MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz       Connie Rogers       Janet Steiner
Marilyn McConachie      Vincent J. Serritella Beverly Turkal

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Marjorie B. Branch

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, 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. (Dr. Steiner joined the meeting at 3:35 p.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz apologized to the audience for the delay in starting the meeting. He indicated that Ms. Branch was unable to attend this month's Board meeting.

Standards Implementation

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Board would be discussing the implementation of Learning Standards and the alignment efforts of the State Board to foster standards implementation. He noted that it appears that this recognizes what was learned from the interim evaluation of standards implementation and reflects "continuous improvement" in motion.

Superintendent MCGee reported that in September, the Board was presented an interim report on the external evaluation of Learning Standards implementation. He noted that a summary of these findings was included in the Board packet materials.

The Superintendent indicated that members of the Education Center and representatives from the ROE's, school districts, and ACT would provide an overview of how we are assisting local districts in aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment to the Illinois Learning Standards. He commented that we would hear about state, regional, district, school, and classroom activities geared to implementing Learning Standards. He reported that this presentation and
discussion reflects a strong beginning to putting the agency pieces together to build a comprehensive, statewide system for standards implementation. Superintendent McGee noted that this approach is one that he would like to see occur frequently during the Board's Work Study Sessions.

Michael Dunn, Chief Education Officer, introduced the presentation and those who would be participating at some point during the discussion.

- Jay Linksman -- ROE
- Karyn Grunlow -- 8th grade teacher at Almont #10
- Mary Hiltbrant -- Mason Public School
- Joan Vydra -- LAQA
- Susan Loomis, Jon Erickson, and Larry Evenberger -- ACT
- Board staff: Deputy Superintendents Mary Jayne Broncato and Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer; Division Administrators Dick Miguel and Susie Morrison; and Victoria Hammer

Discussion followed the presentation for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

The Superintendent asked for the Board's endorsement and support of the Education Center work in aligning agency efforts to support standards implementation. He indicated that additional work to ensure the Learning Standards are at the heart of the School Designation System, Quality Assurance System, and System of Support continuum is a critical next step.

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

The meeting recessed at 3:55 p.m. and reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

Waiver Report

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Waiver Report.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that because there was a representative from the Rockford School District present to speak to the Board regarding their waiver, he had moved the Waiver Report agenda item up in the agenda.

Superintendent McGee reported that the waiver report presented for action on April 19 covers 92 waiver requests in ten topic areas, and a breakdown of these requests was included in the Board packet.

Division Administrator Connie Wise and Gary Anderson, one of the Board's legal counsels, provided information on the Rockford issue.
Ms. Linelle Lasswell, General Director for Curriculum for the Rockford School District, spoke to the Board regarding their waiver request for the reading improvement block grant.

Superintendent McGee commended Ms. Lasswell, and he reported that the legislation on reading would assist Rockford in the future.

The Superintendent indicated that on April 19, he would be asking the Board to:

- Approve his recommendation to deny the waiver modification request to extend the reading improvement block grant funds for additional grades;
- Recommend to the General Assembly the denial of the waiver request from Antioch High School District #117 to administer an assessment other than the PSAE;
- Recommend to the General Assembly that 18 of the 19 physical education waiver requests be limited to two years based on the Board’s new policy and pending legislation (The request from Leyden High School District is recommended for approval for the 2001-2002 school year per their request. This is a modification to the recommendation as printed in the Board packet.); and
- Forward the remaining requests without comment.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes, and staff member Sharon Neely 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).

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., School Report Card.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the School Report Card for 2001 includes a variety of new components in response to the state assessment system and federal requirements.

Superintendent McGee reported that the School Report Card for 2001 reflects a major increase in the magnitude of information we have to report. He noted that generating this Report Card is an enormous task.

Key questions that the Board would address at this time included the following.

- How do we deliver/communicate the information so it is “customer friendly” and well understood?
- With the magnitude of information, how do we present longitudinal data as well -- and is this the most appropriate place to present that information?
Since much of the data is required by state legislation, is it time to consider revisiting the law to identify the most critical data elements?

The Superintendent indicated that staff had developed some great graphs to show examples of what could be done with some additional resources that he would like to share.

Deputy Superintendent Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer and Division Administrator Connie Wise reviewed the content and format of the Report Card (see Addendum II).

Jon Erickson and Larry Evenberger, two representatives from ACT, commented on this issue.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

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 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman