MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSIONS I and II
and CLOSED MEETING
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois
December 13-14, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz* Marilyn McConachie* Vincent J. Serritella*
Marjorie B. Branch Connie Rogers Janet Steiner
William E. Hill

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by the Chairman pro tem, Dr. Hill, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was not present.

(*Chairman Gidwitz was connected by phone to the Closed Meeting on December 13, and he was present for the meetings on December 14. Mrs. McConachie was connected to the Work-Study Session I and Closed Meeting by phone on both days. Mr. Serritella was present on December 14.)

Dr. Hill indicated that Chairman Gidwitz, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Pellegrino, and Mr. Serritella were unable to be present because of business conflicts. Chairman Gidwitz and Mr. Serritella would be joining the meeting on December 14. Mrs. McConachie would not be joining the meeting in person due to business conflicts but would be connected by phone for certain components of the two-day meeting.

Dr. Hill asked Mrs. Rogers to act as Secretary pro tem for the meeting.

Education Funding
The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item A., Education Funding Advisory Board.

Dr. Hill indicated that during the next 30 minutes, Bob Leininger, Chair of the Education Funding Advisory Board, and Advisory Board members Marleis Trover and Burt Doctor would share the progress to date and preliminary recommendations of the Education Funding Advisory Board. He noted that Dr. Leininger and Dr. Trover were at the October Board meeting and would be sharing their
recommendations concerning general state aid foundation levels and poverty grant amounts with the General Assembly in January.

Discussion followed the presentation for clarification purposes.

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

The meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item B., FY 2002 Budget and Legislative Initiatives.

Dr. Hill reported that in November, staff shared information on the budget book with the Board and discussed general budget issues. He indicated that in addition, three legislative initiatives were highlighted -- reading improvement, health/life safety, and alternative learning opportunities. He noted that at this meeting, the Board would discuss the budget, the budget book and annual report, as well as any outstanding issues associated with legislation, giving specific attention to the Alternative Learning Opportunities Act and responding to the questions Board members had last month.

Assistant Chief Deputy David Wood and Peter Leonis, Director of the State Relations Office, made the presentation. Dr. Hill, Mrs. Rogers, and Dr. Steiner reported on the budget hearings that they attended.

Other staff provided detailed information. Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input.

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

The meeting recessed at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Dr. Hill indicated that the discussion of the IMAGE assessment, alternate assessment, and Title II teacher preparation report card would occur, and if there are no objections, we would like to add an overview of the Educator Supply and Demand Report during this Work-Study Session. He noted that as indicated on the Plenary Session agenda, the Board would be taking action on this item on December 14; however, time for a more detailed overview was requested at this meeting. He reported that following that issue, the Board would take a short break and then have a reception for its Chicago staff as it had done in Springfield and Mt. Vernon. Then the Board would move into closed session.
The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item A., Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE).

Dr. Hill reported that the Board would be discussing the IMAGE test for students with limited English proficiency who do not take the "regular" state assessments.

Superintendent McGee indicated that the IMAGE reading and math tests have been administered for three years by the State Board, and this is gaining visibility across the state and nation. He noted that due to increasing requests for data on IMAGE student performance and the agency's commitment to the U.S. Department of Education to report IMAGE scores in report cards, this has become a very important information item for the Board.

Deputy Superintendents Mary Jayne Broncato and Carmen Chapman-Pfeiffer and Division Administrator Xavier Botana shared an overview of the IMAGE assessment for students with limited English proficiency (see Addendum II).

The Superintendent commented that future discussions related to this assessment would include the report card design, student performance, and a progress report on the development of the math assessment.

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

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item B., Alternate Assessment.

Dr. Hill reported that the Board would have an overview of progress to date on the alternate assessment. He indicated that this assessment is designed for students with disabilities and individualized education programs for which “regular” state and district-assessments, with or without accommodations, are not appropriate.

Superintendent McGee noted that as stated in the Board packet materials, questions had been raised about the alternate assessment. He commented that in keeping with the federal legislation, IDEA ’97, we are developing an assessment system in which all students can participate. He indicated that it is the intent to provide an overview at this meeting of activities to date and efforts to obtain input from the field and return in January with a draft policy for Board discussion and action on the alternate assessment.

Assistant Deputy Chief Michael Dunn, Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel, Division Administrator Kathy Cox, staff member Sue Easton, and Ed Roeber from Measured Progress (the ISBE contractor) provided an overview of the progress to
date in the development and implementation of the alternate assessment (see Addendum III).

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

Teacher Preparation

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item C., Teacher Preparation Report Card (Title II).

Dr. Hill indicated that the Board would be discussing the Illinois Teacher Preparation Report Card and proposed policies related to the report card.

Superintendent MőGee reported that the use of a report card process for continuous improvement of teacher preparation institutions, as a way to address the reporting requirements of Title II of the 1998 amendments to the Higher Education Act, has been a collaborative effort of the Governor's Office, the Board of Higher Education, and the Community College Board. He commented that strategies for implementing this process have required a great deal of discussion. He noted that this is an action item on the Plenary Business Meeting agenda for December 14.

Deputy Superintendent Frank Llano, Division Administrator Mike Long, and staff member Pat Glenn provided an overview of the issues and policies related to report card implementation.

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

Supply & Demand

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item D., Educator Supply and Demand Report (Discussion of this item was moved from the Plenary Business Meeting).

Dr. Hill reported that the Educator Supply and Demand Report is required to be submitted in January to the Governor, General Assembly, and institutions of higher learning.

Superintendent MőGee indicated that this is the second annual Supply and Demand Report that was prepared pursuant to this School Code requirement. He noted that it is still considered a draft document, so additional data that will not arrive in our office until later this month can be incorporated. He commented that on December 14, he would be asking the Board to endorse this report with two others for transmission to the Governor and General Assembly.
The Superintendent indicated that we felt it was important to provide a more detailed overview of this report and share some findings due to its implications for so many of the Board's efforts.

Division Administrator Connie Wise and staff members Jim Sweeney and Richard Yong provided the overview (see Addendum IV).

Superintendent McGee gave closing remarks.

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

The meeting recessed at 3:40 p.m. and reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

Closed Meeting

The Chairman pro tem called for a motion for the Board to go into closed session.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education go into closed session on December 13 at 5:00 p.m. and on December 14 at 7:30 a.m. and immediately following the Plenary 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 Superintendent McGee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed."

Ms. Branch seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

The Chairman pro tem called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

Ms. Branch - yes  Dr. Hill - yes  Dr. Steiner - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes*  Mrs. Rogers - yes

The meeting went into closed session at 5:48 p.m. and recessed for the day at 7:00 p.m.

On December 14, the closed session reconvened at 7:30 a.m. with Chairman Gidwitz and Mr. Serritella in attendance, as well as the other Board members who were in attendance on the preceding day.
The closed session recessed at 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

___________________________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary pro tem

___________________________________
William E. Hill, Chairman pro tem

___________________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman