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 10:10 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.

The Chairman indicated that Mr. Serritella was unable to attend this meeting due to conflicting business meetings, and *Mr. Sandsmark will participate by phone.

Approval of Minutes
Dr. Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the following meetings:

State Board meeting held on June 20, 21, 22, and 30, 2002; Special State Board meeting on July 1, 2002; and Special State Board meeting held on July 25, 2002.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Public Participation. The following individual spoke to the Board.

Donna Baiocchi, Executive Director of ED-RED, welcomed new State Superintendent Robert Schiller and thanked the Board members for hiring an experienced educator. She asked the Superintendent to keep his primary focus on improved teaching and learning, and she invited him to meet with the ED-RED school districts in the near future.

Mrs. McConachie moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes distribution of the draft 2002-2007 State Technology Plan for public comment. She further moved that final Board adoption of the plan, including any modifications necessary to respond to public comment, will take place in November 2002.

Dr. Steiner 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
Ms. Gold – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Immediate Actions Items, Accept Process and Authorize for Distribution the Due Process Evaluation Report.

Mrs. Turkal moved that the State Board of Education hereby accepts the annual report on the Illinois Due Process System and authorizes its distribution to other parties designated in state law, including the general public.

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
Ms. Gold – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes
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**Chicago**  
**Dist. 299**  
**SGSA**  
**Plan**  
**Motion**  
Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, Immediate Action Items, Approve FY03 Chicago District 299 Supplemental General State Aid Plan.

Ms. Branch moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the FY03 Chicago School District 299 Plan for expenditure of supplemental general state aid funds as presented, with the understanding that amendments to the plan and relevant data will be provided during the year as appropriate.

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.

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

**Rules,**  
**Part 375,**  
**Part 155,**  
**Part 50**  
**Motion**  
The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Immediate Actions Items, Adoption of Rules, Part 375: Student Records; Part 155: Electronic Transfer of Funds; and Part 50: Evaluation of Certified School District Employees in Continued Contractual Service.

Dr. Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking, including any changes recommended in response to public comment, for:

- Evaluation of Certified School District Employees in Contractual Continued Service (23 Illinois Administrative Code 50);
- Electronic Transfer of Funds (23 Illinois Administrative Code 155); and
- Student Records (23 Illinois Administrative Code 375).

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.

Ms. Branch – yes    Mrs. McConachie – yes    Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes   Mrs. Rogers – yes      Mrs. Turkal – yes
Ms. Gold – yes      Mr. Sandsmark – yes

Round Lake
Petition
Motion
Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, Immediate Action Items, Approve the Petition for Round Lake School Finance Authority.

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of the petition of the Round Lake School District #116 Financial Oversight Panel to establish a School Finance Authority for the school district and, upon review, determines that the petition is in the best educational and financial interests of the district and in so finding, approves the petition as submitted.

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

(See Addendum II for a news release regarding the Superintendent Schiller’s appointment of members to the School Finance Authority.)

Vote on
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
Ms. Gold – yes      Mr. Sandsmark – yes

Mrs. McConachie indicated that the Board needed to take special action to thank the Round Lake Financial Oversight Panel. She noted that the chair of the Oversight Panel put in an enormous amount of time, and the Panel did an extraordinary service for the community and the State Board.

The Chairman asked staff to compose a resolution of appreciation for the Round Lake Financial Oversight Panel, and he indicated that he and the Superintendent would write a joint letter of appreciation to the Panel.
AFSCME Agreement

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Immediate Action Items, AFSCME Agreement.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that the State Board of Education approves and authorizes the execution of the AFSCME Agreement.

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.

Ms. Branch – yes  Mrs. McConachie – yes  Dr. Steiner – yes
Mr. Gidwitz – yes  Mrs. Rogers – yes  Mrs. Turkal – yes
Ms. Gold – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes

Chairman Gidwitz commented that the economic issues of this agreement include the following items:

- Extension of the current step plan;
- A 1 ½ percent cost of living allowance (COLA) effective on July 1 of each year of the contract; and
- A one-time payment of $200 upon ratification of the contract.

The Chairman also noted that the two-year cost of this agreement is approximately $510,000. He stated that AFSCME ratified this contract on August 13, 2002. He also indicated his appreciation to staff members David Wood, Vivian Najim, Harry Blackburn, and the AFSCME negotiators for a good and expeditious settlement.

Resolution for Respicio Vazquez

The Chairman indicated that he had one more agenda item to add to the immediate action items. He stated that this item was a resolution of appreciation to Respicio Vasquez, who served as State Superintendent of Education from February 2002 through June 2002. He read the following resolution.
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
FOR
RESPICIO VAZQUEZ

Whereas Respicio Vazquez agreed to serve as State Superintendent of Education at a particularly difficult time in the State Board’s history; and

Whereas during the six months he served in this position, Res repeatedly demonstrated the personal courage, commitment and character that led the Board to choose him for this responsibility and led him to accept it; and

Whereas during his tenure, Res earned widespread respect and appreciation through his willingness to listen, his fair handling of issues, his skill in asking critical questions, and his ability to be both flexible and decisive as the occasion warranted; and

Whereas Res used these leadership traits to strengthen key partnerships and move the education agenda forward; and

Whereas Res also used these leadership traits to guide the second phase of the Board’s reorganization plan, bring cohesiveness of the internal leadership team and win the confidence and respect of a skeptical staff; and

Whereas Res made “Calm down....” a part of the state education agency lexicon and taught everyone that humor could be a valuable part of even the most difficult debates; and

Whereas he also taught everyone that lawyers know and care deeply about much more than just the law; and

Whereas, through these actions and personal characteristics, Res assured that the State Board remained focused on its goals and that the “alligators didn’t swamp the boat;”

Now therefore be it resolved that the State Board of Education extends its deep appreciation to Respicio Vazquez for serving the State of Illinois and its children so very well. On their behalf, “Gracias.”

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
Ms. Gold – yes  Mr. Sandsmark – yes

The Chairman also expressed the Board’s appreciation to Harry Blackburn for assuming responsibility as chief legal adviser during the time Respicio Vazquez served as State Superintendent. He stated that Harry provided excellent leadership for the legal team and helped the Board successfully develop new bylaws.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Announcements and Reports, Chairman.

Chairman Gidwitz announced that he had appointed the following Board members to State Board Committees:

- **Governmental Relations Committee**
  Beverly Turkal, Chair
  Richard Sandsmark
  Judith Gold

- **Finance and Audit Committee**
  Richard Sandsmark, Chair
  Beverly Turkal
  Connie Rogers

- **Board Operations Committee**
  Connie Rogers, Chair
  Marjorie Branch
  Janet Steiner
  Vincent Serritella

- **Education Policy Planning Committee**
  Marilyn McConachie, Chair
  Judith Gold
  Vincent Serritella
The Chairman asked Mrs. McConachie to report about the NASBE Chairs Conference that she attended on his behalf. Mrs. McConachie indicated that she returned from this conference with the following issues that are confronting education boards all across the country:

- No Child Left Behind (NCLB);
- Vouchers
- eLearning Policy
- Governance
- Teacher Licensure
- Finance

She also reported that this conference had been highly beneficial to her -- especially to hear what is happening in other states.

Supt.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Announcements and Reports, Superintendent.

Superintendent Schiller reported that during his first two and one-half weeks as State Superintendent of Education he has met with state leaders, legislators, local educators, students, and agency employees. He indicated that it is his intent to meet with additional education leaders, advisory boards, and newspaper editorial boards in the near future.

Superintendent Schiller reported that the 25th Annual Superintendents Conference will be held in Springfield on September 19 and 20. He noted that the primary theme of this year’s conference is the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and its implications for Illinois School Districts and students. He said that Dr. Jacqueline Jackson from the United State Department of Education would be the keynote speaker. He commented that the breakout sessions would address the “achievement gap,” “educator gap,” and the “funding gap” – within the context of NCLB. He thanked staff members Chris Koch, Gail Lieberman, Pat Ryan, and Leigh Ann Smith for providing planning leadership for this conference.

Superintendent Schiller reported that Illinois is one of 12 states selected to participate in the “Following the Leaders” initiative of the Education Leaders Council. He noted that the initiative is funded by the United States Department of Education and is intended to increase student achievement and the quality of public education in America.
He thanked Gail Lieberman and Sheryl Poggi for their work on the proposal and for going to Washington, DC for the interview.

The Superintendent reported that the agency state fair exhibit was very successful again this year. He thanked the many staff members who worked at the exhibit and specifically acknowledged Ann Keran for planning this huge undertaking and making it such a success. He also thanked Mrs. Rogers for attending this event.

Superintendent Schiller reported that the State Board recognizes its employees each year for their long service to the agency. He noted that this process includes an announcement to the entire agency, individualized recognition, activities within each unit, and the presentation of a small token of appreciation. He thanked these individuals for their dedicated efforts to education in Illinois (See Addendum III).

The Superintendent said that beginning this month, he will announce the retirements of agency staff who will be leaving in the month ahead. He commented that legal staff member Gary Anderson will retire at the end of September. He noted that Gary is the legal specialist on the waiver process and the “No Child Left Behind Act.” He also reported that he asked the agency Core Team to help him develop a systematic way for identifying other individuals in the agency who deserve recognition. He indicated that he wanted to start this recognition process with congratulating Andy Metcalf, who recently successfully defended his dissertation.

Superintendent Schiller also offered thanks and farewell to staff member Tammy Rust, who has been the Internal Auditor for the State Board for almost eight years. He noted that Tammy has accepted a position with the Peoria Public School District.

Committees

The Chairman called for Agenda Item G., Announcements and Reports, Committees.

Mrs. Rogers reported that the Board Operations Committee will be focusing on the policies, rules, and regulations that will coincide with the Board’s Bylaws.
Mrs. McConachie reported that the **Joint Education Committee** will meet on August 23 to discuss the following items:

- Illinois School Code rewrite;
- Standards for professional development;
- Preparation of teachers in community colleges;
- Illinois Board of Higher Education report on program approval; and
- PSAE, ACT, and high school core curriculum.

**Members**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item G., Announcements and Reports, Members.

Mrs. Rogers reported that she had attended the Illinois State Fair and visited the agency exhibit. She commended the staff for a well-organized effort.

Mrs. Rogers reported that the Board has concurred that she will be the voting delegate at the NASBE Annual Meeting in October. She said that Mrs. McConachie will be the alternate.

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 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman