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

Robert E. Schiller, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Vincent Serritella

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 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 Mr. Serritella was unable to join the meeting this month, *Ms. Branch would participate by phone on September 19, and *Ms. Gold would participate by phone on both days.

School District Showcase

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, School District Showcase – Quincy School District 172/Irving Elementary School.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Board was very pleased to begin a series of discussions with representatives from local school districts about their special academic accomplishments. He indicated that these meetings will be focusing on schools that have made exceptional academic progress, breaking the mold of their past performance and/or public expectations. He noted that the Board hopes these discussions will provide insight into what it takes to succeed in the face of adversity.

The Superintendent introduced the following guests from the Quincy School District and indicated that this group of individuals has proven that a district and a community working together can make a significant difference.
The representatives from Quincy reported to the Board that the special funds received by the district, some of which were directly related to being on the Academic Early Warning List, were an important factor in raising the achievement of Irving School students. The Board asked the district superintendent to review strategies to highlight the factors that had been important in raising achievement in Irving School.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input (see Addendum II).

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m. reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Turkal joined the meeting during the recess.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB) Discussion.

Chairman Gidwitz welcomed Bob Leininger, Chairman of EFAB, who summarized the group’s findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The Chairman indicated that the Board did not plan to take action on the recommendations and was pleased to hear the report early in the budget process.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, 2002 Statewide Achievement Data: SAT and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that during last month’s meeting, the Board had received a report and analysis of the 2002 ISAT, PSAE, and ACT data. He indicated that the Board was pleased to have a chance to review the results of the SAT I and the Advanced Placement Exams during this meeting.

The Superintendent and staff presented the data and policy implications. The following issues were discussed regarding this agenda item:

- The statewide results of the 2002 SAT I indicate that Illinois students who took this voluntary college entrance examination are doing significantly better than the national average;
- Nine percent of Illinois high school students participated in this exam, and their verbal scores were 77 points higher than the national average and 63 points higher than the national average in mathematics;
- The Illinois scores represent a continuing upward trend, with verbal scores up 2 points over last year and up 15 points from 1997;
- The average SAT I scores for minority students showed an increase over last year;
- Advance Placement (AP) exam results for Illinois public school students also showed strong performance;
- 363 public schools had a least one student taking an AP exam, and 278 schools had a least ten students taking an exam. Student participation from these schools represented 60% of the total;
- 46% of Illinois public students scored a 4 or 5, as compared to 34% for the nation; and
- Participation in AP programs by Black and Hispanic remains significantly lower than by White and Asian students.

Staff members Lynne Haeffele Curry, Connie Wise, and Richard Yong assisted in responding to questions (see Addendum III).
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – Highly Qualified Teacher Guidance Document.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that one of the major components of the No Child Left Behind Act is its emphasis on “highly qualified teachers.” He said that the law establishes a definition of “high qualified teachers” and requires that each state show how its certification system is aligned with that definition. He commented that school districts are expected to use that information to ensure that their teachers have the appropriate certification for their assignments.

Superintendent Schiller commented that this was an extremely important document linking the Illinois certification system to the NCLB definition for “highly qualified.” He noted that all of the Illinois certificates and endorsements in the core academic areas meet the federal definition – with the exception of Type 29 teachers for bilingual education programs. He explained that this means an individual who holds an Illinois certificate for the grade level and subject area he or she is teaching is technically “highly qualified.”

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Pat Ryan, Lou Ann Reichle, and Rob Sampson explained the specifics of this guidance document and assisted in responding to questions. The Superintendent thanked staff for their work on this document.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – Criteria for Selecting Supplemental Education Services (SES) Providers.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month the Board was advised that several Illinois schools will be required to make supplemental educational services available to their students during this school year. He said that the State Board is required to establish and maintain a list of approved service providers. He indicated that the Board’s goal for this meeting was to review and take action on the criteria that have been developed for approving potential providers.

Superintendent Schiller commented that the proposed criteria were developed consistent with federal law and guidance. He indicated that staff has consulted with a number of individuals and groups representing numerous perspectives, ranging from local school districts to potential provider groups. He noted that the proposed criteria include the following requirements:
• evidence of previous success by the provider;
• the use of programs and practices that reflect research and are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards;
• instruction that is linked with the academic program services received by eligible students during the regular school day and that is secular, neutral and non-ideological;
• evidence of employment of competent staff who at a minimum meet the requirements for paraprofessionals under NCLB and have successfully completed a recent criminal background check; and
• evidence of the provider’s financial soundness and capacity to supply uninterrupted quality services for the term of the contract with the local school district.

The Superintendent commented that staff will disseminate the criteria and in early October release an “Application for Supplemental Service Providers.” He indicated that in November, the Board will be asked to take action on approvable providers that have submitted early applications. He stated that in December, the Board will take action on approvable providers that have submitted applications subsequent to those reviewed at the November meeting. He indicated that the list of approved providers will be disseminated and staff will provide technical assistance to those schools that must provide SES during the second semester of the FY03 school year.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Gail Lieberman, Don Full, and Cheryl Bradley assisted in responding to questions. The Superintendent thanked staff for their work on the criteria and the Request for Proposal (RFP).


The Chairman reported that the State Board’s external evaluator has completed the fourth evaluation of standards implementation in Illinois. He noted that this report has significant implications for the Board’s work. He welcomed Dr. Lizanne DeStefano -- one of the principal investigators.

The Superintendent reported that Dr. DeStefano is a full professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and a nationally known expert in evaluation, research, and standards.
Superintendent Schiller commented that recommendations from the evaluation indicate that the State Board should:

- set explicit expectations for local Illinois Learning Standards implementation;
- foster and support capacity building for effective standards implementation; and
- clarify the relationship between state assessments and the Illinois Learning Standards.

The Superintendent also stated that consistent with findings and recommendations in this report, he is asking the Board to consider the following:

- direct staff to conduct a gap analysis of the recommendations in the report in relation to current State Board activities and to develop a work plan for continuing standards implementation in Illinois;
- ask the Assessment and Accountability Task Force to consider the report recommendations regarding assessment;
- authorize a project to develop high school coursework “frameworks" and pursue additional policy discussions around core curriculum; and
- authorize a second-phase evaluation/study to answer additional questions about state policies and support that can help districts improve student achievement in relation to the Learning Standards.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Lynne Haeffele Curry, Connie Wise, Dick Miguel, and Dr. DeStafano assisted in responding to questions.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Report on ISAT and PSAE Cut Score Setting.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that at last month’s meeting the Board asked staff to provide a review of the process for setting cut scores on the primary state assessments and a chronology of Board actions in that regard.
Superintendent Schiller indicated that the chronology in the meeting materials shows that, with the exception of 4th grade science scores for ISAT, the cut scores for each subject area and grade on ISAT and PSAE have been set only once. He explained that the exception was 4th grade science, for which the Board requested a review of the original score. He noted that this process resulted in a partial change to the cut scores between the bottom two performance categories – i.e., academic warning and below standards. He said that it is important to clarify this continuity for the school community. He commented that many of them seem to believe that the Board has changed its mind repeatedly. He said that he would try to set the record straight whenever he had the opportunity.

The Superintendent reported that with respect to the future, he believes the issue of cut scores should be considered by the Assessment and Accountability Task Force as part of their overall review of the state assessment system.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff member Lynne Haeffele Curry assisted in responding to questions.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Illinois After-School Initiative Task Force Report.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that two legislative resolutions led to creation of the Illinois After-School Initiative Task Force. He noted that staff from the Department of Human Services and the State Board of Education has served as co-chairs of the Task Force. He indicated that this agenda item will be discussed again in October, and the goal for this meeting is to endorse the preliminary recommendations of the Task Force for inclusion in the final report.

The Superintendent stated that the preliminary Task Force report identifies the desired roles of families, communities, and the state. He noted that the report includes guiding principles for after-school services, core elements of such services, funding streams and issues, critical policy questions, and recommendations for priority and secondary actions. He indicated that the key recommendation calls for continued work by the Task Force and others to answer the strategic questions in the report and to develop a plan for meeting the goal of universal after-school program availability.
Superintendent Schiller indicated that policy issues associated with the report include the challenge of funding after-school programs, and the potential impact of the federal “Supplemental Educational Services” requirement on the development of after-school programs and services in Illinois.

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

2002 Title II State Report Card

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, 2002 Title II State Report Card.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that this is the second report card developed under the requirements of the Title II Higher Education Act, which requires each state to submit to the USDA and the public a “report card” on the status of teacher preparation.

The Superintendent explained that the law requires specific data elements in the state report card, including the following items:

- statewide and institutional pass rates on state certification exams;
- criteria for assessing the performance of teacher training programs;
- a listing of “low-performing” teacher preparation programs in the state;
- information on alternative routes to certification; and
- a description of efforts by the state to improve teacher quality.

Superintendent Schiller noted that this Report Card is consistent with these requirements and, with one exception, the data are similar to that in the 2001 Report Card. He indicated that the exception is in the area of waivers to state certification and licensure, where the data indicate that Illinois has a greater percentage of teachers on waivers in 2000-2001 than in 1999-2000. He said that in 1999, 2.6% of the teaching force held one of the waiver certificates, and that percentage increased to 3.2% in 2000. He explained that this increase is noteworthy because the total teaching population increased by nearly 4000 between the two years.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Chris Koch, Frank Llano, and Mike Long assisted in responding to questions.
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Waiver Report to the General Assembly.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the 2002 Fall Waiver Report is ready for the Board’s consideration before it is submitted to the General Assembly. He indicated that this year’s report includes 33 waiver requests covering ten topics including administrative cost limitations, daily physical education, driver education fees, parent-teacher conferences, and school improvement days.

Superintendent Schiller explained that the State Board is required to transmit waiver requests to the General Assembly twice a year, along with a description of the modifications of law and waivers of regulations that have been approved by the State Board. He noted that from time to time, the Board has chosen to submit this report with recommendations for General Assembly denial of selected waiver requests. He indicated that if the General Assembly does not specifically deny a request, it is considered to be approved.

The Superintendent said that he was proposing that the Board recommend General Assembly denial of three of the 33 waiver requests in this report. He commented that staff will explain the nature of those requests and the rationale for the recommendation.

Chairman Gidwitz introduced Superintendent Terry Milt from the Fisher School District who spoke to the Board regarding his district's waiver request. Superintendent Milt explained that this waiver request was to excuse students in grades 9-12 from daily physical education in order to participate in the band during school time.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Respicio Vazquez, Shelley Helton, and Winnie Tuthill assisted in responding to questions.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).
Rules for Initial Review

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules for Initial Review, Part 29 (Standards for Administrative Certification) and Part 226 (Special Education).

Superintendent Schiller reported that the proposed amendments to Part 29 put in place a new credential that will eventually be required of all individuals who wish to serve as directors or assistance directors of special education. He noted that the standards for this new credential were adopted previously. He reported that the proposed amendments to Part 226 phase out the current approval requirements of the special education director position. He indicated that the State Teacher Certification Board has review and endorsed these complementary sets of proposed rules.

The Superintendent explained that consistent with Board authorization, the proposed rules will be submitted for publication in the *Illinois Register* and made available for public comment through various other means. He noted that following the public comment period, the rule amendments will be brought to the Board, with changes as indicated by the public comment, for final action.

Rules for Adoption

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules for Adoption, Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 25 (Certification).

Part 1

The Superintendent reported that these amendments respond to legislation that established requirements for the supervision of speech-language pathology assistants and paraprofessionals. He indicated that the proposed rules set out specific requirements and exempt individuals with experience. He noted that the Board reviewed the proposed rules in June and submitted them for public comment. He said that the only comment, from the State Advisory Council on the Education of Students with Disabilities, expressed concern about the underlying legislation, fearing that it could decrease student access to services by fully qualified speech-language pathologists and possibly increase the cost of such services. He explained that since this comment did not pertain to the proposed rules, no changes have been made to the version presented in June.

Part 25

The Superintendent commented that the proposed rules deal with electronic registration for certification test, making that a more feasible option. He explained that other changes are technical in nature. He noted that the Board reviewed the proposed rules in June and submitted them for public comment. He indicated that no public comment was received and the rules are presented as they were in June.
Superintendent Schiller reported that staff will submit both sets of adopted rules to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for its required review. He noted that when that process is complete, the adopted rules will be filed with the Secretary of State and disseminated as appropriate.

Staff members Chris Koch and Sally Vogl assisted in responding to questions.

**Status Report/Budget Hearing Plan**

Staff member David Wood reported that State Board budget hearings have been scheduled for September 19 and 24 and October 7 and 17 in Springfield, Naperville, Chicago, and Collinsville. He also noted that announcements regarding the budget hearings will be widely disseminated. He reported that staff will continue work on budget development, including completion of budget issue papers for discussion in October.

**Finance, Audit & Agency Operations Status Reports**

Staff member David Wood presented reports on various aspects of agency operations, including headcount, grants, expenditures, and performance results. The Board and Superintendent Schiller discussed the reports and their implications.

**Closed Session Motion**

Mrs. McConachie 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, compensation, discipline, performance, 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. 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
- Mr. Sandsmark – yes
- Mrs. McConachie – yes
- Dr. Steiner – yes
- Mrs. Rogers – yes
- Mrs. Turkal - yes

Chairman Gidwitz announced that due to technical difficulties, Ms. Gold was unable to join the meeting by phone.

The public meeting recessed at 4:50 p.m., and the Board went into a closed meeting at 6:30 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 9:30 p.m., and the public meeting reconvened on September 19 at 9:05 a.m. with Ms. Gold and Ms. Branch in attendance by phone.

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, State Legislative Status Report.

Staff member Peter Leonis presented a report regarding the development of the FY04 legislative agenda and issues that have been identified for potential inclusion in that package. He reported that the Board’s Governmental Relations Committee has met twice to discuss legislative issues associated with the fall and spring sessions. He indicated that the Superintendent and members of the Governmental Relations Committee have been meeting with constituent groups, and several more such meetings are scheduled for the coming month. He stated that agency staff are preparing and submitting legislative proposals specific to their areas of responsibility. He commented that the schedule for development of the Board's legislative proposals calls for completion of that process in December.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input regarding the report.

Superintendent Schiller thanked Mrs. Turkal, Chair of the Legislative Relations Committee, and staff member Pete Leonis for all of their hard work on legislative matters.

Mrs. Turkal also thanked Pete Leonis and acknowledged the other Board members on the committee – Mr. Sandsmark and Ms. Gold.
Federal Legislative Status Report

Staff member Randy Burge presented the status report which included the following information:

- Congress has returned to Washington after the August recess to begin working on a number of major legislative initiatives. This includes thirteen FY03 appropriation bills, none of which are ready for the President’s signature;
- Minority Leader Trent Lott is reported to believe that the appropriations decisions will be deferred until after the election, during a “lame-duck” session. Lott predicts that this may be fraught with problems since he has “never seen a good lame duck session;”
- The decisions on the education appropriations will have implications for Illinois programs and budget; and
- Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) will be a major focus during the fall and winter. The House Education and Workforce Committee is expected to include voucher provisions in its IDEA bill.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input regarding the report and its implications for Illinois.

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 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman