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

Glenn W. “Max” McGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 11:15 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. (*Ms. Branch was connected to the meeting by telephone and disconnected from the meeting at 4:30 p.m. on September 19. Mrs. Turkal arrived at 8:20 a.m. on September 20.)

State Assessment System Update
Chairman Gidwitz stated that the PSAE and ISAT results were released earlier this month. He commented that two additional assessments are a part of the system and they consist of the Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) and the Illinois alternate assessment for students with disabilities for whom ISAT or the PSAE is not appropriate. He indicated that today's discussion would focus on various assessments and the proposed enhancements to the system.

Superintendent McGee explained that staff members would be providing an overview of the assessment issues and needed improvements for next year, as well as the need for these assessments to become more aligned to support the presentation of an overall picture of school district performance and needed improvement. He noted that the key points include the following information:

- Retaining an assessment system for a sustained period of time (PSAE Survey);
- The addition of a mathematics component to the IMAGE assessment;
The improvement of the IAA following the first year of administration; and
Implications of annual assessment for grades 3-8 now being considered by Congress.

The Superintendent noted that this was an information item and an opportunity to seek input from the Board. He indicated he was requesting continued support of the system because continuous improvement is essential.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Michael Dunn, Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer, Chris Koch, and Kathy Cox assisted in responding to questions.

The meeting recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Chairman Gidwitz commented that the Semi-Annual Waiver Report will need to be submitted to the General Assembly by October 1.

Superintendent McGee reported that this waiver report is the 13th report to be submitted to the General Assembly. This report contains 39 waiver requests covering 12 topic areas, including physical education, driver education fees, and the limitation on the number of days that substitute teachers may be employed. He indicated that two primary issues – that of physical education and substitute teachers – would be discussed during this overview. He explained that the State Board at its March meeting adopted a policy on waiver modifications to the daily physical education mandate. He noted that this policy requires districts applying for waiver modifications to provide baseline information on student performance and to describe how they plan to assure students would progress in meeting the Physical Development and Health Standards.

The Superintendent commented that data associated with student performance would not be available until after the deadline for this waiver report. He stated that in the interim the requests would be reviewed as they have been in the past. He also indicated that during the October Board meeting staff would be requesting the Board’s approval on the ISAT physical education cut scores. Superintendent McGee reported that he would ask for the Board’s approval of the waiver report as presented – forwarding the waiver requests to the General Assembly without comment.
Learning Standards

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards.

The Chairman reported that the Board is publicly releasing great news from two reports today. He indicated that the two reports are the third year of a four year evaluation on the implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards, and a report of the Standards Aligned Classroom Initiative conducted by the professional development design team of the Illinois Regional Offices of Education and the State Board.

The Superintendent noted that significant improvement has occurred in the Board’s effort to implement the Illinois Learning Standards throughout the classrooms of Illinois. He reported that two major efforts – one totally evaluative – and the second a professional development and evaluative effort will be shared with the Board, as well as an overview of Agency activity to support standards implementation. He explained that the implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards is being evaluated by the University of Illinois at Champaign. Superintendent M€Gee noted that this agenda item serves as an overview for Board reaction and input. He stated that staff members intend to return to the Board later this fall with a revised, expanded standards implementation plan for its review.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Michael Dunn, Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer, and Dick Miguel assisted in responding to questions. Lizanne Destafano from the University of Illinois, and Jay Linksman of the Standards-Aligned Classroom Project also assisted in responding to questions.

NBPTS

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Chairman Gidwitz explained that during the March meeting a report on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was presented to the Board. He noted that at that time the Board members asked staff to obtain additional information and report back to them in September with recommendations related to the future direction of NBPTS.
Superintendent McGee reported that the State NBPTS Design Team and several certified teachers have seen great value in the NBPTS candidate process. He stated that his recommendations relate to long- and short-term goals and measures. He further explained that his recommendations intend to focus NBPTS as a professional development experience, convey the critical need for a strong support process for candidates, and opportunities for NBPTS certified teachers to provide leadership at the local level. He commented that he would be asking for the Board's endorsement of the long- and short-term goals developed by the National Board Design Team.

The Superintendent also said that he would also be asking for the Board’s authorization to move forward with studies relating to the use of technology in support of the teacher candidates, and participation incentives for teachers in low-performing schools.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Mike Long and Linda Kopecky assisted in responding to questions and along with Melody Thomas, an NBPTS certified teacher from Rochester, discussed the recommended direction for NBPTS in Illinois (see Addendum II).

Ms. Branch disconnected from the meeting at this time.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Title II State Report Card.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that the next discussion item would address the submission of the first Title II State Report Card and its meaning – but most importantly – the issues raised in this report. He commented that during the past two weeks, the Press has communicated significant data relating to the teaching workforce. He noted that today's discussion would focus on related findings as well as current efforts and future needs to ensure the education workforce is of high quality in all schools and classrooms throughout the state.

The Superintendent indicated that there were two issues to address in this discussion.
1. The Title II Report Card and preparation for authorizing its completion and submission to the United State Department of Education; and

2. The improvement efforts required to enhance the educator quality in all schools for all students throughout the state.

He commented that these efforts not only encompass issues of teacher preparedness and support but also consideration of incentives for teaching in high poverty districts and shortage fields.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Rob Sampson, Mike Long, and Beth Hanselman assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum III).

Internal Auditor’s Report

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Internal Auditor’s Report.

The Superintendent noted that a few weeks ago the ROE Performance Audit had been mailed to the Board members. He explained that in this month’s Board meeting materials there was a summary of recommendations and our Agency’s response to these Audit findings.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff member Tammy Rust assisted in responding to questions.

Closed Session Motion

Mrs. Turkal moved that “the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting on September 19 at 5:00 p.m., or immediately following the recess of the State Board of Education 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; and

- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

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. 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  Dr. Steiner - yes  
Mrs. McConachie - yes  Mr. Serritella - yes  Mrs. Turkal - yes

The public meeting recessed at 4:55 p.m. and the Board went into closed session at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Branch was connected to the closed session meeting by telephone. The closed meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The public meeting reconvened and was called to order by Chairman Gidwitz on September 20 at 8:10 a.m.

(Mrs. Turkal arrived at 8:20 a.m.)

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Strategic Planning: Goals and Measures.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that during the August meeting the Board reviewed the revised Board and Agency goals and measures that were originally developed during the June Work Conference. He indicated that staff members, working with the Board’s Strategic Planning Committee, have refined this work which will be shared for the Board’s input and action.

Superintendent McGee commented that during the past two weeks, the Strategic Planning Committee and staff members have reviewed and refined the vision, mission, and goals which hopefully respond to the recommendations made by the Board during the August meeting. He noted that there had been mixed feeling at that time regarding whether there should be one or two sets of goals – one for the Agency and one for the Board. He explained that after discussion and work with the goals, staff members and the Committee are presenting vision and mission statements and a set of four goals that they feel convey the essence of the State Board’s priorities and focus. The Superintendent said that this set of goals is intended to accommodate both the Board and Agency roles. He indicated that staff members and the Committee thought the two sets of strategies and measures can then be identified to differentiate between the work of the Board and the work of the Agency. He noted that in lieu of final action on these goals today, the motion states that the Board will endorse the themes/key focus areas and the vision and mission statements.
Superintendent McGee indicated that this will provide opportunity for the Agency leadership to have input into what has been written so far, and it will allow these themes to form the foundation of documents and plans that need to go forward immediately (see Addendum IV).

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input.

**FY 2003 Budget**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, FY 2003 Budget.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that the Board has both short- and long-term goals associated with school funding. He explained that in the short-term it is paramount that our FY 2003 budget be crafted with input from the Board. He also said that in the long-term, it is essential that we establish an approach or strategy for addressing school funding and its inequities.

Superintendent McGee noted that staff members David Wood and Bill Hinrichs would be discussing the FY 2003 budget. He indicated that in keeping with a key area of learning as identified last month, Bill will provide some background information regarding school finance. He said that David will then discuss the FY 2003 budget projections.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input.

**CERTS**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Demonstration of CERTS Training.

The Superintendent reported that the Certificate Renewal Tracking System (CERTS) was an internet-based application that was created to support the Certificate Renewal Process for teachers. He indicated that the scheduled CERTS demonstration would have to be postponed at this time because the Agency’s internet network was not operating. He explained that he had asked staff to provide a very brief update on the CERTS system and reschedule the demonstration for the October Board meeting when other issues associated with the Certification Renewal Process would be discussed.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Dennis Williams, Pat Ryan, Scott Norton assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum V).
Illinois State Board of Education
Minutes of the State Board of Education Meeting
and Closed Session
September 19-20, 2001
Page 8

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 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman