MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz    Connie Rogers    Janet Steiner
Judith A. Gold    Richard Sandsmark    Beverly Turkal
Marilyn McConachie

Respicio F. Vazquez, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Marjorie B. Branch, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 10:05 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.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Ms. Branch and Mr. Serritella were unable to attend the meeting.

Approval of Minutes
Dr. Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the March 20-21 and March 28, 2002, meetings as published.

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

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

Jay Runner and Jim Guilinger, representing the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education (ICAE), spoke to the Board regarding agricultural education. Mr. Runner provided the Board with copies of the FY 2002 Agricultural Education Incentive Funding Summary. He indicated that this report summarizes the funding that goes to the local school districts on an annual basis through the agricultural education line item. He commented that this report shows the impact of the funding, what the funding is used for, and how the funding is used to implement performance standards.
Zanele Sibanda, representing Chicago United and the Illinois Business Roundtable, spoke to the Board regarding the Standard Teaching Certificate. She encouraged the Board to adopt a single and uniform process that encourages teachers to develop and demonstrate the set of knowledge and skills that are articulated in the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.

Ms. Sibanda also encouraged the Board to develop a system that demonstrates the Board’s commitment to teacher quality and moves teachers toward the highest competencies.

Howard Heath, representing the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), spoke to the Board regarding the physical education waiver. He told the Board that he been a teacher and a coach before taking his present job with the CTU. He indicated that coaching had been just as important to him as his classroom teaching. He noted that physical education improves cardio vascular function, bone density, and may enhance academic performance. He encouraged the Board to think very seriously about eliminating the junior and senior year of physical education for the schools in Chicago.

Laura Arterburn, representing the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT), spoke to the Board regarding the Standard Teaching Certificate and waivers. She reported that the IFT supports the Illinois Education Association’s proposal for moving from the Initial to the Standard Teaching Certificate. She also praised Dr. Steve Tozer’s presentation at the Board meeting on Wednesday. She indicated that IFT’s concern has always been that brand new teachers should be nurtured rather than have continuous gauntlets thrown at them during the first four years of teaching.

Ms. Arterburn commented that her organization is disappointed that the Standard Examination Committee has not met since last fall to further negotiate this issue. She indicated that the IFT agrees with the State Board regarding the need to focus on induction and mentoring rather than anything else. She noted that her organization also understands that the budget constraints will change this year’s priorities. She indicated that the IFT was pleased with the new policy regarding waivers but she did not see any changes regarding which waivers are approved.

Stephen Riley, representing Omnibus Educational Management, spoke to the Board regarding “Operation College Bound.” He shared a handout with the Board members regarding this new endeavor and discussed its content (see Addendum II).
An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

**No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Policy Actions**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Policy Actions.

**Motion**

Chairman Gidwitz called for the motion regarding NCLB adequate yearly progress.

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following method to establish benchmarks for adequate yearly progress.

By this method,

- The state ranks schools by reading scores and again by mathematics scores based on 2002 state test data;
- The state, counting from the bottom of each ranked list, identifies schools that comprise 20% of the student population; and
- The percentage of students that meet and that do not meet the Standards at the 20% student population level will become the benchmark for adequate yearly progress calculations.

Furthermore, the State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to work with Illinois partners and with representatives from other states to further define adequate yearly progress implementation issues and find suitable solutions that benefit students.

Mrs. Rogers 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.

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The Chairman called for the motion regarding NCLB performance goals.
Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the federal performance goals and indicators and sets targets as recommended by the State Superintendent. The State Board further directs staff to pilot the use of these indicators and targets using existing data and to connect the language of the federal law with language currently used in Illinois.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

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

- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mrs. Rogers – yes
- Mrs. Turkal – yes
- Ms. Gold – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Dr. Steiner – yes

The Chairman called for the motion regarding the NCLB corrective actions and system of support.

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby directs staff to align the state accountability system to the federal system, with particular emphasis on aligning the corrective actions for schools with chronic academic problems.

The Board further directs staff to align the state system of support for such schools to the federal requirements.

Dr. Steiner seconded the motion.

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

- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mrs. Rogers – yes
- Mrs. Turkal – yes
- Ms. Gold – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Dr. Steiner – yes

The Chairman called for the motion regarding the NCLB high quality personnel.

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education endorses the proposed Illinois definition for a “highly qualified teacher,” the proposed qualifications and duties of paraprofessionals, and directs staff to disseminate this information to all stakeholders.
Mrs. Rogers 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.

- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mrs. Rogers – yes
- Mrs. Turkal – abstain
- Ms. Gold – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Dr. Steiner – abstain

Standard Teaching Certificate Exam

The Chairman indicated that the Board was deferring final action on this agenda item until the Superintendent had additional discussions with stakeholders and legislators. He called for a motion to give Superintendent Vazquez detailed direction regarding this agenda item.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to engage in negotiations on pending legislation, instructed by the following principles:

- Inclusion of induction and mentoring programs;
- Use of four semester hours of ISBE-approved graduate level coursework and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards coursework;
- Exploration of use of the Praxis III Examination; and
- Exploration of other alternatives that are aligned with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.

Furthermore, beginning July 1, 2003, persons with an Initial Certificate who have completed four years of teaching will have to comply with the process established according to the principles as stated.

Mrs. Rogers 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.

- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mrs. Rogers – yes
- Mrs. Turkal – abstain
- Ms. Gold – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Dr. Steiner – abstain
Chairman Gidwitz reported that during yesterday’s Board meeting, the Board discussed recommendations regarding the waiver requests to be transmitted to the General Assembly as part of the spring Waiver Report. He noted that the Superintendent has advised the Board to recommend legislative disapproval of three waivers requests: Antioch High School, Savanna School District, and Freeport School District. The Chairman called for a motion regarding this agenda item.

**Motion**

Mr. Sandsmark moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed spring 2002 Waiver Report to the General Assembly, limiting all of the physical education waivers to one year, along with recommendations for General Assembly disapproval of the waiver requests submitted by Antioch Community High School District 117, Savanna Community Unit School District 300, and Freeport Community Unit School District 145. The staff is directed to submit the report and the recommendations for legislative disapproval to the General Assembly on or before May 1, 2002.

The Board also requests its acting General Counsel to send a written legal opinion to the General Assembly and to also request a written legal opinion from the Illinois Attorney General on the General Assembly’s authority to grant physical education waivers for a one-year period.

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.

- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mrs. Rogers – no
- Mrs. Turkal – yes
- Ms. Gold – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Dr. Steiner – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Performance Agreements.

The Superintendent stated that one of the major challenges facing the State Board and local school districts is how to turn around those schools with chronic academic problems. He noted that one of the key strategies the State Board plans to use is a “District Performance Agreement” that will provide a framework for local and state efforts.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch and Gail Lieberman assisted in responding to questions.

Chairman Gidwitz called for a motion regarding this agenda item.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education hereby endorses the development of “District Performance Agreements” between the State Board of Education and local school districts with one or more schools in chronic academic difficulty.

Furthermore, these agreements will serve as a commitment to and framework for action by the district and its chronically failing school(s), and as a template for the State Board’s technical assistance to and monitoring of district and school-level efforts.

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.

Mr. Gidwitz – yes Mrs. Rogers – yes Mrs. Turkal – yes
Ms. Gold – yes Mr. Sandsmark – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes Dr. Steiner – yes

Board Calendars 2002 & 2003

Chairman Gidwitz called for a motion to approve the Board meeting calendar changes for 2002 and adopt the proposed Board meeting calendar for 2003.
Motion: Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed changes to the adopted 2002 calendar:

- August 21-22------------------ Springfield (instead of Chicago)
- September 18-19--------------- Springfield (instead of Chicago)
- November 21------------------ Chicago (instead of Nov. 20-21)

Furthermore, the Board approves the proposed calendar for 2003, as follows:

- January 15-16------------------ Chicago
- February 19-20----------------- Springfield
- March 19-20 ------------------ Springfield
- April 16-17--------------------- Springfield
- May 14-15---------------------- Springfield
- June 19-21--------------------- Oak Brook (Annual Work Conference)
- July------------------------------- No Meeting
- August 20-21------------------- Springfield
- September 17-18---------------- Springfield
- October 22-23-------------------- Southern Illinois
- November 20--------------------- Chicago
- December 17-18------------------ Chicago

Dr. Steiner 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.

- Mr. Gidwitz – yes
- Mrs. Rogers – yes
- Mrs. Turkal – yes
- Ms. Gold – yes
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Dr. Steiner – yes

Rules, Part 140: The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Rules, Part 140: Calculation of Excess Cost.

Chairman Gidwitz called for a final action motion on this agenda item.
Motion  Mrs. Turkal moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for:

Calculation of Excess Cost under Section 18-3 of the School Code (23 Illinois Administrative Code 140).

Furthermore, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent to make such technical or nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

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

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Rules,  The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Rules, Part 155: Part 155

Electronic Transfer of Funds.

Chairman Gidwitz 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:

Electronic Transfer of Funds (23 Illinois administrative Code 155), including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers.

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

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Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Rules, Part 50: Evaluation of Certified School District Employees in Contractual Continued Service.

The Chairman called for a motion regarding this agenda item.

**Motion**

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

Evaluation of Certified School District Employees in Contractual Continued Service (23 Illinois Administrative Code 50), including publication of the proposed amendments in the *Illinois Register*.

Mrs. Rogers 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.

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The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Superintendent Board and Board Travel.

**Motion**

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the travel expenses of the State Superintendent and Board members, as presented.

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.

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Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Resolution of Appreciation for staff member Kathy Nicholson-Tosh (not on published agenda).

The Chairman indicated that the Board wanted to express its appreciation to staff member Kathy Nicholson-Tosh. He explained that Ms. Nicholson-Tosh has accepted the position of Acting Division Administrator for Staff Development within the Agency.

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following resolution in appreciation for the service of Kathy Nicholson-Tosh as the Board’s Executive Assistant.

Resolution of Appreciation

Whereas, Kathy Nicholson-Tosh has served as the Executive Assistant for the Illinois State Board of Education for two years; and

Whereas, during this time, Kathy has also provided leadership for project teams, Agency staff development and the integration of Baldrige principles into Illinois education; and

Whereas, Kathy’s dedication to these multiple responsibilities could be measured by the following data: hours spent at the office (in double digits every day); the number and weight of the briefcases she carried everywhere (so many and so heavy that the carrier cart ultimately couldn’t be lifted into the car); cell phone calls to Board members and staff during the drive time between Bloomington and Springfield (number known only to phone company – but they began as soon as she got in the car and ended only when she reached her destination); e-mails sent in the middle of the night (more than we could believe when we opened them in the morning); and cups of coffee consumed (countless); and

Whereas, in carrying out these responsibilities, Kathy has personified the Board’s commitment to collaboration, always consulting with each individual or group with an interest in an issue and working to bring them together to support common goals; and

Whereas, Kathy’s service to the Board has also been distinguished by her attention to detail, her responsiveness to the needs and requests of individual Board members, and her graciousness as the Board’s representative in a variety of settings; and
Whereas, despite the importance of these characteristics and contributions, Kathy has been best known and will be most remembered for her positive and cheerful nature, her optimistic and constructive approach to every issue, and the joyful smiles and greetings that lifted the spirits of all around her; and

Whereas, Kathy, as an acting division administrator, is now assuming responsibility for developing a state-of-the-art system of staff development for Agency personnel, a goal that has been of great personal interest to her for years and a challenge for which she is exceptionally qualified;

Now therefore be it resolved, that the members of the State Board of Education extend their individual and collective appreciation to Kathy Nicholson-Tosh for having made “service with a smile” a way of life rather than a slogan; and

Further be it resolved, that the Board wishes Kathy great success in whatever role she assumes in the Agency. She deserves it and will no doubt earn it.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sandsmark.

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

Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mrs. Rogers – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Ms. Gold – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes
Mrs. McConachie – yes  Dr. Steiner – yes

Chairman Gidwitz extended the Board’s best wishes to the following individuals:

- Philip Rock, retiring as Chairman of the Board of Higher Education;
- Keith Sanders, retiring as Executive Director for the Board of Higher Education;
- Jane Williamson, long-time Board of Higher Education and Joint Education Committee member, who has resigned to move to New York;
- Daniel LaVista, new Board of Higher Education Executive Director; and
- Senator John Maitland, who has been selected by the State Board as the 2002 recipient of the Lou Mervis Award for distinguished service to Illinois education.
Supt. The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Superintendent.

Superintendent Vazquez commented that he had attended the Those Who Excel Banquet on Saturday, April 13. He indicated that it had been a great, uplifting event with many people in attendance. He announced that Robert Grim, a teacher at Palatine Fremd High School, had been selected as the State Board of Education Teacher of the Year (TOY).

He noted the USDE Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) would be monitoring special education programs in Illinois during the week of April 22. He announced that new staff member Anthony Sims had been hired as Director of Specialized Support Programs. He also reported that a collaboration of the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the State Board had resulted in the Illinois Education Job Bank – an interactive vacancy list with job openings in Illinois for teachers, administrators, school service personnel and non-certified school personnel (www.iasaedu.org/jobbank).

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

Chairman Gidwitz announced that he and Ms. Gold would need to leave for the airport at this time, and he asked Mrs. McConachie to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Mrs. Rogers reported that the following topics would be discussed at the next Board Operations Committee meeting in May.

- Board Bylaws;
- Recommendation of NASBE officers; and
- Middle School Standards/Certificate meetings with the Regional Superintendents.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she hoped the Strategic Planning Committee would have the opportunity to meet next week. She also commented that there would be an agenda sent out in advance of the meeting with several discussion topics.
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**Members**  
The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Members.

Mr. Sandsmark indicated that he planned to attend the NASBE New Board Member Institute in July. Mrs. McConachie and Mrs. Rogers encouraged him to attend this “worthwhile and outstanding” training.

Mrs. Rogers reported that she had the privilege of handing out the awards at the Golden Apple Scholars banquet. She commented that it was very encouraging to see the excitement of new people who want to enter the teaching profession. She also noted that she hears over and over how important the Golden Apple mentoring program is to the success of new teachers – especially during first five years of teaching.

Mrs. Turkal announced that the East Richland School District had been recognized for high scores on the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) for the southern third of the state.

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 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________  
Connie Rogers, Secretary

______________________________  
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman