Governmental Relations Committee
Thursday, April 20, 2006
8:30 a.m.

Board Conference Room, 4th Floor
100 N. First Street
Springfield, IL

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (listen only)
Confirmation # 1 4 3 9 3 5 7 8

AGENDA

1. Public Participation

2. Minutes of the March Governmental Relations Committee Meeting (pp. 2 – 4)

3. Legislation that Passed Both Houses (Nicole Wills & Josh Jacobs)
   a. SBE Legislation (p. 5)
   b. General Assembly Legislation (p. 6)

4. Additional Items

5. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
March 15, 2006
Springfield, Illinois

Committee Members Present
Brenda Holmes, Chair
Chris Ward
Jesse Ruiz
Dean Clark

Other Board Members
N/A

Staff Present
Randy Dunn
Jon Furr
Nicole Wills
Josh Jacobs
DeJuan Kea
Ronny Wickenhauser

Others Present
Elliot Regenstein, Governor’s Office

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
   There was no public participation

2. Information Item
   Committee members agreed that technical changes would be made to the February Governmental
   Relations Committee notes and that the amended notes would be entered into the record as
   corrected.

3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

   ISBE Board and Agency Legislation
   - SB 2829 (Less Red Tape) – This legislation is currently in the House Rules Committee and had
     three sponsors at the time of the Governmental Relations Committee meeting (Representatives
     Lang, Giles and Eddy).
   - SB 2796 (Due Process Legislation) This legislation was assigned to the House Executive
     Committee and ISBE staff is currently working to address some of the comments and concerns
     from the Speaker’s staff. The Board will be updated as more information becomes available.
   - SB 2336 (School Breakfast clean-up) - It has been assigned to the House Elementary and
     Secondary Education Committee. It was not called Wednesday morning during the committee,
     but staff expect the legislation to go next week. Representative Susana Mendoza is sponsoring
     the legislation.
   - HB 5550 (Textbook Bonding). This legislation is in the Senate Rules Committee and the sponsor
     is Senator Kimberly Lightford.

   Other Legislation:
   - HB 2012 – This legislation only became active in early March. It was previously a shell bill, but an
     amendment placed on it two weeks ago caused staff concern. However, the amendment was
     never adopted because the language did not meet the sponsor’s intent for the legislation.
     Representative Soto’s intent is to craft legislation regarding public notification for school closures
     in District 299. An amendment was later adopted on the House floor which meets the sponsor’s
     intent. It passed out of the House 112-7-2. This legislation does not effect agency operations. It
     is currently in the Senate Rules committee and Senator del Valle has picked it up. In response to
     a question by Dean Clark, staff stated that because CPS and other opponents of the legislation
     were unable to present in opposition to the bill during the House side of the debate, the legislation
     will probably face much more contention in the Senate. Brenda Holmes stated that the press on
     the issue has been very negative.
• HB 2734 – This legislation places a maximum rate on legal line rates for newspaper publications. This legislation would create a maximum rate charge for publications for all public bodies. Brenda Holmes asked if SB 2734 was the only bill to deal with the Statement of Affairs. Jon Furr stated that the Less Red Tape legislation (SB 2829) still contains the agreed upon resolution to require a publication, but it is greatly reduced and is modeled on publications for municipalities.

• HB 4365 – This legislation would allow cooperative high schools to receive incentive monies like other reorganizations. This legislation passed the House and has been picked up by Senator Haine. Jon clarified that cooperative high schools are not impacted by SB 2795 (reorganization/consolidation legislation), but that HB 4365, if passed, would allow cooperative high schools to receive incentive monies.

• HB 4832 (Community Education Act) This legislation was heard before the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday, March 14th and passed the committee unanimously.

• HB 4986 – This legislation amends the agricultural section of the School Code by placing boundaries on those programs that are eligible to receive grant funds. It passed out of the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday.

• HB 5244 establishes the I-Connect Computer program initiated by the Lt. Governor’s Office. This bill passed the House and has been picked up by Senator Collins. It has yet to be released from Senate Rules, but will likely go to the Senate Education committee if released. Brenda Holmes asked if there was still an opportunity to refine the bill. Staff responded that with the basic goals and parameters that the Lt. Governor’s Office set for the intent of the legislation, the legislation is as refined as it is going to be.

• HB 5370 – This legislation changes the waiver process for the General Assembly, but not the Board’s action. This bill would also require the waiver resolution to start in alternating chambers every year. HB 5370 passed the Senate Education committee on a partisan roll call.

• HB 5416 – This legislation follows up on the taskforce that was formed last year by SB 383 to review the rules that need to be promulgated for school inspections.

• HB 4735 – This legislation would affect General State Aid for the Huntley School District. The Superintendent and Josh recently met with Senator Althoff to discuss possible middle ground. The Superintendent stated that if ISBE were to remove its opposition, the legislation would have to be so narrowly defined as to not open the floodgates for other instances.

• SB 2670 – There are ongoing discussions on this legislation. The legislation is still on third reading in the Senate. ISBE is comfortable with the language, but concerns exist with other parties. Jon Furr clarified that under current law, a student can be a resident of the district while living with someone who is not a parent or guardian – the proposed legislation did not change that provision. Because SB 2670 did not meet the deadline to pass from the chamber of origin, it is our understanding that the group was going to attempt to amend the language onto SB 850 so that it can continue moving.

• SB 860 – As mentioned during the February committee meeting, the SAELP initiative, which was formerly SB 2825, did not pass out of committee on time, so the language has been amended onto SB 860. This legislation passed the Senate and is currently in the House Education Committee.
• SB 2795 (Reorganization legislation). This legislation passed the Senate unanimously. It has been picked up by Representative Smith in the House and Elliot Regenstein from the Governor’s Office stated that he believes Representatives Mitchell and Eddy will also be signing onto the bill as co-sponsors. Discussions have carried on with the Speaker’s staff and House Republican staff.

• HR 905 – This resolution establishes a taskforce to look at the way Truant’s Alternative programs are funded. This resolution passed 112-8.

• HJR 87 – Since this resolution is a joint resolution, it must be passed by both the House and the Senate. This resolution would create a taskforce to look at re-enrolling students who have dropped out of school. ISBE will be in charge of coordinating the taskforce.

• HB 4864 – This legislation changes the criteria by which a school district or school can be placed on the academic early warning status or academic watch status, by expanding on the provisions established under HB 3678 from last year (PA 94-666). Jon Furr questioned whether or not this legislation would be moving. Staff stated that it seems to be moving, but the language still contains the provisions “unless federally disapproved”.

4. STATE BOARD LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION
Board members received a list of all legislators that attended the breakfast from Chairwoman Holmes. Dean Clark suggested that perhaps the Board consider inviting staff members who work directly with individual legislator’s to any future events. Chris Ward suggested looking at another opportunity to have an event and invite legislators and staff as well as the possibility of Board members attending legislative committees in order to make the Board presence more well-known.

5. ADJOURN: Committee adjourned at 2:04 p.m.
TO: Governmental Relations Committee

FROM: Nicole Wills, Governmental Relations Staff
Josh Jacobs, Governmental Relations Staff

Agenda Topic: ISBE Legislative Proposals

Materials: Materials not available at the time of print. They will be provided prior to the Board meeting.

Staff Contacts: Nicole Wills, Liaison, Governmental Relations Division
Josh Jacobs, Liaison, Governmental Relations Division

Purpose (s) of Agenda Item
To inform Board members about the status of ISBE legislative proposals.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
This item is for discussion purposes only.

Next Steps:
No action will be required of the Board at this time.
TO: Governmental Relations Committee

FROM: Nicole Wills, Governmental Relations Staff
      Josh Jacobs, Governmental Relations Staff

Agenda Topic: General Assembly Legislation

Materials: Materials not available at the time of print. They will be provided prior to the Board meeting.

Staff Contacts: Nicole Wills, Liaison, Governmental Relations Division
                Josh Jacobs, Liaison, Governmental Relations Division

Purpose (s) of Agenda Item
To inform Board members about the status of education-related legislation introduced by members of the General Assembly.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
This item is for discussion purposes only.

Next Steps:
No action will be required of the Board at this time.