Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 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 *Dr. Steiner would be unable to attend the meeting in person this month due to an injury. He noted that she would join various parts of the meeting by telephone.

HR 1 Overview

Chairman Gidwitz explained that HR 1, now Public Law 107-110, is a sweeping reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which is designed to ensure that “no child is left behind.” He noted that the new law redefines the federal role in K-12 education by requiring all states to set high standards of achievement and create a system of accountability to measure results.

Superintendent Wish reported that Illinois already meets, wholly or in part, many of the new requirements; however, the State will need to fill in the missing pieces and redesign those that are not consistent with the federal law. He indicated that the requirements include annual testing of reading and math in grades 3-8 and once in high school, science assessment at three points between grades 3-12, and participation in the NAEP assessments of reading and math at grades 4 and 8.
Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Gail Lieberman, and Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer assisted in responding to questions.

Closed Session

Motion

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 January 16 at 1:00 p.m. and at 5:00 p.m. and on January 17 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. Rogers - yes  Mr. Serritella - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes  Mr. Sandsmark - yes  Mrs. Turkal - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes

The public meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. and the Board went into a closed meeting at 1:00 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 1:45 p.m. and the public meeting reconvened at 1:50 p.m.
Chairman Gidwitz reported that the five-year Plan is required by the United States Department of Education and is a condition for annual receipt of the IDEA grant. He also noted that development of the Plan began with a state self-assessment in December 2000, and has since included work by a 50-member steering committee. He explained that the draft Plan was the subject of public hearings and consultation with external consultants who have had experience in developing state plans that have already received federal approval.

The Superintendent noted that the Plan includes the following five primary goals to be accomplished in the next five years.

**Goal 1:** Illinois will increase by 4.5 percentage points per year, the percentage of youth with disabilities who exit school with a standard diploma (reaching 90% in the year 2007) and increase employment and/or post-secondary education opportunities.

**Goal 2:** Illinois will increase by 5 percentage points per year, the number of students with disabilities (3-21) who are provided Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), in general education classrooms (80% or more of the school day), and in the school they would attend if not disabled.

**Goal 3:** Illinois will increase by 1 percentage point per year, starting in 2003, the number of fully-certified or licensed general and special education teachers, administrators, and related services personnel who are prepared to provide FAPE in the LRE with individualized supplementary aids and services to students with disabilities.

**Goal 4:** Illinois will increase the meaningful, effective involvement of families in the educational process of children with disabilities as measured by analyses of survey data and progress from baselines to be established in 2002-2003.
**Goal 5**: Illinois will have a general supervision and monitoring system that improves student outcomes, as measured by a.) the percentage of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) monitored who are identified as being in the lower quartile on a goal measure, and b.) annual progress of monitored LEAs on the Critical Indicators (e.g., as standardized test data, drop-out rates, graduation data, etc.).

Superintendent Wish indicated that he would be asking the Board to authorize submission of the Improvement Plan to the United States Department of Education, and to modify it as directed by the federal government.

Staff member Dr. Chris Koch and Dr. Alan Coulter, a consultant who has worked closely with the development of the State Plan, described the highlights of the proposed Plan and its implications. Dr. Koch and Dr. Coulter also discussed the policy and administrative issues associated with the proposed Plan and responded to Board members' questions (see Addendum II).

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Certificate Standards for Middle Level Teachers, School Service Personnel, and Special Education Directors.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that the Advisory Panels for each of these certification areas have been working for more than a year to develop recommendations for certification standards and on other matters related to their respective topics.

Superintendent Wish indicated that the recommendations constituted the last in a series of major standards-development initiatives related to improving the educator quality in Illinois. He noted it was his understanding that there may be some “clean up” work remaining in a few fields, but the significant development process resulting from the 1996 adoption of the Illinois Framework has been completed. He and the Board commended the dedication and quality of work of staff and the many panels associated with the overall initiative.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Chris Koch, Frank Llano, and Mike Long assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum III).
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Educator Supply and Demand Report.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Educator Supply and Demand Report was required by the School Code for submission to the Governor, the General Assembly and the institutions of higher education. He noted that this Report was forwarded to the Board members under separate cover and copies were available at the meeting for the audience.

Superintendent Wish indicated that this Report will provide the following information.

1. The relative supply and demand for teachers, administrators, and other certificated personnel by field, content area and levels;

2. State and regional analyses of fields, content areas, and levels with an over/under supply of educators; and

3. Projections of likely high/low demand for educators in a manner sufficient to advise the public, individuals, and institutions regarding career opportunities in education.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Lynne Haeffele, Connie Wise, Jim Sweeney, and Richard Yong assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum IV).

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, 2002 Cumulative Waiver Report.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that the 2002 Waiver Report, which was discussed in draft form during last month’s Board meeting, was the final item on the Board meeting agenda.

The Superintendent reported that the Cumulative Waiver Report was due to the Governor and the General Assembly by February 1. He noted that this year the State Board is submitting recommendations associated with legal school holidays and a recommendation to change the Report submission due dates. He stated that the Report also contains a discussion and possible solutions to the difficulties faced by districts in the administration of the Prairie State Achievement Exam and a discussion of the Board's Physical Education and Waiver policy.
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The Chairman recessed the public meeting at 4:40 p.m. and the Board went into a closed meeting at 5:10 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened on January 17 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjournment  The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________  ____________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary  

______________________________  ____________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman