MEMBERS PRESENT:
Marilyn McConachie        Connie Rogers        Beverly Turkal
Marjorie B. Branch        Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call  In the absence of Chairman Gidwitz, the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the Vice Chair, Mrs. McConachie, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Vice Chair McConachie noted that Chairman Gidwitz would not be present this month, and on February 22, Mr. Serritella would be connected by phone to the Plenary Business Meeting.

The Vice Chair introduced Beverly Turkal of Robinson, the newest Board member who was appointed this past week.

Spec. Ed. Due Process  The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item A., Special Education Due Process Review: Findings of Study.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that during the November Board meeting, a local district superintendent and a director of special education came to the State Board meeting to share their experience in implementing due process. She indicated that at this meeting, staff would share their findings related to a review of the process and procedures initiated by the local input.

Superintendent McGee commented that at the request of the State Board, staff had analyzed data associated with due process implementation throughout the state. He asked for the Board members’ input and direction in the implementation of the recommendations.
Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel and staff member Bobbie Reguly discussed the findings of this analysis and reviewed the recommendations made as a result of the analysis and their implications.

Discussion followed with Board input. Legal Counsel Res Vazquez also assisted in responding to Board members' questions.

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

**Spec. Ed. Certification**

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item B., Special Education Certification Rules and Regulations.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that during the next segment of the meeting, the Board would discuss the status of changes in the rules for certification in special education. She noted that these rules are developed to implement the new structure and standards for certification of special education teachers.

Superintendent McGee reported that the draft rules describe the transition from the current system to the new system of certification with special emphasis on the effect of these requirements on current teachers. He commented that a summary of the draft rules was widely distributed and was included in the Board packet. He indicated that on February 22, he would be recommending that the Board approve dissemination of the rules.

General Counsel Res Vazquez and staff members Lou Ann Reichle and Sally Vogl commented on the rules. Discussion followed for Board members' input.

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

**P.E. Waivers**

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item C., Waiver Issues: Physical Education.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that the State Board received and discussed the cumulative report on waivers. She noted that several policy issues were reviewed including those associated with the school calendar, substitute teacher service limitations, non-resident tuition, criteria for waiver requests, and waiver report submission dates and physical education. She reported that at that time, the Board adopted recommendations associated with all issues except those regarding physical education.
The Vice Chair indicated that staff were asked to review the implications of changing the waiver policy regarding physical education to consider the attainment of learning standards in physical development and health, as well as limiting the length of time in which P.E. waivers are in effect for any given district.

Superintendent McGee reported that on February 22, he would be recommending that the Board adopt a policy statement on physical development and health waivers. He indicated that this policy statement recognizes the importance of the learning standards and this area of learning. He noted that proof that schools requesting a waiver are meeting learning standards and a time limit for the waiver are both critical components of the policy statement.

Lee Patton, Director of the Policy Development Office; Phyllis Pickett from Lake Park High School in Roselle; and Mark Peysakhovich, representing the American Heart Association, commented on the issue.

Discussion followed for Board members' input. Lee Patton was commended for her efforts.

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

The meeting recessed at 3:50 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Teacher Effectiveness: The Education Trust Report.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that the State Board would develop a certification assessment system aligned to the new certification structure by 2003. She indicated that this includes assessment of the basic skills of teacher candidates that must be more rigorous in the future. She noted that at this meeting, the Board would discuss a report by Education Trust related to the research on teacher effectiveness and an analysis of existing licensing examinations.

Superintendent McGee reviewed the timelines and key responsibilities proposed for the NCREL study/contract. He also reviewed the role of Education Trust in the process.

Kati Haycock from Education Trust was connected to the meeting by phone, and she responded to Board members' questions.

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

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Waiver Rules.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that in keeping with our discussion on waivers, concerns were raised about local district observations of the requirement to hold public hearings regarding waivers. She noted that this requirement is relevant to all waiver request areas.

Superintendent McGee reported that on February 22, he would be recommending that the Board give preliminary approval of the rules and authorize their distribution for public comment. He indicated that these rule changes would require local districts to submit a copy of the hearing notices provided to the public, the participants in the hearing, and the nature of the testimony.

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

Mrs. McConachie reviewed the change in the schedule of meetings for February 22, so the Board members can attend the Education Committee meeting.

Vice Chair McConachie suggested that in the future, Board members submit questions before the Board meeting.

Closed Meeting

The Vice Chair called for a motion for the Board to go into a closed meeting.

Motion

Dr. Steiner moved that "the State Board of Education go into closed 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; 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. Rogers seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

The Vice Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

Ms. Branch - yes          Mrs. Rogers - yes          Mrs. Turkal - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes    Dr. Steiner - yes
The meeting recessed at 4:40 p.m. and went into closed session at 5:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel.

Adjournment The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Marilyn McConachie, Vice Chair