WEDNESDAY, March 20, 2002

11:00 a.m.  STATE BOARD MEETING CONVENE
Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

CLOSED SESSION
Superintendent's Conference Room, 4th floor

Noon  LUNCH

1:00 p.m.  STATE BOARD MEETING RECONVENE
State Board Room, 4th floor

HR 1:  Overall Plan and Communication

- Cover
- NCLB State Plans & Applications

*Induction, Mentoring, and Standard Certificate
(Material will be disseminated at the Board meeting on Wednesday, March 20)

*Rules Overview

- Part 240:  Alternative Learning Opportunities Program
  - Cover
  - Part 240 Rules

- Amendments to Part 25:
  Foreign Language Certification
  Bilingual Certification
  Certification Testing
5:00 p.m.  CLOSED SESSION  
Superintendent's Conference Room, 4th floor

6:30 p.m.  DINNER  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
3rd floor, Lincoln Board Room

THURSDAY, March 21, 2002

8:00 a.m.  CLOSED SESSION  
Superintendent's Conference Room, 4th floor

9:00 a.m.  STATE BOARD MEETING RECONVENES  
State Board Room, 4th floor  

Board ByLaws Discussion

10:45 a.m.  **PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING**

A. Roll Call/Call Meeting to Order

B. Approval of Minutes:  February 20-21, 2002 and March 13, 2002

- Minutes of the State Board of Education Meeting and Closed Session for February 20-21, 2002
- Minutes of the Plenary Business Meeting on February 21, 2002
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Closed Session on March 13, 2002 (via conference call)

C. Public Participation
D. Immediate Action Items
   1. Induction, Mentoring, and Standard Certificate
      (See Wednesday's Agenda)
   2. Rules
      (See Wednesday's Agenda)
      - Part 240 - Alternative Learning Opportunities Program
      - Part 25 - Foreign Language Certification, Bilingual Certification, Certification Testing
   3. Superintendent's Travel

E. Announcements and Reports
   1. Chairman
   2. Superintendent
   3. Committees
      - JEC
      - Strategic Planning
      - Operations
      - Legislative
   4. Members

F. Other Information

Noon LUNCH
Superintendent's Conference Room, 4th floor

* Action Items
* All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities.
** Meetings will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.
Roll Call  The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.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.

Closed Session  Chairman Gidwitz asked for a motion for the Board to go into closed session.

Mrs. Rogers 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;
- Section 2 (c) (4) for the purpose of acting as a quasi-adjudicative body; and
- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

She further moved that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed.

Mrs. McConachie 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
- Mr. Gidwitz - yes
- Ms. Gold - not present to vote
- Mrs. McConachie - not present to vote
- Mr. Sandsmark - not present to vote
- Mrs. Rogers - yes
- Mr. Sandsmark - not present to vote
- Dr. Steiner - yes
- Mrs. Turkal - yes
- Mr. Serritella - yes
The Board members went into a closed meeting at 3:05 p.m. and recessed at 4:00 p.m. The open meeting reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

Ms. Branch and Ms. Gold had to leave the meeting at this time.

The Chairman called for a motion regarding the Rockford YouthBuild Charter School.

**Motion**

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby requests additional information and/or responses to questions to assist in the determination of appeal status of YouthBuild Rockford Charter School as follows:

1. Copies of statute and the Code reference number from ISBE's General Counsel identifying the responsibilities of public school districts in serving students and the age of youth to be served.

2. A comparison of YouthBuild’s program with the ROE alternative learning program and the District's alternative program from YouthBuild.

3. Responses from YouthBuild regarding the use of Workforce Investment Act funds – are they used and, if so, for what purpose?

4. An explanation of the use of stipend funds as identified in the YouthBuild budget and the origin of the funds.

5. An independent financial analysis by ISBE staff of costs and budget impact of various scenarios on Rockford and YouthBuild budgets.

6. An explanation by ISBE's General Counsel of the criteria that can be used for approval or disapproval of a Charter School appeal.

7. Identification of the specific hardships placed on Rockford District should this charter be approved.

8. Identification of Rockford programs that will be in jeopardy should this charter be approved.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.
The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

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The Chairman called for a motion to approve the State Superintendent’s employment contract.

Chairman Gidwitz moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the employment agreement for Respicio Vazquez as State Superintendent of Education for a term commencing February 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2002, at an amount not to exceed $79,167.00. The term of this agreement may be extended if the parties so agree.

Mr. Serritella seconded the motion.

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

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The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

__________________________________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary

__________________________________________
Marilyn McConachie, Vice Chair
Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 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.

The Chairman indicated that Mr. Sandsmark would not be attending the meeting this month, Mrs. Turkal would be joining the meeting by telephone, Ms. Gold would be joining the meeting momentarily, and he and Mr. Serritella would not be attending tomorrow’s meeting.

Closed Session

The Chairman called for a motion to go into closed session.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting on March 20 at 11:05 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m. or at the conclusion of today’s meeting, and on March 21 at 8:00 a.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.
- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

She further moved that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed.

Mrs. McConachie 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. McConachie - yes
- Dr. Steiner - yes
- Mr. Gidwitz - yes
- Mrs. Rogers - yes
- Mrs. Turkal - yes
- Ms. Gold - not present to vote
- Mr. Serritella - yes

The public meeting recessed at 11:10 a.m. and the Board went into a closed meeting at 11:15 a.m. The closed meeting recessed at 1:00 p.m. and the public meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Ms. Gold joined the meeting during the closed session.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, HR 1: Overall Plan and Communication.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that this agenda item has been discussed during the past two Board meetings, and would be a regular discussion item in the future. He indicated that in today’s meeting the Board would be spending a lot of time reviewing the HR 1 components that have significant implications for policy and Agency implementation, as well as a timeline for addressing many of these issues.

Superintendent Vazquez commended the staff on the significant amount of work that has already been done translating the requirements of this legislation. He indicated that it has definitely become a total Agency effort. He noted that there are many provisions of HR 1 that parallel the direction and intent of the state school reform effort. He explained that they include the following components:

- A system aligned with learning standards;
- The availability of high quality teachers for all students; and
- The assurance that every school and district is accountable for every student’s progress.

The Superintendent reported that the State Board will have many challenges with this information, especially the intensive timelines and work to be completed in such a short timeframe. He indicated that it is a possibility that the Board will wait until May to complete all action on these issues.
Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Chris Koch, Gail Lieberman, Randy Burge, Pat Ryan, Rob Sampson, and Mike Long assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum II).

Chairman Gidwitz introduced new State Board member Judith A. Gold and welcomed her to the Board.

**Induction, Mentoring, & Standard Certificate**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Induction, Mentoring, and Standard Certificate.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that staff has been working on the development of a Standard Examination Certificate with the Standard Examination Advisory Committee since spring 2001. He stated that this Committee has worked for many months in an attempt to come to agreement on the type of assessment and options for assessment that the State Board might consider. He explained that during today’s meeting staff members will provide an overview of the status of the Standard Certificate Examination.

Superintendent Vazquez commented that over the past several weeks, many discussions have occurred indicating the need to reconsider the direction of the Standard Certificate Examination. He said that he would not be requesting or recommending action on this agenda item this month. He explained that he wanted the Board to have ample opportunity to review all the information and have plenty of time to discuss it with key partners.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Chris Koch and Frank Llano assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum III).

**Rules Overview**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules Overview, Part 240: Alternative Learning Opportunities Program, and Amendments to Part 25: Foreign Language and Bilingual Certification, Certification Testing.

The Superintendent noted that two sets of rules are being provided today for review and tomorrow for approval so that they may go forward to obtain public comment.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Chris Koch, Sally Vogl, and Lou Ann Reichle assisted in responding to questions.
An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

Financial Assurance System

Superintendent Vasquez stated that this System originated in 1988 and has evolved from a simple structure to the Financial Assurance and Accountability System (FAAS). He reported that the State Board would like to take this System in a new direction, and he asked staff members David Wood and Gary Ey to review and discuss this plan (see Addendum IV). He also stated that he would be asking for the Board’s acceptance of the 2002 Financial Watch List and the Financial Oversight Panel Lists, bringing closure to the FAAS process.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members David Wood, Gary Ey, and Nona Myers assisted in responding to questions.

The open meeting recessed at 3:30 p.m., and the Board went into a closed meeting at 3:45 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m.

The open meeting reconvened on March 21 at 9:10 a.m. and was called to order by the Vice Chair, Mrs. McConachie, 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.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that Chairman Gidwitz, Mr. Serritella, and Ms. Gold were unable to stay for today’s meeting. She noted that Ms. Gold would join the meeting by telephone. She also indicated that Mrs. Turkal, who participated in yesterday’s meeting by telephone, was able to join the meeting today in person.

Board Bylaws Discussion

Vice Chair McConachie, called for Agenda Item, Board Bylaws Discussion.

The Vice Chair reported that at last month’s meeting, the Board asked the Strategic Planning Committee to give additional consideration and attention to the responsibilities of Board committees and the implications for Board and committee meeting schedules and agendas.
The Vice Chair also indicated that the Strategic Planning Committee has worked with the Superintendent and his Core Team to develop the principles that were printed in the Board meeting packet, and the additional materials that the Board received by mail prior to this meeting. She noted that these materials include the following information.

- Proposed changes to the responsibilities of each committee;
- Meeting scenarios; and
- Preliminary draft of Board Bylaw changes.

Vice Chair McConachie stated that the Board’s goal for this meeting was to discuss these materials and give direction to the Strategic Planning Committee and the Core Team about additional refinements. She explained that at the April Board meeting, the Committee will present formal recommendations for Bylaw changes. She stated that this will constitute the “first reading” as required by the Bylaws. She indicated that the Board plans to vote on the Bylaw changes in May, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that the transition to the new committee structure would occur over a three-month period following final Board action, but no later than August 2002.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

Vice Chair McConachie stated that the Universal Preschool agenda item report would be postponed for a short time due to the delay in the arrival of the presenter. She indicated that at this time the Board would continue its discussion regarding the proposed amendments to various certification rules, and she called upon staff members Chris Koch and Sally Vogl to answer any questions that Board members might have.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that the Board would now hear a report from the Joint Education Committee (JEC).

The Board reviewed and discussed a draft resolution developed for the Joint Education Committee regarding high school graduation requirements and other issues related to high school organization and curriculum.
Vice Chair McConachie also distributed a document regarding teacher quality enhancement in the middle grades in Illinois, and a document regarding the legislative update on the Governor’s Education Summit recommendations (see Addendum V).

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff member Lynne Haeffele Curry assisted in responding to questions.

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item, Governor’s Task Force on Universal Access to Preschool Report.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that Governor Ryan’s Universal Access to Preschool Task Force has submitted its report and recommendations to the Governor. She said that although some State Board staff – namely Kay Henderson and Mary Jayne Broncato – participated in the work of this Task Force, the Board has not had a chance to hear about its findings or about the direction the Task Force believes is appropriate for Illinois.

Superintendent Vazquez also commented that the Board has not discussed the policy issues related to universal access to preschool, the implications of the recommendations for current programming, the State Board’s budget, or the State Board’s long-term goals. He explained that today’s discussion is intended to provide the Board with a base of information and allows them to explore questions of particular interest. He said that staff will then be asked to analyze the Task Force Report and provide the Board with appropriate recommendations in April.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Margie Wallen, Policy Coordinator on Universal Preschool for the Governor’s office, assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum VI).

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Adjournment  The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary

______________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman
The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by the Vice Chair, Mrs. McConachie, 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.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that Chairman Gidwitz, Mr. Serritella, and Mr. Sandsmark were unable to attend the meeting. She indicated that Ms. Gold would be participating in the meeting via telephone.

Ms. Branch moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the February 20-21 and March 13, 2002, meetings as published.

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

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

Ron Babcock, a member of the State Teacher Certification Board, spoke to the Board regarding the Initial Standard Teaching Certificate. He indicated that he has been a math teacher for 31 years in School District 300 in Carpentersville. He noted that the teacher evaluation process has changed and improved over the years. He reported that the Certification Board has been involved with many good things in the five years that he has been a member. He noted that many of these good things are gatekeeping and training procedures.

Mr. Babcock stated that the Certification Board met by conference call on March 18 regarding the Initial Standard Certificate proposal (see Addendum II for notes from this meeting).
Jay Runner, a coordinator for the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education organization in Rantoul, spoke to the Board regarding the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education Annual Report (see Addendum III). Mr. Runner informed the Board that Ag Day had been held at the State Capitol on March 20. He noted that he was speaking on behalf of Jim Guilinger of the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education. He distributed copies of this Committee’s annual report and stated that the focus of this report is curriculum development and how that development has impacted student performance in local programs.

Mr. Runner also informed the Board that the fifth curriculum compact disc will be finished in June. He noted that this compact disc will hold curriculum material regarding animal and plant sciences, and it will made available to all high school and community college teachers. He also explained that this compact disc will contain 150 lessons that are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards, the Occupational Skill Standards, and the Work Place Skill Standards. He indicated that 36 states were using the curriculum compact discs to teach agricultural and horticultural education in their schools.

In closing, Mr. Runner reported that the National FFA is also considering using these compact discs for a nation-wide agricultural education curriculum. He thanked the Board for its support.

Barb Grace, director of the Southern Region Early Childhood Programs, spoke to the Board regarding the Early Childhood Block Grant. She indicated that these programs have been in existence for 15 years and serve 965 children and their families in four counties. She also noted that these programs have a partnership between 24 public schools districts and Southern Illinois University. She said that the Early Childhood Block Grant programs have been very successful, especially by involving parents in the education of their children.

Ms. Grace indicated to the Board that she was very concerned about keeping the Early Childhood Block Grant intact where it belongs within the State Board of Education. She thanked the Board for its time and support.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Induction, Mentoring, & Standard Certificate
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Induction, Mentoring, and Standard Certificate.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that this agenda item was discussed at yesterday’s Board meeting, and the Superintendent asked that action be deferred until April pending further discussion with stakeholders. She said that the Board would meet in a special session on Thursday, March 28 to discuss this topic.

Rules – Part 240
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Rules – Part 240, Alternative Learning Opportunities Program.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that this agenda item was discussed at yesterday’s Board meeting and there were no questions or requests for further information. She called for a motion regarding this agenda item.

Motion
Dr. Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (23 Illinois Administrative Code 240), including publication of the proposed rules in the Illinois Register.

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. McConachie - yes Dr. Steiner - yes
Ms. Gold - yes Mrs. Rogers - yes Mrs. Turkal - yes

Rules – Part 25
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Rules – Part 25, Foreign Language Certification, Bilingual Certification, Certification Testing.

Vice Chair McConachie reported that this agenda item was also discussed at yesterday’s Board meeting and a question was raised for further staff exploration. She noted that the rule amendments, as originally proposed, would have made a change only with respect to holders of the Transitional Bilingual Certificate.
The Vice Chair explained that the Board had requested one modification which added holders of the Provisional Vocational Certificate, the Temporary Provisional Certificate, the Temporary Foreign Language Certificate, and Substitute Certificate holders who are employed on a full-time basis in the Chicago Public Schools (see Addendum IV).

The Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the modified proposed rules for distribution and public comment.

Motion

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

Certification (23 Illinois Administrative Code 25), including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

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. McConachie - yes    Dr. Steiner - yes
Ms. Gold - yes    Mrs. Rogers - yes    Mrs. Turkal - yes

Chairman

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Chairman. She noted that there was nothing further to report due to the Chairman’s absence.

Supt.

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

Superintendent Vazquez noted that the Board had passed its initial budget in January requesting an increase of $250 million. He indicated that he has been doing his best to and try and justify the Board’s budget request but the revenues are just not there. He said that he will continue to work with staff in justifying our request before the General Assembly, particularly at the Senate Appropriation Hearing that is scheduled for April 9.

Committees

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Committees.
Vice Chair McConachie reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has met several times to discuss the Bylaws. She noted that the Board would continue its discussion regarding the Bylaws after lunch today. She also indicated that the Committee will be meeting in the near future regarding education policy planning issues.

Mrs. Rogers stated that the Search Committee continues to meet with Nancy Noeske of PROACT Search, Inc., regarding facilitating and guiding the search for the next State Superintendent. She indicated that PROACT will interview over 30 people to obtain their input regarding the Superintendent profile. She commented that PROACT has already obtained input from 15 State Board staff members.

Mrs. Rogers explained that the Search Committee would also be meeting with an advisory panel on April 5 regarding the profile that the Board is looking for. She noted that the advisory panel will be giving the Committee names of people that they believe should be considered for the position of State Superintendent. She indicated that the Board hopes to hire a new Superintendent by the end of the summer.

Members

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

Mrs. Rogers reported that she wanted the public to know that Board members will be meeting in the near future in different regions of the state regarding the Middle-Level Standards.

Vice Chair McConachie welcomed new State Board member Judith Gold. She also thanked staff members who prepared the meeting materials, who gave presentations, and the staff that helped the Board through the decision process.

The open meeting recessed for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

The Board continued its discussion regarding the Bylaws, specifically concentrating on legislative issues.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff member Peter Leonis assisted in responding to questions.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Adjournment  The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_________________________________________

Connie Rogers, Secretary

_________________________________________

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman