Board Operations Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 19, 2005  
10:00 a.m.  

Room 306, Vermilion Hall  
Danville Area Community College  
2000 East Main Street, Danville, Illinois  

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (listen only)  
Confirmation # 1 2 9 3 5 6 3 2  

AGENDA  
1. Public Participation  
2. Discussion Items  
   a. Minutes of the September Board Operations Committee Meeting (pp. 2-3)  
   b. Incoming Nominations for Board Recognition (Chris Ward) (p. 4)  
   c. Board Processing of Emerging Issues (pp. 5-6)  
   **d. Discussion of Possible Changes to Board Schedule of Meetings (pp. 118-119 Plenary Packet)  
      i. December 2005 (Jesse Ruiz)  
         1) December 14 Committee Meetings at James R. Thompson Center, Chicago  
         2) December 15 Board Plenary Session at Mexican Fine Arts Center, Chicago  
      ii. June 2006 meeting The College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn (Dean Clark)  
      iii. October 2006 Lockport Township H.S., Lockport (Chris Ward)  
   e. Discussion of Structure & Purpose of Committee Meetings (p. 7) (Chris Ward)  
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 will 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. **NASBE BYLAWS**
The Board Operations Committee will recommend approval of the proposed changes to NASBE Bylaws.

2b. **POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO STATE BOARD CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

   **February 2006** – After discussion, it was determined that the Board will wait until the legislative calendar is released. The Board would like to have the February Board meeting the week following the NCLB Conference, so that members can hear what came out of the conference. That would mean that the Board meeting may be scheduled for February 22-23 in Springfield.

   **June 2006** – There were suggestions of College of DuPage, Rockford, Belvidere, Moline, Galena. After discussion, it was determined that the College of DuPage (425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn) would be an excellent location. Dean Clark will discuss the options with the college and work with Jean Ladage for coordination of facilities.

   **October 2006** – Chairman Ward indicated that he had spoken to Lockport S.D. officials and they are very willing to host a meeting. He said that the floor is open for other locations. Vinni Hall emphasized that the Board should consider locations where there are emerging issues; high growth districts, rural areas, school construction, etc. Dean Clark brought up the fact that we now have a Student Advisory Committee that represent 19 schools and perhaps the Board could meet at one of their schools. Lockport indicated they would be interested in hosting a dinner with local administrators to allow the Board the opportunity to exchange ideas.

   **Work Conference Retreat** – It was mentioned that we would also need to determine a location for the work conference retreat for 2006, so that would be another opportunity to get out a location that we’ve missed at one of these other meetings.

   **December 2005** – Chairman Ruiz indicated that he has made arrangements for the December Board meeting to be held at the Mexican Fine Arts Center & Museum at 1852 West 19th Street in Chicago. Right across the street is a public grammar school, and across the street the other way is a child care center that receives ISBE funding.

   **Discussion regarding locations for Board meetings:** Throughout the discussion of Board meetings in “other” locations, the following locations were suggestions: Huntley, Marengo, Carpentersville, Plainfield, Rockford, Belvidere, Moline, Galena. Committee Chairman Ward commented that when we go out into the state, there are added costs of travel for staff, and wondered if staff can be authorized to take a van or bus, to consolidate the travel expenses.
Joyce Karon emphasized that we need to be aware of staff time, loss of desk time that is involved in having meetings. Superintendent Dunn indicated that we would keep travel in mind when we are scheduling items for discussion for the October Board meeting.

Brenda Holmes asked the Board to think about how the purpose of these trips relate to the Strategic Plan. Andrea Brown and Jesse Ruiz responded that by getting into the communities, we should focus on the issues and make the linkage to the Strategic Plan.

2.c. RECURRING ANNUAL AGENDA ITEMS

Committee Chairman Chris Ward commented that this is a result of discussions from the Board retreat. This is a document that we can refer to and use to plan our Board meetings.

2.d. BOARD MATERIALS COVER MEMO

- Primary purpose of this memo is to give Board members an opportunity to review what the purpose of the agenda item is prior to the meeting, and what members need to be prepared to think about;
- Relationship to/implications for the Strategic Plan. (Add this as a portion of the memo.)
- The Board does not have to restrict itself to Strategic Plan issues.
  - The Board will receive quarterly updates and have an oversight responsibility.
  - By agency employees carrying out the Plan, it frees the Board up to do some delving into other policy issues;
- Staff is trying to transition into previewing materials a month prior to the need for a Board decision;
- Superintendent Dunn and staff will get information to the Board and will try as often as possible to avoid handing materials to them during a meeting. Bulk of materials will be received in the packet, but Board members want to receive updated information when it becomes available;
- Superintendent will push off the committee agendas that are ministerial in nature so that there is time during committees for the Board to discuss emerging issues;
- Board Operations phone call can be used to take a look at the committee agendas. Things may change on our approach to committees. There was initial discussion regarding the possibility of running committee meetings simultaneously. No definitive decision was reached on this topic.
- Important for committee schedules to allow for dialogue on emerging issues and to utilize the expertise of the Board;
- Minutes of committee meetings will be provided in the following month’s committee packet;
- Suggestion: One day per quarter in the Board’s calendar for the Board to have Policy Work/Study Sessions in which to tackle some of the emerging issues.

3. BOARD RECOGNITION RESOLUTIONS

It was agreed that each individual resolution would not be read, but approved as one action. The resolution for Richard Lessen would be read aloud and be separate action.

The incoming resolutions were approved for adoption at the October Board meeting.

4. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

It was agreed that a summary or minutes of committee meetings will be provided in the following month’s committee packet. During the plenary session immediately following the committee meetings, committee chairs can give a brief overview of the highlights of their meetings over that 2-day period.

5. ADJOURN: The Board Operations Committee meeting adjourned at 9:15 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: Board Operations Committee
Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Chris Ward, Chairman Board Operations Committee
Randy Dunn, State Superintendent of Education
Jean Ladage, Board Services Coordinator

Agenda Topic: Board Processing of Emerging Issues

Purpose of Agenda Item
This agenda item will allow for the Board to have discussions about the process by which it will take on emerging issues as they present themselves.

Relationship to / Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan
Certain of the emerging issues may ultimately impact revision of the Strategic Plan in the future—i.e., as various Plan initiatives get well underway or completed, such will provide organizational “bandwidth” to add work at the Agency around the emerging issues identified.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
The Board will determine a schedule for discussion of both the emerging issues relative to the Board’s Retreat, as well as those that the Superintendent submits.

Background Information
The Board discussed various emerging issues at its Board Retreat. Individual Board members may also be thinking about items that may be added to this list.

These emerging issues go beyond the more-discrete functional areas outlined by the Strategic Plan Goals (in Literacy, Educator Quality, and Data-Informed Practices)—and instead speak to broader problems and challenges to P-12 education in Illinois that will need to be addressed by building capacity across many functional areas.

- Funding
- High school reform
- Staff and administrators of color
- Overall student performance
- Relationships with regional agencies
- Wrap around services
- Consolidation
- Parental support
- Reshaping schools – use of co-curricular activities
- Support for students with abhorrent behavior
- Teacher Shortages

Committee Chairman Chris Ward had also asked the Superintendent to provide the Board with a list of Agency emerging issues which may require Board involvement.
Superintendent's Recommendation

There is no recommendation on action, per se. However, the Superintendent suggests the following issues that should be part of this dialogue and process-setting. These (to start) are listed below, and are made independent of reference to the NASBE report (which was not available at the time of this writing):

AGENCY EMERGING ISSUES

- What do we want school restructuring and district corrective action to “look like” under the NCLB requirements?
- What is needed in terms of high school reform and how do we go about achieving this as a state with widely varying capacity across districts?
- What is the next generation of e-learning and how does this impact our technology infrastructure, teaching and learning practices, method of funding, and demand for equal access to these approaches?
- How do we integrate compliance monitoring and oversight within our most chronically dysfunctional districts while differentiating oversight functions with districts which have a long record of full compliance?
- Can we and should we create an additional system to measure other indicators of school and district effectiveness beyond the test-driven measures required by NCLB?
- What are the ways to effect meaningful engagement between schools and their many communities and constituencies to create a true collaboration around all aspects of student learning, wellness, and development?
- How do we target grant and other reform initiatives so that they continue to fund schools that are achieving results while not discontinuing funding to those schools that need it most?

Next Steps

Once the Board sets its process for selecting issues, it will then need to determine the means for undertaking their review, analysis, and direction for action within the Agency.
TO: Board Operations Committee  
Illinois State Board of Education  

FROM: Chris Ward, Chairman Board Operations Committee  

Agenda Topic: Discussion of Structure & Purpose of Committee Meetings  

Purpose of Agenda Item  
This agenda item will allow the board to have discussion about the structure & purpose of its committee meetings.  

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan  
None.  

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item  
Board discussion.  

Background Information  
At the September Board Operations Committee meeting there was discussion of the pros and cons of holding our committee meetings simultaneously.  

Superintendent’s Recommendation  
No recommendation from the Superintendent.  

Next Steps  
To be determined.