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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Connie Rogers

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order on May 17 at 12:05 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Dr. Steiner to act as Secretary pro tem in Mrs. Rogers' absence. The roll call of members was taken later in the meeting. There was not a quorum at this time. (Mr. Serritella joined the meeting at 12:25 p.m., Superintendent McGee at 12:35 p.m., and Mrs. McConachie at 12:50 p.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mrs. Rogers was not able to attend the meeting this month. He noted that the Superintendent was at the Capitol and would be joining the meeting shortly.

Student Advisory Council

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Student Advisory Council (SAC) would be sharing their activities of this past year. He indicated that during the past two years, the SAC has been involved with school safety and has focused on this topic through the production of a school safety audit last year and piloting the audit this year. The Chairman noted that the Board would hear from the SAC and discuss their recommendations and activities during a late lunch. He commented that the Board plans to further address their report and recommendations during the June or August meeting.

Chairman Gidwitz introduced Marilyn Holt and Mike Kotner, the SAC advisors from the State Board staff. The SAC introduced themselves individually (see Addendum II for membership list).

The SAC members provided an update and status report on the school safety activity, as well as recommendations for dissemination of the audit, and they also
provided a report on their preparation to serve as spokespersons on two additional issues of teacher quality and school funding. In addition, student recommendations for future SAC activities and Board and staff action were shared.

School Safety Audit -- The SAC gave four suggestions to the State Board.
1. The State Board should formally endorse the student/school safety audit and encourage schools to consider implementing it.
2. The Board should send the audit to all schools.
3. There should be some training for student/school safety teams on strategies for implementing the audit and safety initiatives that might follow.
4. There should be some technical assistance and funding available to student/school safety teams that get involved with the audit to help insure its success.

Global Education -- Proposed Social Studies State Goal 19:
Understand how the different social, economic, and political systems of the world function as a whole in today's interconnected global society.

This goal aims to cultivate in students a sense of belonging to the newly emerging global community. In order to be successful, this community needs its members to appreciate each other's cultural differences. The respect will best come from an education with a strong global perspective.

LEARNING STANDARDS
Social Systems:
Understand the nature and evolution of different societies with diverse cultures and their interactions with one another over time.

Economic Systems:
Understand the interdependence of economic systems that forms the global economy.

Political Systems:
Understand different political systems around the world are designed to suit their respective societies, yet come together to interact on the global stage.

(Mr. Serritella joined the meeting -- 12:25 p.m.)

Teacher Quality -- Following are conclusions of a student survey on becoming teachers.
1. Improving teacher salaries is critical to attracting young people into teaching.
2. The issue of teachers as negative models for teaching and learning must be addressed. No other profession is as visible to students as teaching, and no other professionals have comparable opportunities to influence what students think about their profession.
SAC members also identified "best teacher" qualities.

School Funding -- The SAC visited two schools in southernmost Illinois to gain perspective on educational opportunities in Illinois. They also attended a workshop in school funding and completed a structured interview with their local school administrators and teachers about the impact school funding issues have on their respective schools. SAC members are prepared to speak about school funding and educational opportunity issues on behalf of the Board.

(The Superintendent joined the meeting -- 12:35 p.m.)

The SAC provided comments on the advisory issues of teacher preparation, the high school experience, the Japan trip, and the Prairie State Achievement Exam.

(Mrs. McConachie joined the meeting -- 12:50 p.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board to the SAC members for the presentation and for the time they invested all year. He indicated that the Board would find some ways that will make the SAC's time spent next year at least as productive, if not more so, as a learning experience and as well to help the Board accomplish some goals it has outlined.

Superintendent McGee thanked the SAC for the comprehensive overview of their activity. He recommended that the Board take this report into consideration for future action relating to the role of students in promoting school safety and the dissemination of the school safety audit as well as teacher quality. He also recommended that the Board continue to support and endorse the work of the SAC on the student school safety audit and student involvement in facilitating a safe school environment, teacher quality, equitable educational opportunities, and school funding, as well as other Board priorities.

Chairman Gidwitz and Superintendent McGee presented certificates to the graduating seniors of the SAC.

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

The meeting recessed for lunch at 1:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Gidwitz asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.
The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Career-Technical Education Challenge Task Force.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that members of the CTE Task Force would be providing recommendations for repositioning career and technical education to support the Illinois Learning Standards. He noted that the Board had a preliminary discussion in January.

Superintendent McGee reported that the Career and Technical Education Task Force had been meeting for over a year, and at this meeting, they will present their final report which includes recommendations related to equity and access, standards-based instruction and assessment, teacher preparation, curriculum and instruction, accountability, and governance. He asked Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson and Virginia McMillan of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) staff to introduce the Task Force members and the report. He noted that Ms. Robinson and Ms. McMillan had partnered in working with the Task Force.

Mike Skarr, President & CEO of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce; Kathy Cihlar, Principal of Midwest Central High School; and Ed Schwarze, from the Human Resource Department of Caterpillar, Inc., commented on the Task Force's final report and recommendations.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

After discussing the report with members of the Task Force, the Board asked them to consider "re-upping" for additional deliberations. Noting the importance and complexity of the recommendations, the Board members indicated that the next steps should engage Board members in the process and lead to a resolution of issues raised during these deliberations. Plans for these continued discussions would be developed by staff in consultation with the Board and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), which has been a partner in this project.

Ms. McMillan thanked the Board for joining the ICCB in this effort and also thanked the Task Force members.

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

The meeting recessed at 3:05 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Educator Standards: Middle Level Education, School Service Personnel, and Directors of Special Education.
Mrs. McConachie took over as chair of the meeting in Mr. Gidwitz's absence. The Superintendent was also out of the room at this time.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that this agenda item would cover recommendations on standards for middle level teachers, school service personnel, and special education directors. She reported that the Board first addressed middle level standards during its December meeting, and she believed this was the first time we had specifically addressed recommendations regarding the certificate structure and standards for special education directors and school service personnel.

Mrs. McConachie noted that the educator standards are a critical piece in the implementation of a standards-led system of education, and a thorough overview of the current requirements and panel recommendations were provided in the Board materials. She indicated that at this meeting, the standards are presented for comment and direction from the Board members. She reported that unique features of the suggested standards and structure, as well as timelines for completion, would be discussed.

Vice Chair McConachie commented that as indicated in the Board materials, it is planned to share the final sets of these standards no later than January 2002 to be effective no later than July 2004.

(The Superintendent returned to the meeting at 3:25 p.m.)

Division Administrator Mike Long provided a power-point presentation (see Addendum III).

(The Chairman returned to the meeting at 3:35 p.m.)

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Deb Curtis from Illinois State University assisted in responding to questions.

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

Special Ed. Due Process

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Special Education Due Process Plan.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that in February, a study of the Illinois Due Process procedures was presented to the Board, and at that time, a progress report was requested by the Board on the implementation of the improvement strategies.
Superintendent McGee reported that in February, significant data was provided regarding due process. He noted that these data indicated that of 109 cases heard between June 1999 and November 2000 all were resolved within seven hearing days with the exception of one case of 19 days.

The Superintendent indicated that in keeping with continuous improvement, the progress report that was included in the Board materials as an information item identifies significant improvements in the procedures to increase process effectiveness and efficiency. He noted that some of these include:

- The addition of a parent liaison to coordinate parent training and technical assistance as well as oversee Illinois' new parent training and partnerships project;
- Increased training for hearing officers on due process case management;
- Identification and investigation of possible statute and regulatory changes; and
- Development of training for school personnel and parents on pre-hearing and hearing strategies.

Superintendent McGee introduced the following staff who assisted in responding to Board members' questions: Chris Koch, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Special Education, and Division Administrator Jack Shook.

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

June Work Conference

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Strategic Planning Committee/June Work Conference.

Mrs. McConachie, chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, highlighted the activities of the Committee and shared a draft Work Conference agenda with the Board members, as well as requested input.

The Superintendent provided an update on activity regarding performance information and data gathering in preparation for the June Work Conference.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

Closed Meeting

The Chairman asked for a motion for the Board to go into a closed meeting.

Motion

Dr. Steiner moved that "the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting on May 17 at approximately 4:30 p.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; and
• Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

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

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that if the Board members did not mind, it has been requested to switch the first two topics on May 18's Work Study Session agenda: begin with Early Learning followed by Assessment. There were no concerns regarding this change expressed by Board members.

The Board members went into a closed meeting at 4:35 p.m. and recessed for dinner at 6:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m. and recessed for the day at 10:00 p.m.

On May 18, the closed meeting reconvened at 7:30 a.m.

Adjournment
The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Janet Steiner, Secretary pro tem

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman