MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
and CLOSED SESSION
DoubleTree Guest Hotel
198 East Delaware Place
Chicago, Illinois
August 22-23, 2001

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 11:00 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Kathy Nicholson-Tosh, Director of Board Services, to call the roll. Mrs. Nicholson-Tosh called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (Mrs. McConachie arrived at 1:55 p.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that a very sad event had occurred that morning. Sam Burgener, the technician who audio taped all of the State Board meetings, had died suddenly. The Chairman asked for moment of silence in Sam’s memory.

Rules
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules: NCATE, Certification, and Teacher Standards.

The Chairman reported that the Board would discuss three sets of rules that would be on the Plenary Session agenda for action tomorrow. He explained that in addition to some technical changes, these would include new rules on standards for Illinois teachers, the NCATE rules, and emergency amendments related to the Basic Skills Certification Test, which is initially being administered in mid-September.

Superintendent McGee commented that during the June Board meeting, Mike Long had provided an overview of the NCATE standards and key issues related to those standards. He noted that tomorrow he would be recommending Board approval to disseminate the NCATE rules for public comment. (See Addendum II.)

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Mike Long, Nancy Patton, and Sally Vogl assisted in responding to questions.
The Superintendent explained that the next set of rules (Standards for all Illinois Teachers, Part 24 Illinois Administrative Code, and Certification, Part 25) establishes the standards that apply for issuing all Illinois teaching certificates beginning on July 1, 2003. He stated that he is recommending the dissemination of the new proposed Part 24 and the proposed amendments to Part 25 rules. He commented that the professional teaching standards have been placed into Part 24. Superintendent McGee said that these include the proposed special education standards for all teachers which are intended to be an integral part of the professional teaching standards. He explained that Part 25 contains a variety of components including the NCATE 2000 standards, and it contains requirements for continuing professional development related to special education for regular education teachers. (See Addendum III.)

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Rob Sampson, Pat Glenn, Chris Koch, Sally Vogl, and Respicio Vazquez assisted in responding to questions.

Superintendent McGee reported that the emergency amendments for certification testing are in direct response to the enhanced Basic Skills certification test that will be administered for the first time in September. He explained that these amendments reflect a change in the way we calculate scores on the new enhanced Basic Skills Test. He also commented that he would be asking for the Board's direction regarding researching and summarizing the merits of the available or potential available Basic Skills Examinations in terms of rigor, portability, and the degree to which they permit interstate comparisons.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. Staff members Rob Sampson, Pat Glenn, and Sally Vogl assisted in responding to questions. The Board agreed to continue this discussion later in the afternoon during the agenda item, Basic Skills Assessment of Teacher Candidates.

The meeting recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

EFAB

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB). (This was a change in order of published agenda items.)

Chairman Gidwitz explained that the Education Funding Advisory Board is responsible for recommending changes to the general state aid formula, including the foundation level and poverty grant amounts.
Superintendent McGee reported that with recommendations on the horizon for school funding reform, he and the Board felt that it was important to have frequent opportunities throughout the next year or two to interact with members of the EFAB. He said that during their last meeting on August 7, the EFAB received a report from Augenblick and Myers that provided a number of methods for identifying successful schools and minimum levels for funding those schools, as well as scenarios/formulas for determining poverty weighting. The Superintendent explained that the Education Funding Advisory Board members would be discussing their efforts and direction in using the Augenblick and Myers report. The following members of the EFAB were in attendance and introduced themselves:

Robert Leininger, Chairman of the EFAB
Dean Clark, President of Graphic Chemical & Ink Company
Marleis Trover, Superintendent of Vienna High School
Bert Docter, CEO of Docter Enterprises

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input. The Board will continue working with EFAB to develop a forward-looking school finance proposal.

(Mrs. McConachie arrived at 1:55 p.m.)

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Basic Skills Assessment of Teacher Candidates.

The Superintendent introduced Sabrina Laine and Ray Legler from the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL), and he explained that they would be available to answer questions. Superintendent McGee reported that because of the Board’s request to explore long-range options for the Basic Skills test, the NCREL implemented a survey of key stakeholders and obtained feedback regarding test selection criteria.

He also reported that the NCREL study builds on the information that the Board received last spring from The Education Trust. Neither report provides a clear recommendation for a specific test; however, each report raises issues that should be considered. He commented that while this is not an action item this month, a discussion of the Board's long-term teacher assessment strategy is needed. The Superintendent indicated that it was his recommendation to move to a nationally normed assessment that promotes portability and allows for comparisons of teacher candidate performance across the nation. He noted that the suggested timelines would allow for a two-year window to prepare for rule and regulation changes as well as the identification of cut scores for a new assessment.
Discussion continued regarding the emergency rules for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Rob Sampson, and Pat Glenn assisted in responding to questions.

Language Proficiency Test Cut Scores

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Language Proficiency Test Cut Scores. Superintendent McGee explained that legislation requires the State Board to assess the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar language proficiency of certain certificate applicants. He noted that these new language proficiency tests were first administered in July, and the Board now needs to establish the passing scores for these assessments. He indicated that tomorrow he planned to recommend to the Board the language proficiency test scores. Superintendent McGee noted that this will include the passing scores for the target language proficiency test for Spanish, the target language proficiency tests for languages other than Spanish, and the English Language proficiency test. He stated that all of his recommendations for passing scores were in line with the State Teacher Certification Board recommendations with the exception of one component score on the English proficiency test. (See Addendum IV.)

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Frank Llano, Rob Sampson, and Dr. John Silvestro of the National Evaluation System (NES) assisted in responding to questions.

FY03 Budget Timelines

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, FY03 Budget Timelines. The Chairman commented that during the next hour, we would have a preliminary discussion on the budget followed by a state and federal legislative update.

The Superintendent asked David Wood, the State Board’s Chief Operations Officer, to review the timelines and process for developing and obtaining approval of the FY03 budget. He also explained that the timelines will indicate that a discussion of budget issues will be a regular agenda item for the next several Board meetings.

Mr. Wood shared the following information with the Board.

- Final adoption of the FY03 Proposed Budget is scheduled for December 2001.
- Preparation of the budget recommendation will include ongoing discussions with the Governor’s Office, the Bureau of the Budget, members of the General Assembly, EFAB, the Education Partners, and other stakeholders.
Budget issues will be discussed with the Board in October.
Public hearings will be scheduled in October and November.
Based on the positive reaction to last year’s combined annual report and budget book, the Proposed Budget will again be presented to the Governor and General Assembly as part of the 2001 Annual Report/2003 Proposed Budget Book.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input.

State & Federal Legislative Updates

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, State and Federal Legislative Updates.

Superintendent McGee reported that this summer had definitely provided for activity in the legislative arena. He asked Gail Lieberman, the State Board’s Director of Federal Relations, and Peter Leonis, the State Board’s Director of State Relations, to provide an overview of recent activity at the state and federal level and possible implications for the future.

They shared the following information with the Board.

State Relations:

The Senate Education Committee held hearings this summer on the issues of assessment and school calendar. Most of the discussion focused on assessment issues, particularly the need for and feasibility of annual state assessment. There was very limited testimony or Committee discussion about calendar issues. It is not clear what the Committee’s next steps will be, particularly since there has not yet been any resolution of the assessment issue at the federal level.

HR250 (Erwin) asked for a strategic plan for addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois. The multiple partners in this effort (including the State Board of Education) are to file a report with the General Assembly by October 15, 2001.
Federal Relations:

Although some agreements have been made on ESEA reauthorization, Congressional staff members are continuing their discussions about the fundamental issues, including state assessment, national accountability system, measuring adequate yearly progress, and funding levels. Full funding for special education continues as a part of the final action on education appropriations. Neither the Senate nor the House has acted on these appropriations and the two chambers are far apart on their dollar requests for ESEA.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input.

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, School Designation System Implementation.

The Chairman stated that the final agenda item was a brief update on the progress of the School Designation System Implementation. He explained that the Board had initially endorsed the recommendations of the School Designation System Task Force in October 2000.

Superintendent McGee noted that as the Chairman had indicated, 14 recommendations were endorsed last October to frame the School Designation System. He commented that during the March 2000 Board meeting, staff members had provided an update on progress since the recommendations were endorsed. He stated that today’s discussion would center on the key system components and the activity that had taken place to obtain input from various groups throughout the State. The Superintendent also announced that he was modifying the agenda for the plenary session and removing this item until the Board had an opportunity to conduct all focus groups, and obtain Board input and direction. He noted that ideally he would like to wait until September or October for Board action.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer and Michael Dunn assisted in answering questions. (See Addendum V.)
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 on August 22 at 5:00 p.m. or immediately following the conclusion of today’s Board 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. McConachie seconded the motion.

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

- Ms. Branch - yes
- Mrs. McConachie - yes
- Dr. Steiner - yes
- Mr. Gidwitz - yes
- Mrs. Rogers - yes
- Mrs. Turkal - yes

The public meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m. and the Board went into closed session at 5:30 p.m. The closed session meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The public meeting reconvened and was called to order by Chairman Gidwitz on August 23 at 8:09 a.m.

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

The Chairman reported that during the June work conference, the Board reviewed and revised the Board and Agency goals and measures. He stated that since that time, staff have refined this work and will share this material for the Board’s input and direction.
The Superintendent noted that the Board packet contained two draft documents: the first document highlights the Board and Agency goals and measures, and the second document provides the Agency goals, measures, and the specific instruments to be used for data collection. He stated that he was asking for input regarding the goals and measures as well as the four questions posed in the Board packet.

1. Are the Board and Agency goals aligned?
2. Is it necessary to have separate Board and Agency goals?
3. Are the measures and instruments appropriate for each goal?
4. Is the linkage between the former goals and priorities and the new goals clear?

Superintendent McGee indicated that he had already made an addition/change to the measures associated with the third goal relating to advocacy for funding specific programs. He also commented that through work with the strategic planning committee, staff plan to return in September with a final document for Board action.

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 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman