MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz    Marilyn McConachie    Beverly Turkal
Marjorie B. Branch   Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Connie Rogers, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz. Chairman Gidwitz asked Dr. Steiner to act as Secretary pro tem in Mrs. Rogers’ absence. He asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Ms. Rogers was unable to attend the Board meeting this month, and Mr. Serritella had to leave earlier in the day to attend a business meeting.

Approval of Minutes
Dr. Steiner moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the April 18-19 Board meeting and the Special Board meeting of April 30, 2001." The motion was seconded by Mrs. McConachie, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation
The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Public Participation. The following individuals spoke to the Board.

Laura Arterburn, representing the IFT, called the Board members' attention to a few concerns regarding the middle school standards, the content areas, and clinical experiences.

• Page 1-44, where it states that it is the intention of the panel that teachers earning certificate endorsements prior to the implementation date of the new certificate and that they be grandfathered in -- They thought it would probably be beneficial if we could qualify that by saying that those teachers currently certified but not necessarily teaching middle grades would also be grandfathered in -- not just take those who are currently teaching. She was not sure that was clear in the language, but by doing that, we would end up with more teachers certified. The Chairman commented that we should not have a problem with this.

• Page 1-46, where it states that middle grade teachers be prepared in one subject area to be certified at the middle level but strongly recommend preparation at least in two subject areas -- They have no problem with that, but
they thought that the State Board needs to designate the number of credit hours that might be necessary. They also thought this may be helpful for teachers who plan to do this in terms of recertification, etc., so if the wording could be a little more specific, it may be beneficial.

Superintendent McGee responded that we are trying to move away from the credit hours to the standard-based, so he would consult with staff on this issue. Ms. Arterburn commented that even if it is standards, they are going to be given in coursework and materials, and their view is to let them know exactly what they are going to have to do for this recertification or to pick up the option. She indicated that there is the same thing on the next page where it talks about appropriate preparation in the teaching of reading. She asked what is appropriate preparation -- is there a specific number of hours or is it a whole regiment of coursework. She asked if we could be a little more specific on what that is.

- Page 1-49, where it states it is strongly recommended that teacher preparation programs should engage students in early and continuous experiences in the middle-level classrooms throughout the teacher preparation sequence, and teachers should be required to complete student teaching in grades five through nine -- They have no problem with that, but they strongly suggested that the State Board have a program for dual certification as well in the teacher preparation programs. This is going to give not only the teacher but a district as well greater options.

The Chairman indicated that he wanted to make sure that the record is delivered to the person who receives the comments. The Superintendent responded that they would be.

Ms. Arterburn noted that concerning the Golden Apple Program which the Board would be voting on later in the meeting, she reminded the State Board that approval is going against what the State Teacher Certification Board voted. She commented that they did not wish to approve it, and part of their reasoning was that this was a K-9 certification program. She indicated that it is a pilot program, and they understood that it is only for 20 people. Ms. Arterburn reported that it is also only an eight-week program in the summer for people who may be fresh out of college with absolutely no educational background or training; it is a self-contained program; and sometimes it is only a three-hour day. She noted that it is a school that currently yields among the lowest scores in the City, and it is also one that is probably one of the most underachieving. She commented that she wondered why we would not want to bring in better trained people, and why we would want to use those students in particular as a pilot program is difficult to understand.

The Chairman noted that he was sure the Superintendent would share his reasoning when we get to that point on the agenda.
Ms. Arterburn indicated that when the issue came up for the middle school certification and the other service personnel, service personnel are not in a classroom directly, but they deal with students every day and in every way. She commented that to say that their certification requirements need to be less rigorous they thought is harmful to students, and they thought that all certification levels need to be rigorous. Ms. Arterburn noted that they agree we do need to draw more teachers, and there is a shortage -- but there are other simple solutions rather than reducing the amount of training and preparation that the people who are working with the students have.

The Chairman responded that he thought the intention was to say that the appropriate training needs to be delivered to all levels of personnel irrespective -- but appropriate level.

David Farache, coordinator for Metro-East Education to Careers Partnership, indicated that he represented a transition partnership in East St. Louis, and representatives from the Special Education division of East St. Louis School District #189 and Goodwill Industries were also with him. He reported that Transition is the program that works with the special education students as they near the end of their high school career to transition them successfully into the community with employment and an independent lifestyle as much as possible. He provided background information on the partnerships and distributed information on this issue.

Mr. Farache indicated that the funding for the transition partnerships is coming to an end in June, and it was done under a pilot program. He asked the Board to continue supporting the project and to look into spreading it to other communities throughout the state. He commented that they felt that the benefits to those students with special needs are tremendous. He noted that they are able to go out and live their own lives, not necessarily need to be supported by state and federal funding for the remainder of their lives, and can contribute to their community and their society.

Mr. Farache reported that in East St. Louis, Education to Careers (ETC) has taken a strong role with the transition partnership in an effort to bring employers into the picture to give work experiences to the students for those initial jobs just like any other high school student. He noted that that is the first step towards their personal independence.

Mr. Farache agreed to help determine where the resources could come from.

Superintendent McGee expressed appreciation to Mr. Farache for his hard work, success, and dedication. He indicated that he could contact Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato who deals with that grant, so she can follow up.
Stephen Riley, on behalf of Omnibus Educational Management, commented that his topic would be the greatness of the American community, and he introduced his administrative aide, Douglas Hope. He distributed posters for Board members to view. He reported that since last November, he had been engaging the American community in a specific inquiry, "How would you define greatness in the American community." He noted that "community" includes the legislature, the education community and other aspects of the American community -- churches, hospitals, nursing homes, youth centers, libraries, and museums.

Mr. Riley indicated that he had been busy the last eight weeks with the General Assembly. He reported that they had recently provided him with some emergency funding, and he had also submitted a proposal to them regarding the kinds of concerns that the American community has omitted or overlooked regarding his agency. He commented that in the proposal that the Board members had before them that was directed to members of the General Assembly, he had specifically outlined just how his historical and contemporary quest for American justice might be best served regarding him and his agency.

As Mr. Riley completed his presentation, he asked the Board members to remember his desire to escort 25 at-risk, primary grade students around the nation to outstanding academic locations, and he was also trying to complete his book.

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

QZAB

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.1., Immediate Action Items, Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB).

Superintendent McGee reported that the Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program provides some financial assistance to repair public school facilities or repair equipment. He indicated that each year an allocation is made to Illinois, and this year, the allocation is $13,905,000. He congratulated Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey and Division Administrator Nona Myers for getting the news out to the local districts.

The Superintendent asked that the Board approve allocations for four school districts -- Aurora West, Champaign, Chicago Public Schools, and DeKalb. He noted that these districts are the only qualified districts requesting authorization at this time. He indicated that following approval of these applications, $5,500,000 would remain for the calendar year, and agency staff would continue to assist districts in meeting QZAB qualification requirements.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the following applications for Qualified Zone Academy Bond Credit for the calendar year of 2001."
Ms. Branch seconded the motion

Discussion followed for clarification purposes, and Mr. Ey and Gail Lieberman, Director of Federal Relations, assisted in responding to Board members' questions.

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  Mrs. Turkal - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes  Dr. Steiner - yes

Waivers & Modifications

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.2., Immediate Action Items, Part 1 Rule Amendments: Waivers and Modifications.

Superintendent McGee reported that the waivers and modifications rule amendments make additional application requirements regarding public hearings and notification of the hearings and respond to recent legislation. He indicated that these rules were published in the *Illinois Register* to elicit public comment, and eight letters were received. He noted that two issues were addressed in these letters: 1) that the additional paperwork was overly burdensome and 2) that the State Board lacks the authority to limit P.E. waivers to one year.

Division Administrator Connie Wise reviewed the public comments that were received and the response.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board adopt the proposed amendments as presented and authorize their publication in the *Illinois Register*.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for: Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1). Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical or nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Ms. Branch 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  Mrs. Turkal - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes  Dr. Steiner - yes

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

UIC Proposal

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.3., Immediate Action Items, UIC - The Golden Apple Foundation: Proposal for Alternative Teacher Certification Program.

Superintendent McGee indicated that as presented in the Board materials, he requested that the Board approve the Alternative Elementary Teacher Certification Program presented by the UIC in partnership with the Golden Apple Foundation and Chicago Public Schools. He reported that the statute requires the State Board to approve a course of study developed by a partnership such as this within 30 days of proposal submission. He noted that staff review and analysis of the program proposal indicates that the program is designed to address a clear need for committed elementary teachers in Chicago Public Schools and meets statutory requirements.

The Superintendent commented that although he greatly respects the debate and diligence of the State Teacher Certification Board, the 10-7 vote shows that there was not uniform agreement or disagreement obviously. He reported that he had reviewed the materials.

Superintendent McGee indicated that past experience with the Golden Apple program with Northwestern University proved to be enormously successful. He noted that he was at the Teacher Certification Board meeting when they heard teachers from that program talk about what they have done. He reported that Golden Apple has a sterling track record for preparing teachers and for recognizing quality teachers. The Superintendent commented that the fact that they have built ongoing assessment into this program, the fact that they have built in regular reports back to the Certification Board, and the fact that mentoring and induction play such a significant piece all spoke to him very clearly of a need to approve this program. He indicated that although he understood the IFT's concern with the school they are going into, perhaps this is a school that needs an infusion/injection of new and talented teachers, and maybe then we will see some improvements.

Deputy Superintendent Frank Llano reported that staff reviewed the proposal and believe that it meets the minimum requirements of the law. He noted that the recommendations and suggestions of the State Teacher Certification Board were taken into consideration. He indicated that the law requires that the State Board shall approve the proposal submitted within 30 days of submission.
Chairman Gidwitz asked if the law gives the Board the option of disapproving it. The Superintendent responded that if it meets the requirement, then we need to approve it.

Division Administrator Mike Long commented that the Golden Apple Foundation and the University of Illinois at Chicago considered some of the criticisms that were raised by the Certification Board at their meeting earlier this month. He reported that they changed their proposal and strengthened it in a couple of areas, most notably reading and reading literacy (an area that some members of the Certification Board felt was not articulated as clearly as it should be). He indicated that we have complete confidence in the University of Illinois at Chicago to deliver a quality program. Mr. Long commented on a similar program that was approved by the Certification Board for the University of Illinois at Chicago at the April meeting.

Chairman Gidwitz asked that the issues raised by Ms. Arterburn be answered. The Superintendent responded that he thought we had addressed reading -- that some changes were made.

Mr. Long indicated that regarding the question of the requirement for five years of experience, he knew that was raised by the Certification Board, but this particular piece of legislation exempts the City of Chicago from the five-year requirement. He noted that candidates to the program do not have to have five years of experience. He commented that at the Certification Board meeting, he thought that Dominic Belmonte, Director of Teacher Preparation for the Golden Apple Foundation, assured the Certification Board members that they look for candidates with experience in given fields, particularly in fields in which the individual has achieved an undergraduate degree.

Mr. Long reported that we recognize that this school has academic problems. He noted that it is a bit unusual that the Certification Board has questioned institutions in the past for not engaging their students in schools that have high need and high diversity but at the same time, in this particular occasion, seem to question the use of this school that has high diversity and high need for this particular program. He indicated that personally, he cannot reconcile the differences, but he thought that the University of Illinois at Chicago and Golden Apple Foundation worked very diligently in identifying a school that this program could address and impact appropriately.

The Chairman asked if a representative from the Golden Apple Foundation would like to comment.

Dominic Belmonte thanked the Chairman and the Board members for considering this proposal. He indicated that their track record that they had established with Northwestern University shows that they have a capable and productive path with teaching for the mid-career adult. He noted that they continue to look forward to
opportunities to present people of quality who wish to change their careers in midstream to help the children of Chicago.

Superintendent McGee said that he respected the deliberations of the Certification Board. He commented that although the Board's legal mandate was clear, he made this recommendation to the Board enthusiastically and in all good conscientiousness, and he was pleased that they are going into one of the more difficult schools. He expressed appreciation for the mentoring, assessment, and ongoing reports of the Certification Board, so he would be glad to keep the Board informed of the progress of this program as well. He asked that the Board approve the alternative certification program.

Motion
Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the alternative teacher certification program for elementary teacher certification proposed by the University of Illinois - Chicago in partnership with The Golden Apple Foundation and Chicago Public Schools."

Mrs. Turkal 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 - no  Mrs. McConachie - yes  Mrs. Turkal - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes  Dr. Steiner - no

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

Chairman
The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Announcement and Reports, Chairman.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the State Board's Annual Work Conference would be held on June 21-23, 2001, in Oak Brook. He indicated that there would be a brief Board meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 21.

Superintendent
The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Announcements and Reports, Superintendent.

Superintendent McGee reported that we continue to get a significant number of letters from the field commending the members of our staff for their fine work and their great customer service. He expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts at last night's dinner with the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of School Boards. He indicated that it was a great meeting.

The Superintendent reported that the Virtual High School continues to be quite a success. He noted that there are 295 students enrolled, and he interviewed one of the students on television last night. He indicated that the mentoring program is
working very well, and we have paired each student with an adult mentor in the program. Superintendent McGee reported that Illinois was selected for the site of the Second Annual National Virtual High School Symposium, which is quite an honor. He commented that next year we are looking at including many more courses. He noted that this has gone better than we anticipated.

The Superintendent reported that Mr. Serritella has been working with our Schools Without Walls Program and trying to coordinate the independent contractors and working with Chairman Gidwitz and Chief Technology Officer Lugene Finley. He noted that he thought we had made enormous progress. He indicated that this would be as the early childhood website -- really a preeminent website in the country for tying the museums to the schools and promoting education in a non-traditional manner.

Chairman Gidwitz commented that it was his understanding that we are going to have a revision of the website. He asked if the Board could have a brief demonstration at whatever meeting follows the new website being put up, including some curricula material if possible. The Superintendent responded that that would be done, and we would want to have a separate agenda item on this.

Superintendent McGee reported that we did put up on the website a chance for all superintendents, principals, and test supervisors in schools where the PSAE was administered to comment on the Prairie State Survey. He indicated that the responses are due at the end of the day today, and as of ten minutes ago, we had 154 superintendents respond and 346 test supervisors (out of 650 total).

Committees The Chairman called for the Agenda Item D., Announcements and Reports, Committees. There was nothing further to report.

Members The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Announcements and Reports, Members. There was nothing further to report.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Janet Steiner, Secretary pro tem

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman