MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSION I and CLOSED MEETING
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois
January 17-18, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz Marilyn McConachie Janet Steiner*
Marjorie B. Branch Connie Rogers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
David P. Gomez, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 3:00 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. There was a quorum. (*Dr. Steiner was connected to the meeting by phone for the roll call and the closed meeting vote.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Serritella had been called to jury duty, and Mr. Gomez and Dr. Steiner both had business commitments this month. He noted that Dr. Steiner would be joining the meeting by phone at various times during the two-day meeting.

Closed Session
The Chairman asked for a motion for the Board to go into a closed meeting during the next two days.

Motion
Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education go into closed session on January 17 at 5:00 p.m. or immediately following Work-Study Session I and on January 18 at 7:30 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; and
- Section 2 (c) (21) for the purpose of reviewing executive session minutes.

She further moved that Superintendent McGee be included in this meeting and 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

Dr. Steiner disconnected from the meeting.

Waiver
Report

The Chairman called for Agenda Item A., Cumulative Waiver Report.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that the Board would be discussing the Cumulative Waiver Report. He indicated that following Board approval, this Report would be submitted to the General Assembly and serve as the fourth report of this nature.

Superintendent McGee reported that the staff was asked in September to study six waiver-related policy issues in depth and provide recommendations to the State Board for incorporation in the Cumulative Waiver Report. He indicated that on January 18, he would be asking for approval of the recommendations as reviewed and authorization to submit the 2001 Waiver Report with these recommendations to the General Assembly by February 1.

Lee Patton, Director of the Policy Development Office, and staff member Shelley Helton provided an overview of each of those issues related to the recommendations. They provided additional materials on the issue. Discussion followed for clarification purposes and for Board members' input.

Representative William Delgado, chair of the House Education Subcommittee on Physical Education Waivers, spoke to the Board regarding the three hearings that were held on this issue. He indicated that we need to work together to modify the waiver process. He reported that he had drafted proposed legislation to address these components, and he would like to go in with a consensus.

The Superintendent commented that we concurred completely that we need to modify the waiver process and to focus on students and learning standards.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that we need to insist on students being "fit" -- performance against the standards.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force Report and Recommendations.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last March the Board heard about a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Challenge Task Force to be convened by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), in collaboration with the Governor's Office. He noted that the Board would now discuss the work of that Task Force, including their preliminary recommendations and future activity.

Superintendent McGee reported that the CTE Challenge Task Force had been meeting for the past nine months in an effort to develop a strategy for repositioning career and technical education in Illinois. He commented that as the Chairman indicated, this is a joint effort of the ICCB, the State Board, and the Governor's Office, and as such, it reaches beyond high school and is a significant issue that relates to the Board's P-16 initiative. He indicated that the Task Force work plan calls for distribution and feedback related to the vision and the broad goals following this meeting and that of the ICCB on January 18. The Superintendent noted that we are asking for the Board's direction to distribute portions of this Report for public input.

Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson and Division Administrators John Klit and Fran Beauman provided information on the preliminary recommendations and future activity. Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

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The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Alternate Assessment Policy.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the alternate assessment was discussed at the December Board meeting, and at this meeting, we would have further discussion regarding a policy on which the Board plans to take action on January 18.

Superintendent McGee indicated that during the meeting in December, staff presented seven issues that were raised by the field relating to the alternate assessment. He commented that the alternate assessment is for students with IEP's whose disabilities preclude them from participating in regular state or district-wide assessments, even with accommodations and addresses the requirements of IDEA '97. He noted that at this meeting, he had asked staff to briefly highlight the seven issues and corresponding solutions and the policy, as well as their
continuing efforts to work with the field in the implementation of the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA).

The Superintendent reported that on January 18, he would be asking the Board to adopt a policy on alternate assessment to move this effort forward. He indicated that he would be doing so knowing that we would continue to work closely with the field to address issues that may arise in the implementation of the IAA.

Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel and Division Administrator Kathy Cox provided a power-point presentation on this issue (see Addendum II). Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Mrs. Rogers requested a copy of the training agenda that was being conducted, and Dr. Riffel responded that he would provide her with that information.

Mrs. McConachie briefly chaired the meeting while Chairman Gidwitz left the meeting to make a phone call.

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The meeting recessed at 5:10 p.m. and went into closed session at 5:35 p.m. The meeting recessed for the day at 9:30 p.m.

On January 18, the closed session reconvened at 7:30 a.m. with the same Board members who were in attendance on the preceding day.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman