The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Kay Evans, assistant to the Board Services Executive, to call the roll. Ms. Evans called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Chairman Gidwitz introduced Justice Mary Jane Theis, Appellate Court, First District, who performed the swearing in ceremony for the three new Board members: Dean Clark, Joyce Karon, and Gregory Kazarian.

Mr. Gidwitz introduced Ms. Kathleen Mayer from Carson Elementary School and Mr. James Iles from Hancock High School for the Education Showcase.

Superintendent Schiller informed the Board that Carson Elementary School was a pre-k through 8 urban school with over 1,200 students. He noted that approximately 92% of the students were from a Spanish speaking background and 99% of the students were from low-income situations. He stated that Rachel Carson Elementary School was a bicultural school with a transitional bilingual education program and a pre-school dual language program.

Superintendent Schiller informed the Board that Hancock High School had approximately 500 students, with 91% of the students
from low-income situations. He said that although Hancock High School did make nearly a 6% gain on state tests (31.4 to 37.1%) last year, they were added to the Academic Early Warning List.

Ms. Kathleen Mayer provided an overview of the successful programs at her school.

Mr. Iles provided his information after the Illinois Virtual High School presentation.

**Illinois Virtual High School**

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Illinois Virtual High School Update

Chairman Gidwitz reviewed the history of the IVHS and commented about the objectives of the program. The first objective was to assure equitable access to rich and varied learning opportunities to Illinois students with an emphasis on curricular areas needed to ensure that all students could meet the Illinois Learning Standards and succeed in higher education and the workplace. The second objective was to expand the high quality professional development opportunities for Illinois teachers and other educators, while the third objective was to support schools in integrating technology in teaching and learning.

Superintendent Schiller provided additional background on the IVHS and introduced the following presenters:

Matt Wicks, Director of Virtual Learning, from the Illinois Math and Science Academy, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Virtual High School, Gary Greenberg, Director of the Collaboratory Project, from Northwestern University, who explained the Online Foreign Languages Initiative through IVHS; Vickie Phillips, Counselor at Rushville High School, along with two students, Alex Ring and Nathan Lunt, who spoke on the opportunities the IVHS has provided to Rushville High School.

The Chairman thanked the presenters and summarized discussion.

He reintroduced Mr. James Iles who described Hancock High School and explained the many challenges that have evolved at the school.

Following discussion by the Board, Chairman Gidwitz asked the Superintendent to tell their stories on the agency’s website.

He noted for the record that Mr. Sandsmark was serving as Secretary Pro Tem, since Ms. Rogers had retired from the Board. He commented that consistent with the Bylaws for the Illinois State
Board of Education, they will elect the officers of Secretary and Vice-Chair at the February meeting.

Judy Gold rejoined the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Educator Supply & Demand in Illinois 2002 Annual Report

Chairman Gidwitz commented that each year the State Board of Education was required to submit to the General Assembly a report detailing the supply and demand of teachers throughout the state. He said that this report served as a vehicle for the State Board of Education and lawmakers to anticipate the education workforce trends.

Superintendent Schiller stated that this was the fourth Supply and Demand annual report that the agency has prepared. The report outlines the workforce composition, supply indicators, demand factors, and the over/under supply of educators throughout the state. He asked for the Board’s approval to forward the report to the Governor, General Assembly, and the institutions of higher education. He said it is anticipated that through 2006 there will be a need for 44,000 teachers, of which 27,000 will be first-time teachers.

Chairman Gidwitz said that we should work with colleges of education, and guidance counselors in high schools. He stated we should interpret and make recommendations to them and explore how the document was utilized by institutions of higher education. He commented that he would appreciate cause and effect data generated, which would help in making additional policy decisions.

Greg Kazarian said he would also like to see data that reflected which teachers and administrators were eligible to retire with maximum benefits to understand when the problem would hit. Jim Sweeney said he could work on this data and send it to the Board as an addendum.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members’ input. Staff members Lynne Haefele, Connie Wise, Jim Sweeney, and Mike Long assisted in responding to questions

The Chairman asked that the information be posted on the website.

The Chairman called for the Agenda Item, State Accountability System.
The Chairman commented that the purpose of this agenda item was to review the effective components of a state accountability system and the actions previously taken by the Board of Education.

Superintendent Schiller provided an overview of the State Accountability System and reviewed the decision points that would be asked off the Board within the coming months. He noted that the Board must submit to the Department of Education in May, 2003 a final plan for demonstrating Illinois’ integrated single accountability system. An interim report is due the end of January, 2003. He noted that no action was needed at this meeting, and that a meeting of the Assessment and Accountability Task Force was planned for January 21st to discuss additional recommendations to bring back to the Board.

He asked Gail Lieberman, Manager, Student and School Progress, and Lynne Haeffele Curry, Director, Planning and Performance to provide additional information.

Ms. Haeffele Curry covered the new federal law requirements of a unified accountability system and refreshed the Board of the previous decisions that were still standing in terms of Board policy, so that the Board would know the framework under which they were currently working in terms of their own policy decisions.

Dr. Schiller said that the Board needed to look at what extent we want to limit ourselves to specific achievement outputs, or do we want to expand the definition of how a school/district is doing. He said a school district should be looked at how it is doing over time and not just a snapshot of a test score at a given time. He would like to explore this with the task force based on what has been done previously, and then bring it back to the Board for consideration in the coming months.

Marjorie Branch said that since a test was required to get any job, she did not want the testing components to be deemphasized. She noted that the challenge was to find a way to help students on tests.

The Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, 2003 Cumulative Waiver Report.

The Chairman stated that the State Board of Education was required to submit to the Illinois General Assembly by February first of each year a report listing all types of waiver mandates, and modifications of mandates, granted by the Board or the General Assembly. He noted that last month the Board heard a presentation from the
Superintendent and staff regarding the 2003 Cumulative Waiver Report. He said he would like to underscore that these reports were sent to the General Assembly twice a year and most of the time they disregard the Board’s recommendations.

Superintendent Schiller stated that he would be asking the Board to approve the 2003 Cumulative Waiver Report and authorize its transmittal to the General Assembly.

Chairman Gidwitz asked if anyone had any issues regarding this topic. Janet Steiner asked questions regarding health waivers, which staff member Sally Vogl answered.

Greg Kazarian inquired about the legislative recommendations regarding school holidays and the Prairie State Achievement Examination instructional day. He wondered if this was the appropriate time to bring these items to the legislature for action. Mr. Vazquez, General Counsel, said that part of the law requires the Board to submit this report with recommendations, but it was still the Board’s decision as to whether or not it wanted to submit the report.

Mr. Sandsmark remarked at the way the General Assembly handled Physical Education waivers in the past and thought that the Board should recommend the report for acceptance.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Paraprofessional Assessment Guidance and Timeline.

Chairman Gidwitz stated that the purpose of this item was to provide an opportunity for the Board to discuss and approve the draft Guidance and Paraprofessional Assessment, and the proposed timeline for implementation of paraprofessional assessment procedures. He then asked Superintendent Schiller for additional information.

Superintendent Schiller stated that the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) allowed paraprofessionals that serve in instructional assistance capacities three options to demonstrate qualifications in order to be hired after January 8, 2002, into programs supported by Title I funds. He further said that federal law stipulates that those hired before January 8, 2002, have until January 8, 2006, to meet the requirements.

Mike Long, accompanied by Dr. Inez Bosworth from the Educational Testing Service, made a presentation to the Board. Mr. Long commented that they were asking the Board to allow staff to proceed,
in terms of standards setting and developing cut-scores, with the ParaPro assessment that had been developed by the Educational Testing Service. It was presently being used by 20 states for the NCLB assessment. He stated that Work Keys, developed by ACT, was also being considered. Work Keys was being amended to address the ability to assist in instruction of reading, math and writing. Mr. Long reviewed the procedure and timeline for the Board’s consideration. He commented that the agency would work with ETS to establish a standards setting panel to determine a cut-score that would be brought to the Board in March for approval.

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item, Rules for Adoption: Amendments to Part 25 – Certification.

Superintendent Schiller stated that these rules were presented for the Board’s review at the October, 2002 meeting and were subsequently published in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment. Three items were received that addressed specific aspects of the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program. He asked staff member Sally Vogl for clarification.

Superintendent Schiller said that we were recommending the adoption of the changes through the public process.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules for Adoption: Amendments to Part 29- Standards for Administrative Certification.

Superintendent Schiller commented that these amendments would put into place a new credential that would eventually be required of all individuals who wish to serve as directors or assistant directors of special education. The amendments were presented for the Board’s initial review in September of 2002 and were published in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment. He asked staff member Sally Vogl for clarification.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item, Rules for Initial Review: Amendments to Part 228- Transitional Bilingual Education.

Superintendent Schiller stated that the amendments contained in this set of rules were technical revisions needed to implement Public Act 92-604, which took effect in July of 2002, and changed the requirements for the notice districts must provide to parents whose children were enrolled in bilingual education programs.

Sally Vogl commented that the Illinois law was changed to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act. Discussion followed for
The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Standard Monthly Reports: Finance, Audit and Agency Operations Status Reports. The Chairman stated that in addition to these reports the Board would also receive information concerning the Request for Sealed Proposal (RFSP) for the Student Identifier System.

Superintendent Schiller said that in order to respond to the No Child Left Behind Act and state reporting requirements concerning student achievement and school performance, the agency was seeking Board approval to release an RFSP to build and implement a state-level Student Information System. He stated that the use of individual student records would increase the state’s capacity to follow a student’s progress over time, improve the accuracy of state and local data, permit longitudinal studies, and improve policy decisions.

Superintendent Schiller turned the discussion and reporting over to David Wood, Director of Operations. A discussion followed as to why student identifiers were destroyed and did not follow the student. Chairman Gidwitz indicated he was under the assumption that it was prohibited by law. He asked Res Vazquez for a legal opinion and the Superintendent to investigate the history of decisions that prohibited the Board from utilizing student identifiers in the past. He believed that the agency could have developed a system by now that would have worked. Mr. Gidwitz said he did not want the contract held up because the federal law requires that it be done.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Qualified Zone Academy Bond Credit Allocations for FY 02 and FY 03.

Superintendent Schiller stated that the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program was created under Section 226 of the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997. He noted that it permitted school districts to borrow funds from certain financial institutions at substantial savings over other forms of debt because purchasers of such bonds received a federal tax credit in lieu of interest payments.

He noted that the seventeen school districts listed in the Board materials were the qualified applicants to have requested an authorization at this time. He commented that each of the districts has submitted copies of their program plan, a facility plan for the proposed Zone Academy, and documentation relevant to the bond
issues.

David Wood stated that they were asking for Board approval, and said they would work with the Board if they wanted to direct a particular percent or methodology.

Chairman Gidwitz suggested they leave the question of future funding to the policy that would be developed by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Chairman Gidwitz asked for the motion to go into closed session.

Dr. Steiner provided the following motion:

“I move that the State Board of Education go into closed session 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.

The Board is authorized to invite anyone into these meetings as needed.”

Mr. Kazarian seconded the motion.

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

Marjorie Branch – yes   Dean Clark – yes   Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes   Greg Kazarian – yes   Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes   Beverly Turkal – yes   Judy Gold - yes

The Chairman recessed the public meeting at 5:00 p.m. and the Board went into a closed meeting at 5:10 p.m. The closed meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
The public General meeting of the Illinois State Board of Education reconvened at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2003.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Ms. Evans to call the roll.

Members Present:

Marjorie Branch            Ron Gidwitz            Dean Clark
Joyce Karon                Greg Kazarian          Richard Sandsmark
Beverly Turkal

Members Absent:

Janet Steiner              Judy Gold

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: State Legislative Update.

The Superintendent introduced Peter Leonis, Director of Governmental Affairs.

Mr. Leonis provided an overview of state legislation. He stated that a repeat bill from last year, House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #7 called for an elected State Superintendent, and was being sponsored by Representative Franks. He stated that all relevant bills would be reviewed by the agency Bill Review Team in consultation with the Board’s Governmental Relations Committee.

Chairman Gidwitz asked the Superintendent what we were going to do with similar Hazel Crest situations that we know exist.

Mr. Leonis said that the agency has started discussion of these problems and will be coming forward with legislation later on in the session.

Mr. Gidwitz said that there were three areas the Board needed to focus on including strategic and long term financing, tactical problems of getting ISBE’s budget passed, and school districts that are in dire financial stress.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Federal Legislative Status Report.

Mr. Leonis presented an overview of federal legislation but stated that the federal government still had not passed a budget.
He said that at the December Board meeting he advised the Board that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had issued new guidelines for school district claims. He said ISBE submitted comments opposing the new guidelines. Under the proposed guidelines funding would be substantially reduced. He said that this was being done by administrative rule rather than congressional action.

Mr. Gidwitz asked Mr. Leonis to find out who was the driving force behind this action.

Mr. Leonis said that we were in the process of developing 2004 earmarks by working with local school districts. Before sending them to Washington he said they would share them with the Board.

Chairman Gidwitz asked if we work with ROE’s as well, and told the Superintendent to look into working with them in this regard.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

_________________________
Richard Sandsmark
Secretary Pro Tem

_________________________
Ronald J. Gidwitz
Chairman