MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ronald J. Gidwitz        Marilyn McConachie       Janet Steiner
*Marjorie B. Branch     Connie Rogers             Beverly Turkal

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Terri Morris, the executive secretary to the General Counsel, to call the roll. Mrs. Morris called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (*Ms. Branch left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Serritella was unable to attend the Board meeting this month due to business conflicts.

Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Rogers moved that “the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the September 19-20, 2001, meetings of the State Board.” Mrs. McConachie 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.

Jim Guilinger, representing the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education, stated that he wanted to thank the Board for its efforts to improve Illinois Education. He updated the Board members regarding the two things that his organization would be focusing on to improve agriculture education programs. He explained that the first item was a budget increase in the line item for agriculture education. He noted that his organization’s request for a budget increase was submitted to the State Board on August 9, 2001.

Mr. Guilinger said that the second focus item was to continue encouraging the State Board to maintain at least two staff members in the agriculture education department. He reported that the last two curriculum compact disks are in the process of being completed. He indicated that Senator Todd Sieben has agreed to replace retiring Senator John Maitland as a supporter of agriculture education programs in the General Assembly.
Mr. Guilinger also reported to the Board that there had been 65 openings in Illinois as of July 1, 2001, for secondary education agriculture and horticultural teachers. He indicated that only 33 people had graduated from the 4 major institutions with agriculture teaching degrees. He noted that 18 of those 33 people chose to teach, and 4 teachers were acquired from outside the state of Illinois.

Laura Arterburn, representing the Illinois Federation of Teachers, stated that she would be talking about the Standards Examination Advisory Committee’s report (SEAC). She commented that she had appreciated the staff and the SEAC co-chairs presentation during yesterday’s Board meeting. She stated that she values the Board’s support of this Committee and that it is very important to her organization that this work is done in careful, incremental steps that are in the right order. She reported that her organization stands firmly behind the initial task force that looked at adopting a solid state-wide induction and mentoring program.

Ms. Arterburn stated that her organization is in favor of a very rigorous assessment program. She explained that her organization is not sure there is any test that is necessary after perspective teachers take an ACT or SAT exam, take a basic skills test, do their course work and practical studies, do their student teaching, and participate in an induction and mentoring program. She commented that she agrees with the goals of Connecticut’s program. She noted that these goals are to support teachers, help perspective teachers, and make sure teachers have what they need to be successful in the classroom.

Ms. Arterburn noted that she appreciates the Board’s support regarding taking care of those teachers who are currently in the initial phase of their teaching certificates. She commented that she also appreciated the Board’s willingness to take time and make sure that the process is done right.

John Hill, representing East Richland School District, spoke to the Board regarding the physical education waivers rules and regulations. He commented that he is superintendent of a unit school district that has 2,200 students located in rural, southeastern Illinois. He noted that his district spends about $5,500 per student, and about 35% of that comes from general state aid, 30% from local taxes, 10% from federal dollars, and 25% comes from other local sources. He explained that his district has a poverty rating of approximately 38%.

Mr. Hill indicated that the elementary school in his district has a 50% poverty rating. He noted that if his high school students would fill out the forms for the free and reduced lunch program, his district poverty rating would be at approximately 50%. He stated that he was sharing this information with the Board members to let them know that the percentage of the district’s students that meets and exceeds in the major ISAT and PSAE exams will average about 10-15%. He noted that this was higher than the state averages in those exams.
Mr. Hill reported that his district currently has three physical education waivers. He noted that the district’s elementary school waiver allows the students to have physical education four days a week rather than the mandated five. He explained that the reason for the waiver is primarily due to facilities, but it is also due to a schedule which incorporates art, music, and computer education in rotation classes. He stated that the district’s middle school waiver allows a four-day physical education schedule for band students during sports sectionals.

Mr. Hill stated that the district’s high school waiver lets students take one semester of physical education during the school year, because the high school is on a block-four schedule. He commented that the high school also waivers out their marching band students, as well as the students participating in the junior ROTC program. He said that efforts to implement the Illinois Learning Standards reflect the district’s priorities. He noted that if a person wants to know what is important to a school district, look at the schedule.

Mr. Hill commented that the most critical commodity that his district has is instruction time. He stated that his district devotes instruction time to reading, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, and physical education – in that priority order. He explained that the district has limited the physical education classes, because additional instruction time is needed in the top priority areas of reading and math. He indicated that his school district is doing its best to meet the Illinois Learning Standards and make sure that the children are prepared to compete.

Susan Shea, representing the Illinois Education Association (IEA), stated that she wanted to echo the comments of Laura Arterburn regarding the SEAC report. She stated that she wanted to talk to the Board about Plan A and also comment on what Connecticut is doing. She reported that she had spoken for three hours with her counterparts from Connecticut. She stated that she wanted to explain that Plan A is built on a model that it is very similar to what a standard teaching certificate holder does to renew their certificate, but it is not the same.

Ms. Shea indicated that her group has tried to hone in on the kinds of activities that an Initial Teacher Certificate holder can take to make the test much more rigorous. She explained that on a Standard Teaching Certificate, the first thing that the State Board wants them to do is to write a plan for their teaching and learning position in their certificate area. She indicated that her group wants an Initial Teaching Certificate holder to do exactly the same thing. She also commented that the State Board wants teachers to write a purpose for the state priorities, and then the Board would set the priorities of math, reading, science, technology, and assessments.
Ms. Shea also reported that these priorities are the five state priorities that the Board has set for the recertification cycle. She explained that one of the things that she does at the IEA is work with those teachers who are on remediation. She stated that she had done empirical research to look at why teachers are on remediation plans.

Ms. Shea noted that beginning teachers get in trouble with classroom behavior management techniques, learning styles of at-risk kids, students from low-performing schools, parental involvement, and working with students that have special education needs. She said that these trouble areas are listed in Plan A, under Purpose C. She reported that Purpose C hones in on these trouble areas instead of requiring a School Improvement Plan, which is what a Standard Certificate holder would have to do.

Ms. Shea indicated that Purpose D, under Plan A, allows teachers to go after an advanced degree or an advanced certificate. She noted that her group has also proposed adding induction and mentoring to the Standard Teaching Certificate Manual. She explained that this is the manual that Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. McConachie worked on very laboriously. She noted that this proposal would give holders of an Initial Teaching Certificate credit for participating in an induction and mentoring program.

Ms. Shea stated that the induction and mentoring proposal is appropriate for a beginning teacher and not really appropriate to what Standard Teacher Certificate holders write their plan to. She reported that everyone wants rigor and the brightest and best teachers. She said that the way to get them is to hone and refine the kinds of activities that the Board gives teachers credit for taking.

Ms. Shea reported that Connecticut’s process is three years in length – Illinois’ is four. She explained that in Connecticut, during the second year of their certificate, the teachers write their plans and shadow two students for two weeks, and then they do what she calls a “teaching moment” – they put the teaching lesson together and then teach it. She noted that the teachers then come back and reflect and analyze the process.

Ms. Shea noted that Connecticut has not been able to prove that its process does make a difference in teaching and learning, and it has not been able to show that it improves its standards. She asked the Board to look very carefully at Plan A, because her group has attempted to make it rigorous and meet the needs of what that State Board wants to do.
An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

(Ms. Branch left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.)

Vision, Mission, Goals, and Measures

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D, Immediate Action Items, Strategic Planning: Vision, Mission, Goals, and Measures.

The Superintendent stated that he and Mrs. McConachie had reviewed the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Measures that are being recommended for adoption. He commented that these Goals focus on student achievement, policies and services, funding, and collaboration. He explained that these Goals will be used by both the Board and the Agency to do the following things.

1. Demonstrate what the State Board of Education does;
2. Establish a basis for measuring improvement;
3. Provide a framework for business plans, internal measures, and public reports;
4. Organize development of budgets;
5. Shape goal-driven business plans across divisions and departments; and
6. Frame criteria for evaluating the pros and cons of Board action.

Superintendent McGee stated that he was recommending that the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Measures be adopted by the Board (see Addendum II).

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Measures to frame the work of the Board and the Agency."

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 - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes     Dr. Steiner - yes
The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Standard Examination.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that final action would not be taken on this agenda item, because the Board and the Superintendent have agreed that the Standard Examination Advisory Committee (SEAC) should reconvene to see if a consensus recommendation could be developed. He asked the Superintendent to work with the SEAC and others, as appropriate, to provide short- and long-term recommendations for determining eligibility for the Standard Teaching Certificate. He noted that the short-term recommendations should address concerns about teachers now working toward a Standard Certificate who do not know what requirements they will need to meet beginning in 2003. He also commented that the long-term recommendations should provide a thoughtful, probably incremental, strategy for addressing issues raised by the Committee and by Board members, including funding.

The Chairman explained that all groups that have looked at teacher quality issues during the last several years have agreed on the critical importance of providing support for beginning teachers. He said this support is primarily through induction and mentoring programs. He asked that the recommendations be ready for the Board’s consideration in November.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Immediate Action Items, Physical Development/Health and Fine Arts Cut Scores.

The Superintendent commented that he is recommending approval of the cut scores as recommended by the Standard-Setting Panels.

Mrs. Rogers moved that “the State Board of Education hereby approves the ISAT cut scores for Physical Development/Health and Fine Arts (see Addendum III).”

Dr. Steiner seconded the motion.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gidwitz</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rogers</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Turkal</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. McConachie</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Steiner</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Superintendent M. McGee stated that he wanted to bring to the Board’s attention the ACT newsletter activity. He explained to the Board that the ACT is a part of the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) that receives a lot of press. He commented that the work-key component of the PSAE is also a part of this Exam, but it receives very little press. He noted that the work-key component is important in measuring the standards in reading and mathematics.

The Superintendent reported that during the June Work Conference, the Board had requested that he and staff develop an exceptions report regarding the Board and Agency goals and priorities. He noted that this report was to indicate when the budget and strategic initiatives were not being met. He thanked staff members Lynne Haeffele and David Wood for their hard work on this report. He commented that he preferred to call this information an overview status report (see Addendum IV).

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Ms. Haeffele and Mr. Wood assisted in responding to questions.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that yesterday a media alert had announced that the Board might take action on an item regarding the transition to a new State Superintendent. He indicated that there would not be an action item regarding the transition process at this meeting. He explained that he would take this opportunity to update the public and many interested other partners on the status of the transition process. He commented that the three following items are the components of the transition.

1. Three outside studies that will complement the search for a new permanent superintendent;

2. The search process itself; and

3. The appointment of an interim superintendent.

The Chairman explained that the in and outside studies will provide information about the Agency that will be important of itself, will complement the search, and will be useful to the Board’s partners and the General Assembly. He noted that the studies will examine the Agency’s infrastructure and how it actually performs and look at the Human Resource department’s operations and needs.
Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Board will create committees to oversee various aspects of the search. He explained that a firm would be hired to conduct a national search. He stated that a detailed search timetable would be available soon, as well as a Request for Sealed Proposal (RFSP) to hire the search firm.

The Chairman also commented that the Board is looking for an interim superintendent to lead the Agency after Superintendent McGee leaves. He noted that the Board has received several names of potential candidates from a variety of sources. He explained that the Board has engaged in discussions with candidates and has narrowed down the field. He stated that the Board will have something definitive to say in the very near future.

**Members**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Members. There was nothing further to report.

**Committees**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Committees. There was nothing further to report.

**Other Business**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F., Other Business. There was nothing further to report.

**Closed Session Motion**

Mrs. Rogers moved that “the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting on October 18 at 11:45 a.m. under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meeting 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.

She further moved that Superintendent McGee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed.”

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
- Mrs. McConachie - yes
- Dr. Steiner - yes

Minutes of the Plenary Business Meeting and Closed Session
An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

The meeting recessed at 11:25 a.m. and the Board went into closed session at 11:45 a.m.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________
Connie Rogers, Secretary

______________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman