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

Respicio F. Vazquez, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Judith A. Gold

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 10:05 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.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Ms. Gold might possibly be able to join the meeting by phone, and Superintendent Vazquez would have to leave the meeting at 11:30 a.m. to meet with legislators.

The Chairman announced that a motion regarding the Student Advisory Council has been added to today’s agenda for immediate action.

Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Turkal moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the April 17-18, 2002, Work Session and the Plenary Business meeting on April 18, 2002.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation
The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Public Participation.

The following individuals spoke to the Board.

Stephen Riley, representing Omnibus Educational Management, spoke to the Board regarding Operation: College Bound and President John F. Kennedy. He shared a handout with the Board members regarding these two topics and discussed its content (see Addendum II).
Chairman Gidwitz asked for a moment of silence to remember Jim Guilinger – a regular participant in this part of the meeting and a good friend to education. He explained that Mr. Guilinger had died last week and although he will be missed, his efforts on behalf of agriculture education form a legacy that will be long-remembered.

Jay Runner, representing Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE), spoke to the Board regarding agricultural education. He also noted the passing of Jim Guilinger and acknowledged that Mr. Guilinger’s total career had been to advance agricultural education in Illinois and throughout the United States. He introduced Mr. Jeff Beavers from the University of Illinois who spoke to the Board regarding his insight about agricultural education.

Jim Hess, representing the Rockford School District, spoke to the Board regarding the Rockford YouthBuild Charter School application. He indicated that he was very concerned about the economics of the YouthBuild proposal, and he noted that the Rockford School District has been providing alternative education programs for years. He said that if this charter school application is granted the Rockford District will lose over a million dollars in the next five years.

Bindu Batchu, Technology Associate of the Network 21/Metropolitan Planning Council, spoke to the Board regarding education technology initiatives (see Addendum III).

Kerry Knodle, Executive Director of Comprehensive Community Solutions, spoke to the Board regarding the Rockford YouthBuild Charter School. He asked the Board to approve and support the YouthBuild application. He said that he believes this charter school will be in the best interest of the young people that live in the Rockford School District.

Paul Seibert, representing Charter Consultants of Belleville, spoke to the Board regarding the YouthBuild Charter School. He told the Board that he supported the approval of the YouthBuild proposal. He said that the State Board’s Appeals Panel and Superintendent Vazquez have found this proposal to be compliant with statutory requirements for state approval. He said that this proposal would be one of the most cost effective programs that could be implemented for the district.
Deborah Curtis, from ISU, spoke to the Board regarding the middle level standard certificate. She indicated that she had been involved with middle level schools for 28 years – 10 years in the public schools and 18 years preparing teachers. She stated that middle level education is the last best chance to reach many young learners. She explained that research tells us that if students disconnect at this time in their educational careers, we will not stand much of a chance of reengaging them later. She indicated that we need teachers that are prepared to address these issues.

Susan Shea, representing the Illinois Education Association (IEA), spoke to the Board regarding the middle level standard certificate. She invited the Board and audience to the May 17 open house of the Illinois Professional Development Center. She thanked the Board for the “No Child Left Behind” information, especially State Board staff member Randy Burge. She also thanked State Board staff members Lou Ann Reichle, Pete Leonis, Sally Vogl, Chris Koch, and Superintendent Vazquez for their collaborative work on the move from the Initial to the Standard Certificate issue.

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

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Policy Actions.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Board had discussed the following four issues during yesterday’s Board meeting.

1. Public school choice as it applies to schools that are not making adequate yearly progress;
2. Supplemental educational services to be provided by schools not making adequate yearly progress;
3. Public school choice as it applies to school safety; and
4. Technology.

He called for the motion regarding NCLB – choice and supplemental services.
Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following policies related to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001:

The State Board will recommend that each local school board establish and implement a policy on public school choice for the possible transfer of students from attendance centers identified as having the consequence of public school choice due to lack of academic progress.

The State Board will recommend that each local School Board establish and implement a policy governing the provision of supplemental educational services for students from attendance centers which have the consequence of public school choice and supplemental education services due to lack of academic progress.

Mrs. Rogers 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

The Chairman called for the motion regarding NCLB – choice and school safety.

Mr. Serritella moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes dissemination of the draft policy regarding the “unsafe school choice option” for public comment. He also stated that the Board authorizes staff to make changes to the draft policy in response to the public comment and to submit it to the U.S. Department of Education as part of the Illinois Plan. He said that should there be further guidance by the Department of Education on this issue, then staff is authorized to incorporate that at a later date and keep the Board informed of changes.

Dr. Steiner seconded the motion.
THE CHAIRPERSON: 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

The Chairman called for the motion regarding the NCLB – technology.

MRS. McCONAICHIE: Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby endorses the use of the National Education Technology Standards as the Illinois Technology Literacy Standards for K-12 Students. She indicated that these standards reflect the “six essential learnings” for technology which were adopted by the Board as part of its Technology Plan in 1995.

MRS. ROGERS: Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

THE CHAIRPERSON: 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

MIDDLE LEVEL CERTIFICATE

The Chairman reported that during yesterday’s discussion it was apparent that Board members were supportive of the proposed middle school actions. He also indicated that there was unanimous concern that the Board has not built a base of understanding or support for the proposal. He noted that Mr. Serritella had reminded the Board that it is important to address these “change management” issues and move this issue to closure as quickly as possible. He explained that the Board has established a timeline for further work on this issue and that timeline and procedure are incorporated in the motion.
Mr. Serritella moved that the State Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to develop an analysis of the issues and concerns associated with the proposed creation of a middle level certificate and a plan for addressing them with the public. He said that the Superintendent is further directed to provide the Board with this “change management plan” in July and to implement it over the following months. He said that the Board will revisit the middle level certificate issue in October 2002.

Mrs. Rogers 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes


The Superintendent reported that these rules are very straight forward, and he suggested to the Board that it move forward with the recommended actions.

Dr. Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for:


She further moved that 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.

Mrs. Rogers 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

Mr. Sandsmark moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for:

- Driver Education (23 Illinois administrative code 252).

He further moved that 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.

Mrs. Turkal 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

Ms. Branch moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

- Student Records (23 Illinois Administrative Code 375, including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

Dr. Steiner 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   Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

YouthBuild Charter School

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, YouthBuild Rockford Charter School.

The Chairman reported that the YouthBuild Rockford Charter School proposal was denied at the local level and then appealed to the state level. He indicated that Superintendent Vazquez has reviewed the evidence, including the findings of the state level appeal panel, and has recommended that this Board overturn the denial and issue a charter to the YouthBuild Rockford Charter School.

Motion

Mr. Serritella moved that the State Board of Education hereby overturns the denial of the YouthBuild Rockford Charter School proposal by the Rockford School District Board of Education and directs the State Superintendent to issue a charter to the YouthBuild Rockford Charter School.

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch – yes   Mrs. Rogers – no   Dr. Steiner – no
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – no  Mrs. Turkal – no
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

Mrs. Rogers commented that she voted no because she believes that most charter schools fail because of lack of financing and she does not want students put in jeopardy because of this problem.

Mr. Sandsmark commented that he voted no because to him this is an economic issue. He said that the Rockford School District has had financial problems for as long as the thirty years that he has lived in the area. He stated that the school district is starting to move in the right direction and he believes that they don’t need one more issue to deal with at this time.
Dr. Steiner commented that she voted no because of the financial issue and she believes that the State Board should not go against the local board’s control.

Mrs. Turkal commented that she voted no because of the current economic problems that the Rockford School District has and she noted that she believes the district has adequate programs in place to meet the needs of students.

**Spring Lake Financial Decertification**

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Spring Lake School District has petitioned the State Board for removal of its certification as a district “in financial difficulty.” He indicated that State Board staff has reviewed the district’s financial condition and it meets the criteria for removal of the certification status.

**Motion**

Mrs. Turkal moved that the State Board of Education hereby removes the certification of Spring Lake Consolidated School District #606 as a “district in financial difficulty.”

Mrs. Rogers 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
- Dr. Steiner – yes
- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. Turkal – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Mr. Serritella – yes

**NASBE Officers Election**

Chairman Gidwitz reported that today’s vote will be cast with the NASBE office as the official Illinois vote for NASBE officers.

**Motion**

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education hereby casts its votes for NASBE officers as follows:

- President -- Alma Allen, Texas
- Vice President -- Kenneth Johnson, Louisiana
- Central Area Director -- Bev Peterson, Nebraska
Ms. Branch 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
- Dr. Steiner – yes
- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. Turkal – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Mr. Serritella – yes

Chairman Gidwitz reported that he had been unable to participate in one of his favorite Board activities during yesterday’s meeting – the annual report of the Student Advisory Council. He called on Mr. Serritella to comment about the meeting and to reiterate the motion from yesterday.

Mr. Serritella moved that the State Board of Education hereby commends the members of 2001-2002 Student Advisory Council for their exceptional work on a variety of educational issues. He indicated that the Board supports the Student Advisory Council’s “School Safety Audit Resolution” and the Council recommendations for continued work on the School Safety Audit, teacher quality issues, and legislative involvement by students. He noted that the Board strongly supports the continued operation of the SAC and its partnership with the Illinois Association of Student Councils.

He reported that the Board directs the Superintendent to explore the options for implementation of the Council’s Illinois State Board of Education recommendation for an addition of a new “Global Education” standard to the Illinois Learning Standards and report back to the SAC in October 2002.

Mr. Serritella further moved that the Board directs the Superintendent to provide a copy of this motion and commendation to each member of the Student Advisory Council.

Mrs. Rogers 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Board Bylaws.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that this was the first reading of the proposed changes to the State Board Bylaws. He noted that final action on the Bylaws will be taken at the June Board meeting.

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed changes to the official State Board Bylaws, as published.

Mrs. Rogers 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  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Mr. Serritella – yes

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Chairman.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that Mrs. McConachie would be participating in the NASBE Study Group on Reforming High Schools on June 7-8, 2002, in Washington, D.C.

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

Superintendent Vazquez reported that the State of Illinois was recently recognized by the International Reading Association. He indicated that Illinois received the “Five Star Policy Recognition Award.” He explained that this award Illinois State Board of Education
is presented to states and provinces that have adopted and implemented policies that support effective literacy instruction for all children.

The Superintendent introduced the 2002 Illinois Teacher of the Year (TOY), Robert Grimm. He noted that Mr. Grimm is a Physics teacher at Fremd High School in Palatine. He reported that Mr. Grimm will be representing Illinois Education and the very best of the teaching profession in a variety of forums over the next year.

Committees

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Committees.

Mrs. Rogers reported that the Search Committee is on schedule with the timeline posted on the ISBE website (www.isbe.net). She indicated that the Committee has engaged many stakeholders in the process beginning last November with focus groups conducted by the Board around the state. She commented that as of May 1, the Committee has received 31 applications, two of which were later withdrawn. She noted that half the applicants are or have been school superintendents and almost 30 percent can be considered “non-traditional.” She indicated that the search consultant is now screening and interviewing candidates, and it is the intention of the Search Committee to review candidate materials before the end of May.

Members

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

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

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman