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

Respicio F. Vazquez, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 2:05 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.

The Chairman indicated that Mr. Serritella, Mrs. Turkal, and Mrs. Rogers were absent at this time but would be joining the meeting later in the day and tomorrow. He also noted that the *Ms. Gold would be participating in the meeting by telephone.

The Chairman welcomed new State Superintendent Vazquez and Dr. Chris Koch, Director of Teaching and Learning.

School Code Overview Update
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, School Code Review Update.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that during this agenda item discussion Dr. Hazel Loucks, Deputy Governor for Education, would be providing an update on the School Code review and rewrite. He thanked Dr. Loucks for attending the Board meeting.

Superintendent Vazquez also welcomed Dr. Loucks and indicated that he and the Board looked forward to her presentation regarding the work of the School Code Commission and the process for completing revisions to the Code. He also noted that a variety of State Board staff have been working with the various committees identified to look at the different components of the School Code. He explained that he and the Board have high hopes that this will assist efforts in improving the State Board’s efficiency and effectiveness in supporting local school districts.
Dr. Loucks provided an overview of the Commission’s work and the process for completing the revisions.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input.

**Education Summit**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Education Summit.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that educator quality issues have been at the forefront of the Board’s discussions for the past several years. He indicated that the Governor’s Education Summit was initially convened in December 2001 to study the educator workforce. He explained that he had been a participant in the Summit and had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with education leaders, parents, employers, commerce and community leaders, and researchers.

The Superintendent reported that the Summit delegates had met twice to address teacher and administrator quality and supply issues. He explained that the resulting recommendations were not only a response from these two meetings but will be compiled into a comprehensive legislative and budget package after gathering public feedback.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Dr. Hazel Loucks and staff members Lynne Haeffele and Peter Leonis assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum II).

**Rules & Regulations Overview**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules & Regulations Overview.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that at this time the Board would hear public participation comments from Richard Laine, representing the Illinois Business Roundtable (IBRT). He indicated that Mr. Laine would be unable to attend the regular public participation comment period on February 21.

Mr. Laine spoke to the Board regarding the rules overview – specifically the amendments to Part 260 – Reading Improvement Program. He indicated that while HR 1 needs to be the context in which these rules are developed, the law must be the driving factor in which these rules are shaped (see Addendum III).

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Chairman Gidwitz reported that six sets of rules would be addressed during the meeting. He noted that four sets of rules deal with standards for certification, the fifth addresses amendments to the reading improvement program, and the sixth addresses driver education amendments. He explained that staff will be addressing any and all questions the Board might have relating to these rules.

Superintendent Vazquez noted that the first three sets of rules regarding standards were addressed in an earlier Board meeting and disseminated for public comment. He explained that 17 letters of comment were received and he asked staff members Mike Long and Sally Vogl to summarize the comments received and the recommended changes. The Superintendent noted that he would be asking for the Board’s adoption of these proposed rules and recommended changes.

Superintendent Vazquez reported that the fourth set of rules regarding standards relate to the School Service Personnel Certificate. He indicated that these standards were approved at the last Board meeting. He explained that the fifth set of rules that need to be addressed are the proposed amendments to Part 260 – the Reading Improvement Program. He stated that these amendments were initially presented to the Board in November and then published for comment. He noted that the final set of rule amendments relate to drive education.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Sally Vogl, Mike Long, Shelley Helton, Marcia Sailsbury and Don Byram assisted in responding to questions.

Mrs. Turkal joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Legislation Discussion.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Board would now have the opportunity to discuss legislative recommendations and bills of interest to the Agency in preparation for the spring Legislative Session.

Superintendent Vazquez also commented that the Board is in need of input and direction on the legislative agenda for the spring Session. He reported that today’s discussion would consist of both federal and state issues and how the Agency is attempting to align the two in legislative efforts.
Staff members Peter Leonis, Randy Burge, Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer, and Gail Lieberman (by telephone), provided an overview of HR 1 and how it should be transitioned to specific action for the legislative agenda. Peter Leonis discussed the process, the timelines, and other legislative recommendations from the state perspective.

**Youthbuild Rockford Charter School**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Youthbuild Rockford Charter School.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that the Youthbuild Rockford Charter School has come before the Board for consideration following the denial of this Charter by Rockford District 205.

The Superintendent reported that the Board meeting material highlights the events that have taken place relative to Youthbuild Rockford Charter School. He noted that following the denial of the Charter School, the sponsor appealed to the State Board of Education. He commented that a hearing was conducted by an appeal panel and they found that the proposal was in compliance with the Charter Schools Law and in the best interest of students it was designed to serve.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Sharon Roberts and Janet Allison (by telephone) assisted in responding to questions.

**Closed Session Motion**

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

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting on February 20 at 5:00 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.
- 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  Mrs. Turkal - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes  Mr. Sandsmark - yes
Ms. Gold - yes  Dr. Steiner - yes

The public meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. and the Board went into a closed meeting at 5:15 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m. and the public meeting reconvened on February 21 at 9:50 a.m.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that he had requested the Board’s General Counsel, Harry Blackburn, to begin looking at the bylaws to review and identify changes that would enhance the Board’s efficiency and effectiveness. He indicated that he had asked Mrs. McConachie to lead the discussion on the Bylaws so that needed changes could be identified. He commented that it was his desire to have staff draft language revisions based on today’s discussion and direction for review during the March Board meeting.

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

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman