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 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 Ms. Branch and Mr. Serritella were unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Gidwitz announced that there was a change in the published agenda. He indicated that the Standard Teaching Certificate Examination agenda item will be discussed first, and the Data Warehouse agenda item will be discussed in the afternoon session.

Standard Teaching Certificate Exam  The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Standard Teaching Certificate Examination.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that this agenda item was discussed with the Board last month and with the State Teacher Certification Board on April 5. He commented that based on those discussions and further staff work, this agenda item is being presented for discussion today and for Board action tomorrow.

The Superintendent indicated that the development of a plan to meet the requirements for a Standard Certificate Examination is a “work in progress.” He reported that considerable progress has already been made since last month’s Board meeting, and he asked the Board for its endorsement to move forward. A copy of this agenda item material is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Steve Tozer, of the University Illinois at Chicago, and staff member Chris Koch assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum II for Dr. Tozer's handout).

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The Chairman reported that two hours had been allocated for today's on-going discussion about the “No Child Left Behind Act” and what it means for Illinois. He noted that as the date for submission of the plans approaches (end of May), it is increasingly important for the Board to understand the key issues, to take action on critical policy matters, and to give direction to staff where it is needed.

The Superintendent reported that State Board staff has been working almost non-stop to find out more about the federal law, determine what other states are doing, consult with stakeholders about the various topics, and to develop plans for meeting the “No Child Left Behind” requirements. He indicated that today’s discussion will emphasize the following four key issues:

- Adequate yearly progress;
- Goals/indicators/targets;
- Alignment of the state and federal accountability and support systems; and
- Teacher quality

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Chris Koch, Gail Lieberman, Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer, and Sheryl Poggi assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum II for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation). A copy of this agenda item material is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, Data Warehouse.

The Chairman reported that this agenda item is a preview of the staff plans for a data warehouse within the Illinois State Board of Education. He commented that this topic is important for many reasons, including the ever-increasing need to have data that is appropriate and usable for decision-making.
Superintendent Vazquez explained that the State Board of Education collects a huge amount of data. He noted that the collection and management of that data has traditionally been spread throughout the Agency, with each management unit collecting the data relevant to its responsibilities. He commented that this system has resulted in a number of problems, including a large data burden on schools and the Agency, redundant data collection, and an inability to get an accurate profile for a given district or school.

The Superintendent reported that the Agency has also found that it is not in a good position to analyze the data it does have and to use this data for decision-making. He explained that this problem relates to the nature of the data and how it has been collected and stored, and the amount of time staff spend on data collection rather than on analysis. He said that the Agency reorganization was the first step toward resolving these problems. This reorganization effort has started the process of putting data management into a single division under staff member Lugene Finley.

Superintendent Vazquez commented that the Agency has also charged the former research unit with responsibility for data analysis and progress reporting. He noted that the second step is to identify and analyze all of the data elements that will be required to collect by the “No Child Left Behind Act.” He said that through that process, the Agency will identify which data that is most important, which can be discarded, and which needs to be added. He reported that the third step is to build a data warehouse.

The Superintendent asked staff members to discuss the data warehouse proposal, and he asked the Board to provide staff with feedback on the idea and endorse the general direction of this initiative.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Lugene Finley, Terry Chamberlain, and Connie Wise assisted in responding to questions.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules Overview, Part 140: Calculation of Excess Cost; Part 155: Electronic Transfer of Funds; and Part 50: Evaluation of Certified School District Employees in Contractual Continued Service.
Superintendent Vazquez indicated that the first set of rules for consideration was Part 140 – Calculation of Excess Cost. He noted that these rules were presented to the Board in January and now need final action. He commented that there had been no substantive comments from the public, and the proposal for action is exactly the same as it was in January.

The Superintendent reported that these rules reflect the statutory change to Section 18-3 of the School Code that makes reimbursement available for educational services provided during the summer to groups of students who reside in settings such as detention centers and orphanages. He indicated that these rules define the summer term and the period to be covered by each claim.

The Superintendent reported that the second set of proposed rules is Part 155 – Electronic Transfer of Funds. He indicated that these rules also reflect statutory changes which made electronic transfer of funds due to local districts from the state mandatory rather than optional. He noted that local school districts are still able to request that their funds be transferred to their Regional Office of Education; however, if they choose to do so, the local board must review that decision every two years. He explained that some Regional Superintendents would like the rules to allow funds due to other entities, such as non-public schools, to be transferred through their offices.

Superintendent Vazquez said that these rules do not go beyond the law, which provides such an option only for school districts. He indicated that if the Board endorses the proposed rules, they will be distributed for public comment.

The Superintendent said that the final set of proposed rules deals with the evaluation of certified school district employees in continual contractual service – the official term for tenure. He indicated that these rules again reflect statutory changes. He noted that the law was changed to require evaluation of a teacher who has received an unsatisfactory evaluation every 30 days for a period totaling 90 school days. He explained that the previous law required such evaluations quarterly during the year following such an evaluation.

Superintendent Vazquez stated that if the Board endorses the proposed rules, they will be distributed for public comment.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Sally Vogl, Marcia Sailsbury, and Winnie Tuthill assisted in responding to questions.
Chairman Gidwitz reported that staff has prepared the draft spring Waiver Report to the General Assembly, as well as a cover memo providing background and rationale for the Superintendent’s recommendations.

The Superintendent stated that the Waiver Report is primarily focused on the 57 waiver requests that must be transmitted to the General Assembly for its action. He commented that these requests cover eleven areas, with the majority dealing with administrative cost limitations and physical education. He indicated that the following three requests are being recommended for legislative disapproval.

1) Antioch High School has asked to administer an assessment other than the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE).

2) Savanna Community Unit School District #300 has asked for a waiver of the five-clock hour requirement for students attending the regional safe school that serves their district.

3) Freeport Community Unit School District #145 has asked for a waiver of the five-clock hour requirement for students attending the regional safe school that serves their district.

Superintendent Vazquez stated that the Savanna and Freeport requests are renewals of previously approved waivers. He noted that several events that followed the original approvals suggest that the legislature expects students to meet the five-clock hour requirement for average daily attendance. He indicated that although these districts have had a waiver for five years, they have made little progress in modifying the Regional Safe School Program to meet the statutory requirements. He explained that for these reasons, the two requests should be disapproved.

The Superintendent stated that the other major focus of the staff report is the physical education waiver requests. He asked staff members Chris Koch, Shelley Helton, and Winnie Tuthill to comment on this topic and answer any other questions that the Board members may have.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input.
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Board Meeting Calendars, 2002 and 2003. Chairman Gidwitz asked Mrs. Rogers to comment on the proposed calendar changes for 2002 and the recommended calendar for 2003. She reported that the 2002 calendar changes will allow Board members to participate in the Annual Superintendents Conference in September, the Triple I Conference in November, and will reduce meeting costs. She also indicated that the adoption of the 2003 calendar will allow staff to make meeting arrangements that will maximize budgetary savings.

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 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.

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

The public meeting recessed at 4:25 p.m., and the Board went into a closed meeting at 4:45 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m., and the public meeting reconvened on April 18 at 9:05 a.m.

The Chairman announced that there was a change in the published agenda. He indicated that the Deloitte and Touche Report presentation was being postponed until the May or June Board meeting.
Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, State and Federal Legislative Update.

The Superintendent reported that although the state legislative agenda is dominated by budget issues, numerous other educational issues are being considered in the General Assembly. He also noted that the federal legislative agenda is also focused on budget issues, with early action in the House of Representatives based on President Bush’s education budget of a 2.8% increase over FY 2002.

Staff member Pete Leonis reported on the status of education bills and budget discussions in the Illinois General Assembly. Staff member Randy Burge discussed the “Washington Education News” summary, which was printed in the Board meeting materials.

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 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman