ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 15-16, 2002

Agenda Topic: YouthBuild Rockford Charter School

Materials: None

Staff Contact(s): Harry A. Blackburn

Purpose of Agenda Item

To receive and act on the Superintendent’s recommendation regarding the appeal of the YouthBuild Rockford Charter School proposal.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The Board will determine whether or not to overturn the decision of Rockford District 205 to deny the YouthBuild Rockford Charter School proposal.

Background Information

The State Board of Education is authorized by law to hear and act on charter school proposals that are denied by local school districts and subsequently appealed to the state level.

The proposed YouthBuild Rockford Charter School was denied on a split vote (3-3) by the board of education of Rockford District 205. The sponsor of the proposed charter school then appealed to the State Board of Education.

A hearing was conducted by the appeal panel on November 7, 2001. Additional information was requested from the sponsor and was provided on January 14, 2002. After reviewing the proposal, Rockford’s reasons for denial, appeal hearing testimony, and the additional information provided, the appeal panel found that the reasons for denial were without merit, that the proposal was in compliance with the Charter Schools Law, and that it was in the best interests of the students it was designed to serve. The panel, therefore, recommended to the Superintendent that the denial be overturned.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent has reviewed the record and concurs with the findings and recommendation of the appeal panel. The Board should authorize and certify the YouthBuild Rockford Charter School.
**Next Steps**

If the Board overturns the Rockford District 205 denial of the charter proposal, staff will notify all involved parties and will develop a contract between the State Board and the sponsor.