MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
State Board of Education Office
Springfield, Illinois
February 22, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Marilyn McConachie  Connie Rogers  Janet Steiner
Marjorie B. Branch  Vincent J. Serritella*  Beverly Turkal

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

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

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Roll Call
In the absence of Chairman Gidwitz, the meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.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. (*Mr. Serritella was connected to the meeting by phone.)

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that Chairman Gidwitz was out of the country and could not be present at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the January 17-18, 2001, meetings of the State Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Steiner, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Jim Guilinger, representing the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education, reported that in June, they would complete two additional CD's (in management and mechanics) -- all meeting the state goals for learning and skill standards. He indicated that one of the other positive things that had happened this year is the continual work with outside organizations in agricultural with the 26 county literacy programs in the state, and he commented on the funding associated with those programs.

Mr. Guilinger reported that they had worked with a study (the IOICC which was funded by the State Board) that showed that about 24 and 1/2 percent of the population in Illinois are involved in ag industry careers. He noted that another interesting thing was in a Newsweek article: on a national level, 39.7 percent of high school freshmen go on to college soon after graduation; for Illinois, that number was 49 percent; and for Illinois ag education graduates, that number is 67
percent (18 percent above the average). He commented that they think they are training young men and women to move forward.

Mr. Guillinger, as a member of the CTE committee, expressed concerns about the direction of that, and he indicated that hopefully this was an area that the Board would address. He reported that the appearance that they received from those meetings (in ag education and other vocational entities) was if this and the funding moves into the community college, then they lose what they think is a very valid part of what should be in secondary education. He noted that as far as the youth organization, it would totally disappear in Illinois, because there is not any one to serve as advisers to local FFA at the community college level.

Laura Arterburn, on behalf of the IFT, commented that regarding the Corey H. transition rules that were presented on February 21, it should be noted that as the State Board discusses these, the State Teacher Certification Board rejected these rules, and this was not brought up yesterday.

Ms. Arterburn expressed concerns regarding the comments made by the Superintendent on the Governor's budget report and the proposal to begin to take apart the state agency.

- This will be a disruption of services to local school districts throughout the state.
- By fragmenting the agency in this way, there is no longer going to be an umbrella that is going to watch over and keep things better coordinated. It will be the situation again that one part that is located in one agency is not going to know what is going on in another agency -- when all of this needs to be brought together.
- This has the potential to politicize the education department once again. This was an issue that they thought the 1970 Constitution's whole purpose was to keep it de-politicized, and now there is the potential to go back to that.

Ms. Arterburn indicated that last week in *Education Week*, it stated that Indiana is moving to return to a former organizational structure. She commented that they are quite concerned that all of these moves are not going to be designed to build up the education agency but rather to break it down, as well as be aggressive rather than progressive.

Phil Lawler, representing the Naperville schools, spoke on the critical issues regarding physical development and health. He indicated that just as twenty years ago the nation had no clue about the harms of tobacco, he believed that physical education is in the exact same place 20 years earlier. He commented that there would come a time when people will say, "Do you remember when the leadership was eliminating students from physical activity on a daily basis?"
Mr. Lawler noted that we have not made the shift in leadership to understand that physical education directly relates to health. He asked that the Board members be open minded enough to really investigate this issue, and he commented that eliminating physical activity is not best for children. He asked that the Board members stay in contact with the professionals in this field as they go through the process and make some of the critical decisions.

Sean McLaughlin, on behalf of EFE #330 and as an education for employment system director and a member of the final review team for the science standards, talked about how the Career and Technical Ed Challenge Task Force recommendations and the field of career and technical education relate directly to the Board's priorities. He indicated that they would like the rest of the curricular areas to follow Mr. Guilinger's example and align their programs with the Illinois Learning Standards and upgrade their curriculum. He noted that they serve 60 percent of all students every year in high schools.

Mr. McLaughlin reported that they do help match the skill requirements with the current job market. He commented that we have to ensure that all students are prepared for the changing work place and have the academic and the technical skills to succeed. He called the Board members' attention to the chart he had distributed that showed while 37 percent of the students went directly from high school to work, 62 percent continued their education and, in some cases, worked as well.

Mr. McLaughlin indicated that they heard reports of the possibility of Career and Technical Education governance being moved out of this agency. He commented that his fear is if this happens, the students would not ever make the college level.

Stephen Riley, representing OmniBus Education Management, displayed posters to commemorate Presidents' Day and African-American History Month and briefly spoke on the issue. He thanked the Board members and the Superintendent for their continued endeavors to try to reshape and restructure American education. He indicated that he regretted that Governor Ryan has reduced the agency's overall operations, and he would try to interact with the Governor regarding trying to provide the agency with additional funding and perhaps additional staff.

Deborah Wolf, as president-elect of the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD) and a professor at EIU, indicated that she wanted to substantiate Phil Lawler's comments that the method of delivery in physical education is changing dramatically. She noted that her mission for IAHPERD is to see that our professionals deliver health-related fitness concepts in their own school districts and, as a professor, to see that her students deliver those concepts to their future students.
Ms. Wolf reported that she had recently visited some of the most committed professionals in all of the schools in the state, and they are doing a wonderful job in the new physical education. She indicated that she had seen preventive medicine at its best in kindergarten all the way through 12th grade. She commented that some districts had taken upon themselves to eliminate students choosing to waiver out of physical education even though they qualified to waiver by offering stimulating and motivating programs.

Ms. Wolf, speaking from a university perspective and working with future physical educators, relayed a personal story where students said they never knew that they would be responsible for teaching all of the things and did not know how to do it, because they did not take physical education in high school. She indicated that we need to have the standards that are in place now, and we need to see that they are well-defined and well-documented. She commented that districts need to be held accountable for meeting these standards. Ms. Wolf offered her assistance in any way that she could.

Susan Shea, representing IEA, thanked the Board for its concern and the seriousness which it is approaching the physical education waivers issue. She also thanked the Board for the rules on waivers, stating that a district must have a public hearing, attach the copy of that public notice, and a brief summary of what occurred. She noted that they would be helping the Board support those rule changes.

Dr. Shea brought to Mrs. McConachie's and Mrs. Roger's attention that currently a teacher cannot get any credit for online CD completion of an activity. (These are the two Board representatives on the committee that juries the kinds of credit that a teacher can get for professional development.) She indicated that this is a problem, because if any university would offer an online course that it has juryed and decided is worth 3 semester hours, the teacher would get credit for taking the course. She commented that however, if they do it in the course of a workshop, at a conference, or independently, there is nothing that is in the manual under Appendix D.

Dr. Shea noted that she is the director of educational policy and agency relations, and she wanted the Board to know that she is not keen on chasing the Board's programs to a lot of other agencies (which has been proposed).

Dr. Shea reported that earlier in the day, the Superintendent gave a presentation to the education committee on Corey H., and she wanted to clear up one thing. She indicated that three or four months ago, the Certification Board voted on the standards, and the five IEA members present did not vote in support of them. She noted that the standards still went forward, because most issues are by majority rule. Dr. Shea asked the Superintendent not to report that the IEA supported the standards, because they did not. She noted that on their own, they are fine, but
the Board took each of those and put them together. She commented that the reason the IEA did not support them is because the Board dumped them all in one "LBS I" -- it is when one teacher is expected to be able to handle all those things, that is what is wrong with them.

Superintendent McGee indicated that he was referring to a conversation between Dr. Shea, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Roth in his office, and he had a different understanding about what she had said regarding the standards. He noted that he was trying to communicate that there is nothing wrong with the standards, and if he miscommunicated, he was in error. He commented that now we understand the distinction.

Mrs. McConachie asked Dr. Shea to define in writing for the Board the issue with technology-based professional development and CPDU's -- to distinguish what is possible and what is not possible. She noted that if this is an oversight as the rules were drawn up, then the issue needs to be addressed.

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 C.1., Immediate Action Items, Special Education Certification Rules.

Superintendent McGee reported that on February 21, General Counsel Res Vazquez and staff members Lou Ann Reichle and Sally Vogl provided an update on the status of the certification rules for special education teacher certification. He noted that they discussed the draft rules to transition from the current system of certification to the new system with emphasis on the effect of the requirements on current teachers. He indicated that approval has been requested to hold public hearings to seek input, and all actions based on public comment would be taken in consultation with the court overseeing the Corey H. settlement agreement. The Superintendent commented that as he mentioned on February 21 and again earlier that day to the education committee, we did request that of Judge Gettleman, and we hoped that the Judge would respond very shortly and allow the public hearings on these proposed rules.

Superintendent McGee reported that at the request of the Board, he asked staff to develop a visual (graphic) depiction of the process for current teachers of special education. He recommended that the Board authorize the distribution of these draft rules for comment.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to distribute the proposed transition rules to implement the new special education certification structure for public comment."
Ms. Branch 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  Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes  Mr. Serritella - yes  Mrs. Turkal - yes

**P.E. Waiver**
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item C.2., Immediate Action Items, P. E. Waiver Policy.

Vice Chair McConachie distributed copies of a revised policy statement on the physical education waiver and three actions that the Board is requested to take. She reported that in discussing this issue at the break in between meetings, her recommendation is that the Board talk about the policy statement but not try to take action on it at this meeting. She indicated that the Board needs to discuss this issue further; the staff needs to think through the implications; and the policy statement itself needs some editing. Mrs. McConachie noted that the Board may be able to take action on two of the action items. She commented that she thought the staff needed to hear what the Board members' concerns are, so they can use those in further consideration of what the policy statement should say. She asked the Superintendent to read the following policy statement.

"The Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health define the knowledge and skills that students need to achieve in this area, including the attainment and maintenance over time of an appropriate level of physical fitness. To support student achievement of these Standards, school districts should be expected to provide learning opportunities that are aligned to the Standards and they should be held accountable for learning results.

If a district wants to waive the law in this learning area, that district should provide evidence that its students have and will continue to have learning opportunities that will allow them to acquire the designated knowledge and skills. If a district is given a waiver for physical education, it should be for a limited time (no more than two years) and any request for its renewal should be accompanied by evidence that the district's students continue to meet the Standards."

Discussion followed for Board members' input on the policy statement.

Mrs. McConachie repeated the question that Dr. Steiner asked on February 21, "Does this mean that there will be almost no P.E. waivers granted by the Board, and if we were to do that, she thought the Board needed to hear from the
Superintendent and staff what the implications are. She noted that that was the way the discussion was going, but the Board needs to know what that means.

Mr. Serritella indicated that he thought we were getting to the position that he had hoped we would be in where we do serve some leadership in this particularly critical area while recognizing that standards and achieving the standards are our preeminent baseline for measurement. He noted that he would like to go back and look at -- for a local district, what would be the implications for them in being able to establish the baseline data and the benchmarks and being able to demonstrate that they were somehow in compliance with what we are setting forth here -- in other words, what the real impact is in getting to this bigger position. He commented that he felt that the Board has taken a good, strong step forward in providing leadership by supporting the importance of this particular set of standards.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that that was a good question -- what are the implications for a local district that wants to meet the criteria to have the standard waived. She commented that she hoped we would look at what the impact is on individual students who use the P.E. waiver to take additional academic courses, especially in those districts that have short days and do not allow enough periods for students to meet all of their learning needs. Mrs. McConachie noted that we regard this as a basic learning need. She hoped that the Board would look on this as a precedent for addressing fine arts standards where we have not begun yet, and those advocates have not yet arrived -- that is the next area into which we need to move.

Vice Chair McConachie asked the Board to look at the first two recommended actions that she thought the Board could act on.

Motion

Ms. Branch moved that "the State Board directs staff to take the following actions:

1. Work with the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD); the American Heart Association; the Management Alliance; teacher associations and other interested organizations to support and assist school districts' abilities to provide learning opportunities that are aligned with the Physical Development and Health Standards; and


Mrs. Turkal seconded the motion. In response to Mrs. Rogers inquiry for the need for this motion, the Vice Chair indicated that the Board was asked to make this a strong directive to ensure that it moved ahead.
Superintendent McGee commented that he was comfortable with that, and he pointed out that improved assessment reporting is at both state and local levels. He noted that the emphasis is on local reporting which in many ways can be equally, if not more, important than state reporting.

**Vote on Motion**

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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**Waiver Rules**

Superintendent McGee reported that rules changes are proposed that would require districts to submit, as part of their waiver requests, a copy of the hearing notices provided to the public and their collective bargaining agents. He indicated that this would serve as a threshold for ISBE consideration of the request. The Superintendent noted that in addition, the rules changes would require districts to provide a description of its public hearing and the nature of the testimony. He reported that this information would provide a background about the request.

Superintendent McGee reported that the rule change results from concerns raised about the extent to which local districts are observing the requirement for public hearings regarding waivers. He recommended that the Board authorize the distribution of the draft rule amendments and their publication in the *Illinois Register* for public comment.

**Motion**

Mrs. Turkal moved that "the Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to distribute the proposed amendments to the waiver rules (Part 1 - Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and their publication in the *Illinois Register* for public comment."

Dr. Steiner seconded the motion.

**Vote on Motion**

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Supt.'s Travel**

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item C.4., Immediate Action Items, Superintendent Travel Expenditures.

Mrs. Rogers reported that she had reviewed the Superintendent's travel expenditures in detail, and they were all in order.
MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION
February 22, 2001
Page 9

Motion
Mrs. Rogers moved that "the Illinois State Board of Education hereby approves the
Superintendent's quarterly travel expenditures."

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

Chair
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.1., Announcements and Reports,
Chair.

Vice Chair McConachie announced that the next Board meeting would be
March 21-22 in Springfield.

Mrs. McConachie reported that she and Mrs. Rogers would be attending the
National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative
Conference and committee meetings. She indicated that she would also be
chairing a study group on e-learning and the implications for state policy action.
She noted that Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato would be joining her
as a part of an expert panel on how all the e-learning issues come together in the
virtual high schools, and the study group would develop a report on policies that
state boards of education need to adopt.

Supt.
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.2., Announcements and Reports,
Superintendent.

Superintendent McGee called the Board members' attention to Gail Lieberman's
(Director of the Federal Relations Office) report in the Board packet and indicated
that it is a terrific report as usual. He expressed appreciation for how she
summarizes President Bush's agenda, and he noted that there would be some
policy discussions at the staff level about various elements of that agenda. He
commented that Ms. Lieberman had done a good job of driving those discussions,
and the thoughts would be shared with the Board.

The Superintendent reported that in the newspaper last week, it said that Judy
Biggert (a member of Illinois' congressional delegation) is on the education
committee; this is the first time in some time that we have had someone on that
committee. He indicated that a bill was put out regarding homeless education, and
it cites Illinois as the number one state in providing for the educational needs of
homeless children.
Superintendent McGee indicated that regarding Corey H., as he said to the education committee earlier that day, we have draft rules for the transition from the current categorical certification system to a system which has a cross-categorical certificate (the LBS I) that the Board just approved. He reported the following.

- We are asking the Judge to allow us to have an opportunity to collect public comment, and we are working on scheduling six meetings around the state.
- We will do a good job of publicizing those meetings and preparing materials provided we can go ahead.
- We are staying out of the way of any potential conflict between JCAR and Judge Gettleman. Judge Gettleman has not yet issued a ruling on how he reacted to JCAR's suspension of the rules. We are not debating JCAR's ability to suspend those rules. The Judge and JCAR will do what they need to do, and we will continue to look out for the best interest of the students.

The Superintendent commented that in the spirit of continuous improvement, we heard a couple of comments earlier in the meeting about the headcount reduction plan. He indicated that we would have specifics before the next Board meeting, but he did say that the State Board is committed to continuing customer service and customer improvement. He reported that we recently received several responses to an RFP that was part of the plan that was launched last June 1.

Superintendent McGee noted that the RFP is to collect data related to how we are doing at meeting and understanding districts' needs and exceeding their needs for customer service. He indicated that we are very excited about working on this and working with our stakeholders to develop the system. He reported that we are interested in having a survey based on Baldrige criteria that looks at leadership, at articulation of our mission, and at how we do at implementing our specific mission and our priorities.

The Superintendent commented that he thought we are doing a good job of responding cordially and courteously and of articulating our mission. He reported that the survey would also ask about how we involve our stakeholders, and he thought that we need to do a better job of understanding what the needs of our member districts are.

Superintendent McGee indicated that one of the themes from the morning education committee meeting was "we are all in this together" -- it is not just the state education agency, the IEA, the General Assembly, the management alliance, or the Governor's Office. He noted that if we are going to make a difference in the lives of students, we are going to have to work together and share a common agenda, vision, and commitment to improving the lives of our 2,000,000 students. He commented that we want to get data back this spring, so as we move into our summer strategic work sessions, we have some good data to inform activities.
The Superintendent recognized the special accomplishments and achievements of several staff members.

- Nona Myers - for the support at a planning retreat on a Saturday in Iowa.
- Teleconference staff -- for the conference by staff at DuPage ROE who participated in a V-tel conference at the Chicago office
- Reading staff -- for the excellent example of the reading kits from other superintendents of public instruction from California and Indiana
- Craig Rechner and Debby Vespa -- for auditors passing their CCSBO exam
- Tammy Rust -- for internal auditor passing a significant professional exam
- Child Nutrition - for being openly helpful to the Glen Ellyn School District
- Sonny Distel and auditors -- Carpentersville School District applauded their efforts
- Auditors -- for the positive experiences with retiring Cook County superintendent
- Grants management staff (Carolyn Huff, Kayleen Irizarry, and Albert Holmes) -- for grant work with Burbank School District #11
- Gwen Pollock -- for building a presence for science launch, a national program that we heard about earlier
- Gary Ey -- for visit to Kirby School District and honest and forthright dialogue and latest developments in school finance
- Mary Hill and external review team -- for visit at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in Bellwood
- Boyd Ferguson -- for visit at Reagan Middle School in Dixon

Committees

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.3., Announcements and Reports, Committees.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that Kathy Nicholson-Tosh (Director of Board Services Office) has requested that the Board Operations Committee meet jointly with the Strategic Planning Committee in the coming month for the purpose of redesigning the Board's agendas. She commented that we would be seeking to align the Board's work with the continuous improvement model that the agency has adopted. She noted that she hoped every one would be able to make themselves available during the month for that meeting, and Ms. Nicholson-Tosh would schedule it.

Mrs. Rogers, chair of the Board Operations Committee, reported that she, Mrs. McConachie, the Superintendent, and Ms. Nicholson-Tosh are to meet to begin preparation for the Board's Annual Work Conference in June. She noted that she would take that back to the Board Operations Committee at that point.
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.4., Announcements and Reports, Members.

Mrs. Rogers commented on the highlights of the congressional visits during the upcoming NASBE Legislative Conference. She would also be participating in the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee.

Ms. Branch would also be going to Washington to participate in the NASBE study group -- 2001 Changing Face of America’s School Children.

Adjournment The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Marilyn McConachie, Vice Chair