The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Ronald Gidwitz, who asked Carol Markko, staff secretary (in the absence of Kay Evans assistant to the Board Executive) to call the roll. Ms. Markko called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Serritella was unable to join this month’s meeting, and Ms. Gold would be joining the meeting at a later time.

Mr. Gidwitz introduced the two new confirmed board members, Ms. Joyce Karon and Mr. Gregory Kazarian, who join the Board officially at the January, 2003 Board meeting.

Mr. Gidwitz also announced that Kim Knauer, Director of Communications, was quite ill and unlikely to survive. He asked for a moment of silence.

Mr. Gidwitz announced that the South Cook Education Consortium was at the meeting to present to the Board their efforts to improve student achievement in their local schools.

Mr. Kling, partner with the law firm Ancel Glink and Counsel to the Consortium, introduced Mr. Kendall Parrott, President of the Prairie Hills Board of Education. Mr. Parrott, provided a brief description of the policy implications requiring constant attention in his district.
Dr. Essie Harris, Superintendent of General George Patton School District #133, followed by giving a brief overview of the Consortium’s initiatives. She stated that the Consortium was created in April of 2002 when then Superintendent Max McGee met with a group of superintendents from school districts in South Cook County and recognized the opportunity to promote the ISBE’s goals and objectives through a partnership with these school districts. He challenged them to formalize their structure, which they did to form the Consortium consisting of 8 Consortium member districts.

Dr. Harris gave a description of the Consortium. She said the Consortium’s mission was to collaborate on initiatives adding value to the district’s existing activities in the area of technology innovation and school reform by entering into partnerships with state and regional organizations.

Success stories were presented by Dr. Lela Bridges, who introduced Dr. Phillip Skubal, Principal, and Ms. Mellanie Trachsel, reading facilitator, from the Oliver Wendall Holmes Elementary. Their school was formerly on the Academic Early Warning List.

Mr. Gidwitz asked what the unresolved issues with regard to mobility were in each of the districts. Dr. Harris stated that one of the unresolved issues was that even though the mobility figures are part of the school report card, there has never been a year since 1991 that attention has been given to how this influences test scores. She stated that she has started a research study to aggregate the test scores and align them with the mobility rate at every grade level to determine how the mobility rate is affecting student achievement.

Ms. Branch asked if they could look at the impact of foster children in their schools. Mr. Kling said that this issue had been addressed by the Department of Human Services. Mr. Gidwitz stated that it was not enough to just put it on the agenda for the Department of Human Services. He noted that the issue needed to be on the State Board’s agenda as well.

Mr. Gidwitz also asked what items fundamental to a quality education could not be accomplished due to resource constraints. Mr. Kling stated that it was difficult to attract new teachers and balance the salary field compared to other suburban districts. Mr. Kling noted that teacher mobility was approximately 40-45% annually.

Mr. Gidwitz said he would like to have the success stories of the districts shared at the meeting put on the ISBE website. He thanked the members of the South Cook Education Consortium and recessed the Board for lunch.
The meeting reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

Mr. Gidwitz noted that the agenda was being slightly rearranged in order to allow First Lady Ryan to make her presentation regarding Universal Preschool.

Education Showcase

Mr. Gidwitz introduced First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan. She was accompanied by Ms. Marjorie Wallen, staff person for the program; Ms. Kathy Leonis, assistant to Mrs. Ryan; as well as Ms. Kay Henderson, Manager, Early Childhood; Dr. Chris Koch, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Linda Satterfield from the Department of Human Services.

Mrs. Ryan stated the task force created the program “Ready, Set, Grow: Illinois Preschool.” She turned the program over to Marjorie Wallen.

Ms. Wallen summarized the basic components of the program. She stated that in June, 2001, Governor Ryan convened a Task Force on Universal Access to Preschool. Representatives from ISBE, the Department of Human Services, Head Start and the Governor’s office worked collaboratively to develop an implementation plan. The ISBE, through the Workforce Investment Board, supported a two-year project to help the early childhood profession create a career lattice and information system. The Plan calls for the creation of 5000 to 7000 newly certified teachers in early childhood over a ten-year period. She stated that a grant had been obtained from the Department of Labor to develop a childcare apprenticeship program, and a statewide professional development committee was convened to coordinate efforts.

Mrs. Ryan stated that the Preschool Council approved the first phase of Illinois Preschool implementation plan and she asked for questions from the Board.

Mr. Gidwitz thanked them for their presentation. He said that ISBE and the Department of Human Services were committed to seeing this program work, and look forward to working collaboratively with the various constituent groups to make this a reality.

Illinois Charter Schools Annual Report

Chairman Gidwitz introduced the next item regarding the Illinois Charter School Annual Report. Chairman Gidwitz turned the meeting over to Vice Chair, Marilyn McConachie.
Superintendent Schiller said that the report covered the 23 schools that were in operation during the 2001-2002 school year. One additional school opened in the fall of 2002, Tomorrow's Builders, and at the end of the 2001-2002 school year one closed, Nuestra America. He noted that one charter for Governors State University was revoked. He then turned questioning over to Dr. Chris Koch, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Ms. Janet Allison, staff, who answered questions by phone.

Dr. Koch described the recommendations at the end of the report regarding additional funding, charter school autonomy, caps on charter schools, and enrollment preference issues.

2003 Cumulative Waiver Report

Superintendent Schiller gave a brief overview of the 2003 Cumulative Waiver Report. He stated that the ISBE was required to submit the report to the Illinois General Assembly (GA) by February first of each year. He said it was the intent of this Report to offer the GA recommendations for legislative change to ease the burden on local districts. He noted that the GA has chosen not to act on any recommendations contained in the report since this requirement was put in place in July, 1997. He stated that action will be taken on this Report at next month's meeting and that this is a preliminary review for the Board so no action was scheduled at the time.

Respicio Vazquez, General Counsel, was present to answer questions. He stated this was brought before the Board in case there were any thoughts or insights they wanted incorporated before the January Board meeting. He stated that one part of the Report contained any potential recommendations to make amendments or changes to the School Code. He stated they were bringing forward two recommendations of potential legislative proposals.

Ms. McConachie asked for questions.

ISAC Report

Ms. McConachie introduced the next agenda item regarding the Illinois State Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities. Superintendent Schiller stated that the 1997 IDEA regulations required each state to establish and maintain a State advisory panel on the education of children with disabilities. The IDEA fulfills this requirement and provides advice and policy guidance to the Governor, General Assembly, and the State Board. He stated that per Board direction, staff would continue to work with the Advisory Council in conducting regular meetings and would forward pertinent recommendations to the State
Board. He noted that Ms. Terry Devine, a 3-year parent representative from the Advisory Council, was unable to attend. Dr. Koch provided an overview of the work of the Council and read a statement from Ms. Devine.

Ms. McConachie asked Dr. Schiller if a letter could be sent from the Board accepting this report and thanking them for the time, energy, intelligence, and care they have brought to these extremely complicated and difficult issues.

Involuntary Financial Oversight Panel - Livingston School District

The next agenda item the Board considered was the appointment of an involuntary Financial Oversight Panel for the Livingston School District #4. The Superintendent explained that Section 1B of the School Code provided the State Board authority to appoint an involuntary Financial Oversight Panel when a certified district has not adhered to its approved financial plan. He stated that there was precedence for establishing an involuntary Financial Oversight Panel when a district does not comply with their financial plan as in the case of East St. Louis District #189. He introduced Mr. Gary Ey, Manager, of the School Funding and Finance Division, who outlined the petition as well as the financial status, and the Board’s next steps.

Mr. Gidwitz said that the Board could not have another situation similar to the Hazel Crest School District, and would like to address these issues before they reach a crisis point. He said that if the district could demonstrate that they could manage their affairs and solve their problems, then the Oversight Panel should not be burdensome.

Dr. Steiner asked if the Oversight Panel would stay for three years if they saw they were managing their money. Mr. Ey stated they would stay. Mrs. Turkal asked if they have levied as much as they could, and length of time since the district had called for a referendum. Mr. Ey did not know the answer. She said she thought these two things would enter into the necessity of an Oversight Panel. She does not see why they should consider waiting. Mr. Sandsmark agreed.

Mr. Gidwitz asked Mr. Vazquez if there were any issues from the legal standpoint. Mr. Vazquez stated that the Board had enough information if the Board decided to proceed on Thursday. Mr. Gidwitz said they would be inclined to take action if a resolution was there tomorrow. Mr. Ey said he would get an answer to Mrs. Turkal’s questions on the levy and referendum.
Ms. McConachie said she would like to recognize Gary Ey as ‘the most valuable player’ at the State Board in a specialized role. Over the last six years she has had many opportunities to be proud of his leadership, intelligence, commitment, and late night dedication to ISBE. Mr. Gidwitz said it was unfortunate that Mr. Ey was retiring.

Mr. Gidwitz said each year the ISBE publishes the Academic Early Warning and Academic Watch lists.

Superintendent Schiller said that the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 required states to have a single, unified accountability system in place by 2003 and report on the progress of schools throughout the state. He stated that currently Illinois schools are eligible for placement on the state’s Academic Early Warning List when their composite ISAT or PSAE scores show fewer than 50% of tests meet or exceeded state standards for two years in a row.

He stated that the Academic Warning List for 2002 would be reviewed and would make comparisons of the number of schools that have exited that list this year, as well as those who have been added to the list. He then turned the discussion over to Dr. Andy Metcalf, staff, Data Analysis & Progress Report, and Ms. Lynne Haeffele-Curry, Director, Planning and Performance.

Ms. Lynne Haeffele-Curry provided background information. She stated that this year the Warning list added 661 new schools (128 new high schools, 57 middle schools, and 476 elementary schools,) which was not done last year because the agency only had one year of PSAE data. She stated that the agency was working with the Regional Offices of Education to put together a systematic methodology for working with those school district performance agreements and school improvement plans.

Ms. McConachie said that the agency should show on the ISBE website the success stories of those schools that have been removed from the lists. Ms. Haeffele-Curry said that 63 schools, representing approximately 30 districts, have been removed from these lists. Mr. Gidwitz said that the Superintendent should follow this meeting up with a congratulatory letter to the schools.
Mr. Gidwitz stated that the purpose of supplemental educational services was to increase the achievement of eligible children by providing tutoring and other high-quality academic enrichment services outside the school day.

Superintendent Schiller stated that in order to implement Section 1116(e) of the No Child Left Behind Act, Board approval was needed to establish an Approved List of Supplemental Educational Service Providers. The Application for SES providers was posted on the ISBE website, and he explained that letters were mailed to solicit applications from October through December 2, 2002. Twenty-five applications were received, with thirteen recommended for placement on the list. Potential providers not approved were encouraged to resubmit their applications during the February-April 2003 cycle.

Dr. Koch stated that the agency would provide the list of applicable providers to the school districts during December, and post them on the website. The districts were required to give notice to parents of available services, qualifications, and effectiveness of each provider. He noted that the State also must monitor and report publicly the effectiveness of services of the providers. He stated the State also has the authority to withdraw approval from providers that fail for two consecutive years to improve student academic performance.

Mr. Gidwitz and Superintendent Schiller said that the agency should work in partnership with local school districts to get this information out to parents.

Superintendent Schiller brought forth a series of recommendations from the Assessment and Accountability Task Force. He said members of the Task Force were present to answer questions. Ms. Sue Ireland, chair of the sub-committee, gave her insight into the Task Force recommendations. She stated it was their recommendation that:

- the Illinois Alternative Assessment be modified to only be scored on two Rubrics – student progress and length of standards,
teachers need to be informed that the area on the student’s piece will not be scored,
there will be 2 reporting periods this year instead of three,
they have also recommended that only certified teachers score the alternative assessments,
they have encouraged staff to not indicate the student’s eligibility, or program assignment, but to look at the students progress and how it linked to the Illinois Learning Standards.

Mr. Gidwitz stated that the NCLB requires states to test reading and writing in grades three through eight.

Superintendent Schiller asked Dr. Harvey Smith, Sue Ireland, Susan Shea, IEA; Laura Arterburn, Legislative Director, IL Federation of Teachers; and Richard Laine, Illinois Business Roundtable, to present to the Board. He stated that its members unanimously endorsed the recommended motions.

Ms. Lieberman gave the following recommendations in order to meet the NCL by changing/filling in

- Grades 4, 6, & 7- Reading and Math
- Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 & 11 - Writing continued (not required in NCLB, but is in the IL Learning Standard
- Science – remain the same as now
- Grades 5, 8 Social Sciences - along with fine arts, physical development and health – IL Learning Standards
- Voluntary – Explore, Plan, and Writing

Dr. Schiller said we wanted to add a writing diagnostic in the Fall of the 10th grade so there will be at least a 12-month lead time in order to study this achievement prior to the written testing in the 11th grade.

- State Paid – supplemental to what the State currently funds.

It was noted that these recommendations would now have to be passed through the Legislature.
Mr. Gidwitz said that one of the more difficult issues to deal with as a Board and for schools was how to define and get to a level of annual yearly progress.

Superintendent Schiller said the report had to be submitted to the United States Department of Education detailing our systems.

Ms. Lynne Haeffele-Curry gave a PowerPoint presentation which explained the requirements and a model of adequate yearly progress.

Superintendent Schiller said that there were members of the Task Force who did not agree with the recommendation but looked at an alternative model. Mr. Schiller asked them to explain. Ms. Arterburn explained the alternative model.

Mr. Laine said he would ask the Task Force to reconsider their recommendations.

Mr. Gidwitz would like to send it back to committee to work out the details and bring it back to the Board at the January meeting.

Mr. Sandsmark recommended the Board set aside more time to discuss this at the next meeting. He felt it was too important an issue to not discuss further. Mr. Gidwitz encouraged Dr. Schiller to invite the Task Force members back for this continued discussion.

Mr. Gidwitz introduced the topic and turned it over to Superintendent Schiller.

Dr. Schiller summarized the topic. He stated they have tried to characterize in the Report where Illinois stands in terms of achievement, and to identify our challenges-linked data to see financially what would be needed to meet future needs and challenges. He stated they want to present this for the Board’s consideration so they may give ultimate direction, and discuss what it would take to maintain the status quo.

Mr. David Wood, Director of Operations, gave a financial overview of this report. He stated that a January 7, 2003 Special Board meeting would be held to discuss the budget and this report.
Mr. Gidwitz stated that he wanted current Board members, Connie Rogers, Marilyn McConachie and Vince Serritella to be present for this discussion before they leave the Board on January 8, 2003.

Finance & Audit Issues
Mr. Gidwitz recommended that the Finance and Audit Issues agenda item be held over until Thursday because of the late hour.

Closed Session Motion
Mr. Gidwitz also asked if there was a need for a closed session. The Board decided on an 8:00 a.m. Closed Session on Thursday.

Mrs. Rogers moved that the Board 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.

She further moved that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed.

Ms. Marjorie Branch 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.

Chairman Gidwitz – yes     Marilyn McConachie – yes     Connie Rogers – yes
Marjorie Branch – yes     Judy Gold – yes            Dick Sandsmark – yes
Vince Serritella – absent Beverly Turkal – yes
Reconvene  The public General meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2002.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Ms. Markko to call the roll

Members Present:

Marjorie Branch  Ron Gidwitz  Judith Gold  Marilyn McConachie
Connie Rogers  Richard Sandsmark  Janet Steiner
Beverly Turkal

Members Absent:

Vince Serritella

Governmental Affairs Issues
Mr. Gidwitz asked David Wood to give his report and updates. He brought up the topic of Agency administration.

Mr. Wood said the piechart he distributed breaks down the agency operation. He then talked about the Barbour, Griffith, and Rogers Contract renewal. He stated that the agency would be paying approximately $75,000 less this time due to negotiations with the firm.

A list was attached of official Early Retirement Initiative individuals. Dr. Schiller said about 13% of the entire agency has announced early retirement, and they were expecting that to grow before the deadline of December 31, 2002.

Mr. Clay Slagle, Assistant to the Superintendent, gave an update on the status and most recent steps taken with regard to the Deloitte and Touche Report. He gave the number of performance measures and position profiles that were completed and stated that all would be completed by the end of January, 2003. He also reported that the agency e-grant system project was on line with a Spring, 2003 implementation date. He noted that in the area of sourcing and procurement, the agency has completed two internal reviews of the printing and vehicle costs, and now are waiting for an external review of the agency’s determinations. With regard to ISBE and ROE collaboration, Mr. Slagle stated the
agency has three on-going projects, and was working on strengthening their relationships and using resources more effectively. In the area of Data management, the RFPs regarding the Data Warehouse and the Student Information System were scheduled for release by December 31, 2002. He reported that the agency was proceeding on time in all areas.

Mr. Peter Leonis gave a report on State and Federal legislative affairs. Mr. Gidwitz commended Peter and David Wood for their great work on Hazel Crest.

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

The Vice-Chair, Ms. Marilyn McConachie, adjourned the meeting in Chairman Gidwitz’ absence.

Respectfully submitted,

__________________________________________

Connie Rogers, Secretary

__________________________________________

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman