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 not be attending the Board meeting today due to family commitments.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, State Board Budget and Annual Report.

The Chairman reported that the first agenda item was a discussion of the FY 2003 State Board Budget and the Annual Report for FY 2001. He noted that the Budget had been a discussion item for the past several months and he indicated that it continues to be a challenge in a year of very tight resources. He explained that the Board did not plan to act on the final Budget or the Annual Report during this meeting. He commented that these items are due to the General Assembly in January and action on these items would most likely necessitate a Special Board meeting before the due date, probably in early January.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Lynne Haefele and David Wood answered questions and provided an overview of the Budget picture and the Annual Report.
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, The Baldrige in Education (BiE-In) Update. The Superintendent reported that the State Board is a key partner in the Illinois Baldrige in Education (BiE-In) Initiative. He noted that this agenda item would provide an updated report on the progress of this initiative. He commented that the goals for the Initiative are under review and refinement to prioritize activity and develop a scorecard for performance. He also noted that challenges to achieving the BiE-In goals include communication among and engagement of all partners.


The Chairman called for Agenda Item, State Plan for Technology in P-12 Education. The Chairman stated that the next agenda item would be a discussion regarding the State Plan for Technology in P-12 Education. He noted that the Board has had several occasions to discuss components of the Plan to provide input to staff members. He stated that the State Board’s accomplishments during the first five-year State Technology Plan had been amazing, and he indicated that the Board looked forward to continued progress in this area.

The Superintendent explained that development of a new five-year State Plan began more than a year ago and involved hundreds of Illinois citizens in meetings and focus groups. He commented that the proposed Plan includes a new vision that is aligned to the challenges of educating students for success in the 21st Century. He indicated that the Plan would be distributed for public comment, and the Board would take final action to adopt the Plan in the next couple of months.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Lugene Finley and Lee Patton assisted in answering questions.
Federal Relations

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Federal Relations.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that during the next segment the Board will be hearing from staff member Gail Lieberman to obtain the latest information from Washington.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

School Profile for School Designation

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, School Profile for School Designation.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the next discussion item would focus on the School Profile for School Designation – a new system that the Board had approved at last month’s Board meeting.

The Superintendent reported that during last month’s Board meeting various questions were raised regarding the School Profile. He noted that staff were asked to return to clarify some aspects of the Profile. He indicated that information would be shared in today’s discussion regarding the three components relating to the School Profile – excellence in effort, attendance, and percent tested. He also noted that the Profile would be taken on the road again to obtain more input and suggestions from parents, business community members, and others.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Michael Dunn and Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer assisted in answering questions.

Rules Overview

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules Overview.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that there were two sets of rules that the Board would need to approve during the Plenary Business Meeting on December 13. He indicated that at this time the Board would discuss the Time Out and Physical Restraint rules and the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement rules.

The Superintendent noted that since both sets of rules had been through the public comment period, he would be asking the Board for their final approval. He explained that staff would provide a brief overview of the changes regarding the rules and the public comment input that had been received regarding the Time Out and Physical Restraint rules.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Chris Koch and Sally Vogl assisted by answering questions.
Annual Reports

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Annual Reports.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that the last two items on the agenda were related to two annual reports that the State Board provides to the Governor and the General Assembly early in the year. He noted that the first report deals with Charter schools.

The Superintendent explained that the Charter Schools Annual Report could in essence stand by itself. He indicated that the report was succinct and clear. He expressed his thanks and complimented the work of staff members Mary Jayne Broncato, Sharon Roberts, and Janet Allison. He noted that he would ask the Board’s approval to send this report forward to the General Assembly.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Mary Jayne Broncato, Sharon Roberts, and Janet Allison provided a brief summary of the Report content via telephone and highlighted issues that were prominent with the ongoing activities of Charter schools.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that the second annual report was the Cumulative Waiver Report which will be submitted to the General Assembly in February. He explained that this Report was not an action item this month but an opportunity for the Board to have an initial discussion about the recommendations.

The Superintendent stated that the Cumulative Waiver Report is submitted annually and is intended to provide a comprehensive listing of all waivers and modifications granted by the State Board or the General Assembly. He indicated that this Report addresses four topics – school holidays, the Prairie State Achievement Exam and the school day, physical education, and the Cumulative Waiver Report submission dates.

The Superintendent explained that a very important concern regarding this Report is its perceived significance by the Legislature. He commented that during the life of this Report not one of the State Board’s recommendations have been addressed by the General Assembly. He noted that the submission date change is intended to assist with this concern.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Connie Wise and Shelley Helton assisted in answering questions.
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 December 12 under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meeting 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.

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 4:45 p.m. and the Board went into closed meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

____________________________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary

____________________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman