuing Professional Development
   - CPD Cover

F. Agency Progress Reports

G. Report of the Internal Auditor

H. Information Reports
   1. Special Education Rules - Summary of Testimony
      - Special Ed Rules Cover
      - 226comment Analysis Document
   2. Public School Profile
      - Public school Profile
   3. Fact Sheets for Spring Legislative Session
      - Electronic Reporting
      - Special Ed Funding
      - Health Life Safety
      - Transportation
I. Other Business

J. Adjourn

Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777
MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz  Marilyn McConachie  Vincent J. Serritella
David P. Gomez  Sandra M. Pellegrino  Janet Steiner
William E. Hill  Connie Rogers

Glenn W. "Max" McGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Vice Chair, Ms. Pellegrino, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Vice Chair Pellegrino indicated that she would be chairing the meeting, because Chairman Gidwitz could only participate in the meeting for a short time due to business obligations. She noted that the Board was on a very tight timeline that afternoon, and she would push to see that the discussion did not get bogged down on one topic.

Agenda
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item B., Quality Educators: Legislative and Budget Recommendations.

Vice Chair Pellegrino reported that during the October meeting, the Board talked about the need for legislation and funding to support an induction program for new teachers. She indicated that at that time, the Board asked staff for a broader proposal that would address other legislative and budget needs related to the Quality Educators initiative. She noted that the Board had also asked that this issue be discussed with the Joint Education Committee (JEC), but the JEC meeting scheduled for December 14 was canceled.

The Vice Chair indicated that in the absence of recommendations that have been discussed by the JEC, the Board would go ahead with its review of the staff recommendations, and the Board's goal was to reach consensus on what it needed to do during this legislative session.

Superintendent McGee provided an overview of planning for professional development academies that will provide high-quality, targeted professional development opportunities for individuals and school faculties. This planning is
a joint effort with the Governor’s Office and several professional development advocates and providers, such as the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, TAMS, and regional offices of education. Dr. McGee indicated that the budget proposal would provide a substantial amount of funding to support these new academies, which are intended to be services rather than places.

Deputy Superintendents Frank Llano and Lee Patton provided a summary of staff recommendations that address the full range of issues associated with Quality Educators. Deputy Superintendent David Wood provided comments on budget implications. Staff noted that a calendar has been developed to allow in-depth discussion of these issues over the next several months. The focus of this discussion was on specific recommendations that would require legislation and/or budget support, with particular attention to three specific topics: induction, professional development delivery system and substitute teachers.

Mr. Serritella complimented staff on the report, indicating that it was helpful in targeting the issues that need Board attention. However, he expressed concern about the proposed action to expand the time substitute teachers could be employed in the schools, noting that the shortage of substitute teachers does not appear to be a supply problem and could be handled in other ways (e.g., recruitment). Following discussion of each of the possible legislative initiatives, Board members asked staff to take the recommendations to the Joint Education Committee, as originally planned, and return to the Board with that group’s recommendation.

(Chairman Gidwitz left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.)

Agenda Item C.

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item C., Special Education Certification: Structure and Standards.

Vice Chair Pellegrino reported that the public comment period has now been completed on the proposed changes to special education certification in Illinois, and the Board was ready to discuss what it should do with respect to the recommendations of the advisory panel.

Superintendent McGee reported that a great deal of comment on the proposed changes to the special education teacher certification system had been received. He indicated that the Board has continued to receive many communications from the field, most of which have drawn attention to the need for the Board to consider options to the advisory panel's recommendations. He noted that he had also received communication from several Board members, including the Chairman, who raised important issues with respect to these recommendations.

The Superintendent further reported that the Certification Board had voted on Friday, December 10, to recommend that the recommendations not be approved. He indicated that although he still strongly supports the need for a cross-categorical teacher
certification category, he believed that enough issues have been raised that the Board should look to see what options might be considered. He noted that he would therefore recommend that Board action on this issue be deferred until the March Board meeting. Superintendent McGee noted that if the Board agreed to this proposal, he would notify the court of the actions taken so far and the reasons that it was in the best interests of students with disabilities for the Board to defer action until it could consult further with interested parties. He further indicated that he would propose an April 1 reporting date to the court.

The Superintendent reported that between now and the March Board meeting, the Board would take an even closer look at all potential courses of action and at issues raised by the Board and the public. He indicated that with that in mind, he wanted to use this meeting to identify the issues and questions that the Board would like staff to examine during this additional review period.

Superintendent McGee introduced staff members Mike Long, Gordon Riffel and Rob Sampson and also Dr. Paula Smith, who represented the advisory panel which had developed the certification proposal. Board members asked a number of questions, and Dr. Smith gave an extensive explanation of the background, context and implications of the panel’s recommendations. An audio tape copy of this discussion is available through the State Board office (217/782-9560).

Following this discussion, the Board agreed to accept the Superintendent’s proposal to look further at the issues. Vice Chair Pellegrino announced that this item would be deferred until March 2000.

The meeting recessed for a short break at 3:05 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

**Agenda**

**Item D.**  
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Least Restrictive Environment Policy.

Vice Chair Pellegrino reported that the Board is required by the terms of the Corey H. settlement agreement to develop and disseminate a policy on least restrictive environment for students with disabilities. She indicated that the preliminary policy had been briefly discussed last month and had since been revised by staff to respond to some of the Board’s concerns. She noted that the Board would discuss it this month and then submit the desired policy to the court monitor for approval. The Vice Chair reported that the Board would take final action in January.

Ms. Pellegrino asked staff to respond to specific questions that had been developed to help focus the discussion (see Addendum II). Following Board member comments, staff was directed to revise the proposed policy to correspond to issues raised during the meeting and to provide a final proposal for action in January.
Item E. The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Continuing Professional Development.

Vice Chair Pellegrino reminded the Board of the long and difficult discussions last spring that finally resulted in S.B. 556 -- the legislation that spells out state requirements for certificate renewal and continuing professional development for standard and master certified teachers. She indicated that since that time, staff has been working very intensely to put together a procedure for moving from the legislation to a system that can be implemented beginning this summer.

Frank Llano and Dennis Williams described the process for defining specific aspects of the system and commented on the draft rules and credit matrix. These drafts are being shared with a variety of interested stakeholders for review and input before a formal set of recommended rules is presented to the Board and the Teacher Certification Board. Final action by both boards will be required in the spring, following the official public comment period.

Board members complimented Mr. Williams on the high quality of the work, the fact that it is progressing on schedule, and that there is a collaborative process for reaching closure. It was reiterated that this is a very complex and controversial issue, and reaching agreement on every topic will probably not be possible. Nonetheless, a substantial amount of progress has been made. Mr. Williams gave credit to State Board staff Sally Vogl and Lou Ann Reichle, and also complimented the representatives of the two teacher unions who worked so diligently on the proposed credit matrix.

Agenda Item F. The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item F., Agency Progress Reports.

Vice Chair Pellegrino reported that the Board asked that it receive monthly updates on staff work on the priority and division plans. The Superintendent provided an update on the four Board priorities and reported on other center and division plans by “exception,” noting specific instances where there were problems with a timeline or planned procedure. Division Administrator Kay Henderson reported on the Board's early learning priority; Associate Superintendent Diana Robinson described the revisions to her center plan and the work being done to address the Board's strategic commitment regarding education-to-careers; and Federal Liaison Gail Lieberman reported on the federal relations unit goals/plans, the search for a Washington firm to help in work with the federal government, and the status of congressional work regarding education.

Agenda Item G. The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item G., Report of the Internal Auditor.

Vice Chair Pellegrino called on Internal Auditor Tammy Rust who gave her quarterly report to the Board. Ms. Rust noted that the external audit report will be received in the next few weeks and will be presented to the Board at that time. She commented on the excellence of the communication from and with the audit firm.
Agenda Item H.1. Superintendent M^cGee emphasized several points regarding the summary of special education testimony presented in the packet.

1. The five issues discussed in this paper are the ones that received the most commentary. Staff is now reviewing every single issue raised by the public comments, and a second summary with that focus will come to the Board in January.

2. The question of exceeding federal regulations has been over-simplified in much of the comment we have received. Sally Vogl, who prepared this summary, has done an excellent job of laying out the issues.

3. For each of the five issues, the paper indicates the staff’s preliminary thinking with respect to a final recommendation. However, staff will need to engage in some indepth discussions before those final recommendations are presented to the Board.

Academic Warning List Superintendent M^cGee updated the Board on the status of the work with the four warning list schools designated last month as needing special oversight. He noted that the Board had agreed that the level of intervention in schools on the Academic Warning List would be based on the designations given to the schools as a result of the educational audits. For the four schools making "minimal progress," there will be a high degree of intervention leading to the development of a specific implementation plan. Schools in the remaining group will receive varying levels of "continued support" along with state monitoring of progress.

The Superintendent noted that the Board members had received the implementation for East St. Louis High School, and at their places was a newsletter focused on the new after-school program. He commented that Sheryl Poggi had done a truly incredible job of putting this plan into action, and he thought it could be used as a model for future efforts. He asked Ms. Poggi to make a few brief remarks. She commented on the plan for East St. Louis and also Pembroke Elementary School District which has been designated as a prototype district for the State Board’s new model of support.

Superintendent M^cGee reported that Xavier Botana is working with the Chicago School District to develop implementation plans for the other three schools designated as needing special interventions. He indicated that Mr. Botana expects to have all three plans up and running by the next Board meeting.
Superintendent McGee asked Division Administrator Connie Wise to comment on the Public School Profile.

Ms. Wise provided highlights of the information from the report card, information that provides a profile of Illinois schools this year and over time.

**Agenda Item H.3.** The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item H.3., Information Reports, Fact Sheets for Spring Legislative Session. This item was deferred until December 16.

**Adjournment** The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Sandra M. Pellegrino, Vice Chair
AGENDA

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

B. Final Budget Recommendations - FY 2001
   Budget Cover

C. School Designation System
   Designation System Cover

D. East St. Louis

E. Other Business

F. Adjourn

* This meeting will begin as close as possible to this time.
The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (Mr. Gomez joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz apologized to the audience for the delay in starting the Work-Study Session; however, the closed session took more time than expected.

Superintendent McGee reported that the fact sheets for the legislative agenda were being provided in response to requests the Board made last spring. He indicated that in addition, this is the Board members' final opportunity to review the direction for this legislation and ask questions if they have any.

Staff members Brenda Holmes, Gary Ey and Gordon Riffel commented on the fact sheets and responded to Board member questions. Ms. Holmes indicated that status of conversations with potential sponsors of SBE legislative proposals and noted that work on each of these issues is moving along well in relation to the accelerated timeline for the spring session.

Deputy Superintendent David Wood provided the Board with an overview of the results of the budget hearings and an indepth explanation of the proposed final
recommendations. The Superintendent indicated his pride that the budget has been
developed to reflect agency planning and accountability efforts and his appreciation
for the collaborative budget discussions that have taken place with the Governor’s
Office.

Mr. Serritella indicated that for the record, he accepts the funding strategy for early
childhood for this year, but he thought that next year the Board has to think about
new investment strategies accordingly. He noted that the Board has to build a
quality framework as it moves ahead, but it seems to him that the Board really needs
to drive some integration of particular programs (education-to-careers, arts,
agriculture, whatever) into the four priorities. He commended staff for this particular
structure for the budget, because he thought for the first time we have the ability to
debate it very clearly.

Chairman Gidwitz expressed concern that the Board needs to find a way to control
the amount of paper but also provide a visible and understandable explanation of the
budget to people who are not familiar with this new process or with the Board. He
commented that he thought the Board would have a great deal of difficulty
persuading anybody that the proposed consolidation of line items ought to be done
unless we can give tools to people that make it easier for them to follow what we are
doing.

Mr. Wood indicated that staff was working to put together one or two pages on each
of the initiatives. This would lay out what the Board is trying to accomplish, what
has been accomplished in the past and what will be accomplished with the new
money. He hoped this would respond to Mr. Gidwitz’ concerns and provide
a better information base for policymakers and the public.

The Chairman suggested that putting materials on a CD-ROM may provide a good
way to make information more broadly available.

The meeting recessed at 10:05 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Agenda
Item C

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C, School Designation System.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that this was a follow-up to last month's discussion, and
the staff have presented a revised draft for the Board's consideration.

Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haefele provided background and an explanation for
the revised designation system. She noted that this is an extremely complex process,
that it must be considered as a work-in-progress, and that much more discussion will
be needed in order to develop answers to problem issues and develop support for this
new direction.
Superintendent McGee indicated that discussion of this issue would continue in January.

**Agenda Item E.**
The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Other Business.

Associate Superintendent Bill Conrad commented about the progress on electronic communication for the Board.

Division Administrator Frank Whitney commented on the virus that shut down the State Board the previous week. He indicated that no school districts were effected and that none of the agency funding or similar data bases were lost.

Discussion focused on strategies to reduce risks in the future, with Mr. Whitney noting that the Board's systems are well-protected and will be even better protected in the future. However, he noted that risk can never be completely eliminated. The discussion also addressed plans for dealing with potential Y2K problems.

Mr. Whitney noted that the entire agency system would be shut down before and through New Year’s Eve. Then staff would fully test the system to assure, to the extent possible, that it would be ready for operation by the beginning of the work week.

The Superintendent and Board members complimented Dr. Conrad, Mr. Whitney and their staff for extraordinary efforts to minimize and quickly resolve the virus problem, as well as their planning for the future.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

**Agenda Item D.**
The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., East St. Louis.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month, Dorothy Magett presented her report and recommendations regarding East St. Louis. He noted that the Board did not have time to discuss that report, but things have been moving forward. He provided an overview of the areas which will be given highest attention in the next few months and announced that long-time agency staff member Cheryl Bradley had been appointed to serve as the interim special assistant for East St. Louis. She will work with him and the rest of the staff to move forward with this action agenda.

Jim Tapscott, Financial Administrator for the East St. Louis Oversight Panel, and agency staff Gary Ey, Sheryl Poggi and Cheryl Bradley commented on specific aspects of District operation and planning. It was noted that there will be very specific expectations for District progress. Dr. Bradley indicated that she plans to work cooperatively with the District to help assure that those expectations can be met.
Chairman Gidwitz announced that the business meeting would convene at 1:30 p.m. at Whitney Young High School.

**Adjournment**  The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman