MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELECONFERENCE:

Ronald Gidwitz            Marjorie B. Branch            Marilyn McConachie
Judy Gold – late arrival   Connie Rogers               Richard Sandsmark
Janet Steiner             Beverly Turkal

Robert E. Schiller, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vince Serritella

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by the Chairman, Ronald Gidwitz, who asked Kay Evans, assistant to the Board Services Executive, to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Vince Serritella would not be participating, and Judy Gold was not on the call, but that she was expected to join the meeting.

The Chairman indicated that this Special Board meeting was called to make the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget recommendation to the General Assembly. He asked Superintendent Schiller to discuss his recommendation for the FY04 budget for elementary and secondary education.

Dr. Schiller provided an overview of the proposed budget and talked about each of the recommended areas. He said that the number of school districts in financial difficulty continues to grow. He commented that a priority was the funding of the EFAB recommendation by the fourth year and to start trying to close gaps necessary for school district general operations.

Superintendent Schiller noted that school districts were facing incredible challenges with inadequate funding at the federal level for special education. He said that they were recommending an
increase of $210.9 million to bring the mandated categorical of the School Code to the 100% level.

Superintendent Schiller stated that the areas to increase the level of funding were: Early Childhood, $27.7 million; Bilingual Education, $2.3 million; Technology (Virtual High School Network) $5 million; and System of Support, $15 million. He said that all together the FY04 proposed budget would be $5,685,697,300. He projected out for FY07 an increase to $7.6 billion. The Superintendent also commented about retirement funding and the Teachers Retirement System. (see Addendums I & II)

Chairman Gidwitz said that because of the number of teachers and students Chicago has in comparison to the rest of the state, it would imply a $273 million state contribution to the Chicago pension program in order maintain that equitable balance. He suggested increasing it by $30 million this year. A discussion followed with some board members voicing concern about voting yes for this increase without first studying it. (see Addendum III)

Chairman Gidwitz asked for the main budget motion.

| Motion to Recom- |  |
| Mend |  |
| FY04 budget |  |

Dick Sandsmark moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the FY 2004 budget for elementary and secondary education with a total request of $6,778,580,000.00 in General Revenue Funds and a total for all funds of $8,848,187,700.00 and with special requests as shown in the budget.

The State Superintendent and staff are directed to present this budget and the annual report, as included in the '2002 Annual Report and FY 04 Budget Proposal' to the Governor and General Assembly for adoption during the Spring 2003 session. In addition, the Superintendent and staff are asked to provide appropriate information to the educational community and to Illinois citizens.

As appropriate to circumstances that arise during budget deliberations, the Superintendent is authorized to make necessary changes to federal and other Non General Revenue fund requests. Changes to the General Revenue Fund requests may be made at the Superintendent’s discretion, or in consultation with the Chairman or the Board, depending on the magnitude of the proposed changes.

Connie Rogers seconded the motion.
Chairman Gidwitz offered an amendment to the motion.

Mr. Gidwitz said that his amendment to the motion would augment the Superintendent’s FY04 budget recommendation with an increment of $30 million that will be added to the line item for Chicago retirement. This would increase the amount from $65,044,700.00 to $95,044,700.00.

Marilyn McConachie said she accepted the amendment and seconded the motion to amend.

Chairman Gidwitz asked for a roll call on the amendment to the main motion.


Motion to amend failed.

Chairman Gidwitz called for the roll call vote on the main motion.

The following votes were recorded.


Motion carried.

Chairman Gidwitz adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rogers
Secretary
Ronald J. Gidwitz
Chairman