AGENDA

1. Public Participation

*2. Discussion Items
   a. Minutes of the February Board Operations Committee Meeting (pp. 2-5)
   b. Review New Nominations for Resolutions of Recognition (Chris Ward)
      1) Art Education Resolution (pp. 6-7)
   c. Board Retreat Planning (Joyce Karon) (p. 8)

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. **Mr. Lonnie Johns** asked to be heard on the topic of Board decision-making.

2.a. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**
Joyce Karon 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. **REVIEW NEW NOMINATIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION.** There were no new nominations for recognition.

2.c. **STRATEGIC PLAN** – This issue was tabled until Superintendent was able to join the committee meeting.

2.d. **EMERGING ISSUES**

**Increasing High School Student Performance in Literacy & Numeracy**
Becky McCabe, Mark Williams and Dana Kinley gave the Board an overview of the briefing paper for this topic.

Dr. Chris Ward asked Dr. Dunn and staff to let Board members know if their discussion gets out ahead of what the agency’s capacity is. He asked staff to share their best thinking of the conference.

- Kick-Off Conference scheduled for June 19 & 20 in Bloomington, titled “The High School Challenge: Rigor, and Relevance Meet Reality.” A notice has been mailed to high schools.
- Scheduled feature speakers include the following:
  - Monday 2-hr keynote: Dr. Willard R. Daggett, President International Center for Leadership in Education
  - Lunch speaker: Ed Rust, Chairman and CEO of State Farm
  - Dr. Daggett – table groups
  - Afternoon - PSAE & how it impacts schools
  - End the day: Illinois Interactive Report Card
  - Social Hour – provided by vendors
  - Tuesday - Senator Obama and Secretary Spellings (HQ teachers or HS issues)
  - Keynote Kati Haycock, Director, Education Trust
  - Afternoon – Ralph Martiere – Making sure kids are ready for the workforce
  - End the day - Panel discussion (IL professional organizations)– what does this mean for Illinois?

- Staff project four follow-up meetings to be hosted regionally throughout the state
- Donations from business partners. Planning on 200 people at $165 for registration
Suggestions/Comments:

Other speakers mentioned for consideration were Grant Wiggins, Carol Ann Tomlinson and Jay McTighe. Additionally, a topic that shouldn’t be ignored is the violence in high schools. Consideration should be given in regards to including issues of physical assaults, bullying, drugs, depression, etc.

It was suggested that the conference be videotaped to be shared with others.

It was also suggested that the briefing paper be made available as soon as possible to jumpstart the discussion in the field. The briefing paper should also be shared with the speakers. Speakers should be asked to tailor their comments to reflect how Illinois practitioners can use the information when they return to their home districts, think about how they can bring about systemic change that will improve student achievement.

Daggett could have a worksheet for attendees summarizing what they heard from him and have an area on the worksheet for them to list what they will do with that information when they get back.

The purpose of the conference is not to provide answers for individual teachers -- but for systems analysis. The timing of this conference may be the agency’s best ally in encouraging practitioners to explore real systems change. It will hopefully explore how leaders and educators can merge best practices, skills and knowledge to bring about systemic change. However, presenters should link what they talk about to the next step – implementation at Illinois high schools. This will be an opportunity for practitioners from across the state to hear from national-level speakers at a very reasonable expense, and to walk away from the conference with a common language. The fact that there is a “changing of the guard” in that many administrators and teachers are retiring, will allow fresh ideas to emerge. High schools are feeling the pressure and the State of Illinois now has a state agency that is willing to respond with assistance, not merely regulation.

The poorest districts (schools on status) are the ones that need to attend. Staff will explore possibilities for allowing representatives of those districts to attend at no charge. It is imperative that the achievement gap not get bigger. The State Board and the agency need to be aggressive. The briefing paper addresses issues, but the Board and agency need to act. The students that are in high school are there now. The data gives the evidence to the urgency of the issue.

Board members understand that the kind of change we’re talking about will take five years at best. It will require gentle pressure relentlessly applied. Dr. Dunn mentioned that he plans to use his time during this conference to convince attendees that Illinois truly does have a crisis in educating at the high school level. Illinois needs to do something different.

Regional Follow-up

- Regional follow-up should include a focus on the PSAE, which is our data base for measuring Illinois goals and benchmarks. There is a critical need to emphasize the importance of the PSAE exam. Unless it is important to the institution, school and student, the data will never be valid.

- As the regional meetings get underway and best practices are shared, it will be important to quickly tie those best practices to a curricular area. What are the system changes that will have to change in my district to make that occur?

Financial Commitment

- Staff requested guidance from the Board regarding how far they will be allowed go with the regional meetings. How much funding can be dedicated to the regional meetings/coaches/implementation?

- Staff also commented that it is a pleasure to work with Board members who know and have lived education.
STRATEGIC PLAN

Superintendent Dunn distributed copies of the Strategic Plan Quarterly Update that the Board members received in January.

Mr. Geppert asked Dr. Dunn if there were any areas of the Plan that need to be scaled back due to agency capacity, or any areas in which the Board should apply more attention.

Dr. Dunn indicated that the biggest concern is in the area of Early Childhood. With the increases seen in the last three years there is additional work. That is compounded now with the Preschool For All proposal that is being proposed. Dr. Dunn asked Kay Henderson to join the Board in the discussion around the proposed program. Ms. Henderson explained the bottom line difference in Preschool For All and the program that is currently in place is that the proposed plan drops the screening for four-year olds.

It was suggested that Superintendent Dunn plan meetings with key members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee to ensure they understand the purpose behind the line item for the Strategic Plan. SB 3000 was passed with bi-partisan support. That legislation required the State Board of Education to adopt and implement a Strategic Plan. The Superintendent and Board members should also make a special effort to make the education community aware of the purpose for that line item.

School Restructuring, District Corrective Action, and Chronically Dysfunctional Districts

General Counsel Jon Furr encouraged the Board to make a concerted effort, as this paper is discussed, to think of the three areas as three very distinct issues. The approach that will be taken with each of these issues will be very different.

- School Restructuring
- District Corrective Action
- Systemically Noncompliant Districts

Likewise, it was suggested that as discussion continues, staff make a clear distinction between action the agency is able to take, and when there is a need for State Board members to take action.

Superintendent Dunn commented that the Board and the agency will have tremendous latitude to act when it is determined that action is to be taken on these districts. Under NCLB the state education agency will have to be able to assist school districts to improve, regardless of the district’s official status.

In order for the agency to assist schools to improve, the schools need the tools to reach high expectations. Assistance should be targeted to where the problems are in that district.

When the results are release for the next round of testing, we will have a whole new group of SOS schools. They should know the situation and we should be able to fully address any questions. In individual Board members’ conversations or appearances with public constituents, it should be noted that the numbers are going to grow.

Mr. Furr again emphasized the need to keep the three issues distinct. There are over 200 schools in the restructuring planning process now. NCLB corrective action is another entirely different issue. Corrective action for systemically noncompliant districts is the third issue.

Board members asked for detailed information about schools on the Academic Watch List. Among the information members requested are what the issues are and what the districts have done, the length of time on the watch list. That information should be similar to what we’re getting for school districts in Financial Difficulty. When the time comes that the Board members need to step in, we want to see the details and be able to make an informed decision.
It would be helpful if members could re-examine the list that Myron Mason provided last Spring which included the districts that were on Academic Watch and Academic Warning. Perhaps there is a way to find out what the RESPROs have done and if and what the districts took advantage of.

In regards to systemically noncompliant districts, are there problems in specific areas of the state? Are there commonalities? What services have they been offered and have they attempted to correct any or all of there problems?

Staff requested clarification on the list of 200 districts in corrective action. Is the Board requesting that detailed information on each of those schools? Schools in Restructuring have a variety of different things happening in each of those 200 schools. Then there are districts not meeting federal regulations/ AYP for a myriad of reasons. Finally, what we are referring to as the “systemically noncompliant” are districts in which the agency has seen many problems across agency departments.

Superintendent Dunn indicated that he and Dr. Reynolds would discuss with Myron Mason what information is feasible and would get information to the Board before the next meeting. Obviously all of the detail requested will not be ready before the next meeting, but staff will do their best to provide some information.

Next month

Board Operations Committee of the Whole will again revisit both issues.

Board members would like to be able to see additional information as well as any new draft of the issue papers before the next meeting.

- Notebooks each issue
- Worksheet for each distinct issue – Potential action (mild/moderate/severe) by the state agency
- Examples, without district names & numbers with issues seen across the agency

Additional Items

Dr. Vinni Hall mentioned the display in the back of the Board Room commemorating Black History Month. Chairman Ruiz & Dr. Hall will be at the Chicago Office on Monday, February 27 for a special celebration. Dr. Dunn thanked Don Evans, Becky Watts and Cleo Boswell for working on this celebration.

Ms. Joyce Karon moved to adjourn the committee meeting. Mr. Jesse Ruiz seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 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.
RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING ASTRI SNODGRASS

Whereas, GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH of the State of Illinois has proclaimed March 13-19, 2006, as ILLINOIS ARTS EDUCATION WEEK and encourages all citizens to celebrate the arts with meaningful student activities and programs that demonstrate learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts; and

Whereas, ASTRI SNODGRASS from St. Charles East High School, St. Charles, Illinois, received first place from almost 200 entries in a poster contest sponsored by the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education in conjunction with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Governor’s Office; and

Whereas, ASTRI SNODGRASS’ poster reflected the importance of the various genres which comprise Illinois arts education, including dance, drama, music and visual arts; and

Whereas, ART INSTRUCTOR NATHAN SHACKELFORD has aided and guided ASTRI in her successes as a sophomore art student; and

Whereas, PRINCIPAL ROBERT MILLER, SUPERINTENDENT DR. BARBARA ERWIN, and the ST. CHARLES CUSD #303 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION recognize the value of the arts for all students to assure the development of self-expression, discipline and a heightened appreciation of beauty and cross-cultural understanding.

Therefore be it Resolved by the ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION that ASTRI SNODGRASS is hereby recognized on this 16th day of March, 2006, for the outstanding design concept reflected in her poster submitted in the 2006 “Creating Understanding through the Arts” contest.

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Jesse H. Ruiz, Chairman

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Christopher J. Ward, Vice Chairman

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Vinni M. Hall, Secretary

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Andrea S. Brown, Member

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Dean E. Clark, Member

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David L. Fields, Member

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Edward J. Geppert, Jr., Member

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Brenda J. Holmes, Member

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Joyce E. Karon, Member
TO: Board Operations Committee  
Illinois State Board of Education  

FROM: Joyce Karon, State Board of Education Member  
Jean Ladage, Board Services Coordinator  

Agenda Topic: 2006 Board Retreat  

Purpose of Agenda Item  
The purpose of this agenda item is to review preliminary plans for the 2006 Board retreat.  

Arrangements have been made for the retreat to be held at the Bloomington Doubletree hotel on August 23-25, 2006.  

Proposed work schedule:  
August 23 – begin working at 10:00 a.m. (to allow travel time that morning)  
August 24 – full working day  
August 25 – adjourn just before or just after lunch