AGENDA

1 Public Participation

*2. Discussion Items
   a. Minutes of the January Board Operations Committee Meeting (pp. 2-4)
   b. Review New Nominations for Resolutions of Recognition (Chris Ward) (p. 5)
   c. Strategic Plan Quarterly Update (p. 6)
   d. Status of Emerging Issues
      1) Increasing High School Student Performance in Literacy and Numeracy (p. 7)
         (Mark Williams, Becky McCabe, Dana Kinley)
      2) School Restructuring due to NCLB and Corrective Action Against Chronically Dysfunctional Districts (Jon Furr, Ginger Reynolds)

3. Decision Items

4. Additional Items

5. Adjourn

* At the conclusion of any discussion item in which the committee is ready to make a decision, a discussion item may be immediately moved for a decision.

** Items listed with a double asterisk (**) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.
1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Chairman Chris Ward asked if there was anyone that wished to speak to the committee for public participation. No one came forward.

2.a. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Vinni Hall moved that the minutes of the Board Operations Committee for the December committee meeting be approved. Dave Fields seconded the motion and it passed with voice vote approval.

2.b. **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Dr. Ward indicated that there are two nominations for Board recognition before the committee today. Tracie Tobin, Culinary Arts Instructor at Wilco Career Center in Romeoville and Jaclyn Keeney, a student at Milton Pope School in Marseilles. Dr. Dave Fields moved that the two nominations be recommended for Board approval at the February Board meeting. Dr. Vinni Hall seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

Dr. Hall mentioned that she will be making a formal presentation to Sharon Coleman at a teacher institute at Corliss High School. Ms. Coleman is very appreciative of this recognition.

2.c. **EMERGING ISSUES**

**Increasing High School Student Performance in Literacy & Numeracy**

Dr. Ward reviewed that the Board had agreed that the Board would partner their work with that of the agency staff and the education community.

Becky McCabe gave an overview of the preliminary planning for a statewide conference to focus on High Schools. The dates that have been set are June 19th & 20th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Sponsoring organizations will be ISBE, IPA, LUDA, IASA, IASB, IEA, IFT, and North Central Association. Tentative business support may come from Princeton Review, ACT, and State Farm.

Dr. Vinni Hall suggested that the State Board’s Student Advisory Council be involved in this study as well.

Highlights of the conference:

- Tentative presenters: Katy Haycock, Richard Elmore, Bill Daggett, Ed Rust
- Breakout sessions
- Panel wrap-up
- Tour of Mitsubishi plant
The intent of the conference is twofold:

1. To provide the board view of high school issues – global and statewide, to create thought-provoking questions which will encourage high school administrators and teachers to consider changes and challenges that need to be addressed in their local situations.

2. To spark interest in workshops to be held throughout the year. The workshops will be set up regionally for teams of high school administrators and teachers. They will be designed to use data from the PSAE to inform and then address the instructional, leadership and system challenges at a more intense and local level. This workshop approach will be based on best practices for a professional development structure.

Dr. Vinni Hall suggested that one of the breakout sessions be on “Best Practices.” Dr. Dave Fields indicated there are two exceptional reports by The Education Trust on successful high schools that are thriving under the most adverse conditions. It would do us all well to read those two reports.

Dr. Andrea Brown indicated that we need to make sure that the RESPROs get into those schools. We have to ask ourselves if we have implemented intervention at the status schools. We, as a State Board, need to make sure that they are aware of the interventions that are available to them. If we don’t do that, we are as much to blame as they are.

Dr. Hall suggested that in the meetings, instead of being talked at, the team is given a case model and the team has to come up with solutions. Ms. Brenda Holmes wondered if there might be an opportunity for us to reinforce what sorts of grants/opportunities or assistance is available to them. No matter how many times we mention that there may be one entity that hasn’t heard of this particular opportunity.

Superintendent Dunn commented that perhaps the speakers set the stage for the discussion and problem solving that will be carried out in the break-out sessions. Many of us have heard what these experts have been saying, but perhaps we let them set the stage and then work with our teams to apply that information to our case models.

Dr. Dave Fields suggested that there could be an opportunity for looking at this from a systems approach as well. The strength of a high school comes from the elementary and middle schools that feed the students into the high school. When you have an exemplary high school, it is important to look at what is happening before those kids get to there.

Dr. Hall also suggested that if there is going to be some sort of work product distributed at the conference, that we ask for outside input as to what interventions are working across the state, so that we can share that information at this conference. An outreach such as this would promote a buy-in of the importance of this topic.

Dr. Chris Ward indicated that, time permitting, the committee will pick up on this topic again next month. He asked that members focus on the Board perspective and think about what involvement members want to make in this process.

**School Restructuring & District Corrective Action**

Mr. Ed Geppert commented that Dr. Hall asked Assistant Superintendent Ginger Reynolds to compile a compilation of rules on accountability and restructuring plans. Now that the Finance & Audit Committee has moved past the budget production process, we can figure out where we want to start. Dr. Andrea Brown mentioned that the members realize that schools are already down the road on the restructuring process. Superintendent Dunn indicated that although there is a tentative process given to districts to work from, staff realize that it may not be the most optimal of all plans. Over the next year, the Board and interest groups can give some guidance to staff as to how to move forward.

Dr. Ginger Reynolds suggested a conference call between Mr. Geppert, General Counsel Jon Furr and herself to discuss what has been given to districts and where to go from here. Mr. Geppert indicated that he would like for that call to take place the week of January 23, as he will be out of town following that week.
2.d. **BOARD RETREAT PLANNING**
Joyce Karon discussed with members some suggestions on locations. Ms. Karon suggested a central Illinois location so that staff involved for one-day could travel back and forth within a day and eliminate overnight expenses and the time expenditure for staff.

Board members agreed that Bloomington would be a convenient location. Joyce Karon and Jean Ladage would secure a site, and would ensure that cell phone service is available.

Board members agreed that they would prefer two good days of work, coming in on Wednesday evening for a dinner together and begin working from 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. on both Thursday and Friday. It was agreed that the retreat would adjourn by 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

It was determined that the dates are tentatively set for August 24-25, 2006 (with Board members arriving the evening of Wednesday, August 23).

Dr. Ward also reminded Board members to review the evaluation forms for any suggestions for revision.

3. **DECISION ITEMS**
Some decisions have been made during this committee meeting, and they were acted upon during discussion.

4. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

*Election of Officers*
Committee Chair Chris Ward commented that he reviewed SB 3000 regarding election of officers. The law indicates that in February of odd-numbered years the Board is to elect officers. Dr. Ward reminded members that this new Board was appointed in the fall of 2004 and elected officers in October 2004. The next opportunity for an election of officers came around only 4 months later. Dr. Ward just wanted to make members aware that the next opportunity for an election of new officers will not be until February 2007. Board members agreed that this was not a problem.

5. **ADJOURN:** Dr. Vinni Hall moved that the committee be adjourned. Joyce Karon seconded the motion and the Board Operations Committee meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.
TO:        Board Operations Committee  
Illinois State Board of Education

FROM:    Chris Ward, Chairman Board Operations Committee  
Jean Ladage, Board Services Coordinator

Agenda Topic: Review Resolutions for Board Recognition

Purpose of Agenda Item
To review incoming nominations received since the last Board meeting. Nomination materials that are received will be sent to Board members prior to the meeting.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan
The State Board’s Recognition Program was developed to show the Board’s support for the outstanding work of educators and school boards that are serving all children in this state.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
Recommendation of Board action.

Background Information
In May, 2005, the Board initiated a Board Recognition Program to become more proactive in its efforts to recognize the exemplary achievements of students, teachers, school administrators, and local board members in Illinois. These achievements are such that they truly stand out from the ordinary. Upon review and acceptance, the State Board of Education will pass a resolution describing the particulars of the achievement. The signed resolutions will be presented in one of the following three ways:

- mailed to the recipient(s);
- personally awarded to the individual(s) at their respective school(s); or
- presented to recipient(s) during the State Board meeting at which their resolution is approved

Superintendent’s Recommendation
No recommendation from the Superintendent.

Next Steps
Board Operations Committee will review the nominations received and make a recommendation based on that review.
TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Randy J. Dunn, State Superintendent of Education

Agenda Topic: Discussion Item: Strategic Plan

Materials: Distributed at January meeting

Staff Contact(s): Randy J. Dunn
Rebecca Watts

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of this agenda item is to continue Board discussion and oversight on the strategic plan required by PA 93-1036.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
It is expected that the Board will monitor progress toward priority goal areas and processes.

Background Information
The State Board of Education, pursuant to PA 93-1036 developed a continuing 5-year comprehensive strategic plan for elementary and secondary education.

The Board had previously requested quarterly updates on progress toward plan implementation.

Superintendent’s Recommendation
None needed at this time.

Next Steps
Communicate on progress of plan to statewide constituencies and prepare for initiation of Phase II initiatives on March 1, 2006.
TO: Board Operations Committee of the Whole

FROM: Dr. Ginger Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
Becky McCabe, Division Administrator for Student Assessment
Mark Williams, Division Administrator for Career Development & Preparation

Agenda Topic: Emerging Issue: Increasing High School Student Performance in Literacy and Numeracy

Materials: To be forwarded to the Board in advance of the Board meeting

Staff Contact(s): Ginger Reynolds, Mark Williams, Dana Kinley, and Becky McCabe

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of this agenda item is twofold:

1) To brief the Board about the upcoming high school conference titled “The High School Challenge: Rigor and Relevance Meet Reality,” planned for June 19 and 20 in Bloomington and to discuss possible resources available to assist schools in the follow up professional development work planned for high school teams.

2) To begin a discussion about the Board’s identified Emerging Issue of high school reform. Before the Board meeting, staff will distribute a document for discussion which will outline the current national movement and activities in Illinois regarding high school achievement.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan
This agenda item relates to one of the Board’s two identified Emerging Issues.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
It is expected that the Committee will direct the next steps for the conference and follow up professional development, as well as direct staff about the future direction for this emerging issue.
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 22, 2006

TO: Board Operations Committee of the Whole
FROM: Jonathon Furr, General Counsel
        Ginger Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning

Agenda Topic: Emerging Issue: Restructuring and Corrective Action

Materials: Staff will forward materials to the Board in advance of the Board meeting.

Staff Contact(s): Ginger Reynolds, Jon Furr

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of this agenda item is to brief the Board about the authority and resources available to assist schools in restructuring and districts in corrective action. Staff will prepare a second document for the March Board meeting which will outline research and best practices regarding restructuring and corrective action.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan
This agenda item relates to one of the Board’s two identified Emerging Issues.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
It is expected that the Committee of the Whole will use the forthcoming document to begin to define the agency’s approach to restructuring and corrective action. This conversation also will inform staff’s work on the related document in preparation for the March Board meeting.