NOTE: Staff presentations and detailed Board discussion typically take place during Committee meetings one month prior to State Board action in the plenary session.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

10:30 a.m. Board Operations Committee of the Whole
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 5

12:30 a.m. Finance and Audit Committee of the Whole
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 5

*1:00 p.m. Education Policy Planning Committee of the Whole
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 5

*2:30 p.m. Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 5

*3:30 p.m. Governmental Relations Committee of the Whole
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 5

* The meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.

Thursday, May 17, 2007

8:30 a.m. ISBE Plenary Session (Please note that the Plenary Business Meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m.)
Board Room, 4th Floor
1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 6

All State Board of Education meetings listed on this agenda will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the date prior to the meeting. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of Education, Phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 17-782-1900; Fax: 217-785-3972.
Plenary Business Meeting

A. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
   1. Consideration of and Possible Actions on Any Requests for Participation in Meeting by Other Means

B. Resolutions & Recognition

C. Public Participation

D. Student Advisory Council Report

E. Superintendent’s Report
   Phase I - Illinois College and Work Readiness Partnership

BREAK: Closed Session (over lunch)

E. Superintendent’s Report (continued) (pp. 4-6)
   * Consent Agenda
      All action consideration items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and vote. Any board member who wishes separate discussion on any item listed on the consent agenda may remove that item from the consent agenda, in which event, the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

Action Considerations

*1. Approval of Minutes: April 19, 2007 (pp. 7-16)

*2 Rules for Initial Review
   a. New Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting & Auditing (pp. 17-96)
   b. Proposed Amendment to Part 110 (Program Accounting Manual) (pp. 97-98)
   c. Proposed Amendment to Part 125 (Student Activity Funds and Convenience Accounts) (p. 99)

*3 Rules for Adoption
   a. Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) (pp. 100-117)
   b. Part 226 (Special Education) (tentative; materials to be sent under separate cover)
   c. Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings) (pp. 118-122)
   d. Part 485 (Appeal Proceedings Before the State Teacher Certification Board) (pp. 123-133)

*4. Contracts and Grants over $1 million
   a. Grow Your Own Contract (pp. 134-135)
   b. New Principal Mentoring Contract (pp. 136-137)
   c. Beginning Teacher Mentoring Grants (pp. 138-139)
   d. 21st Century Community Learning Center Continuation Grants over $1 million (pp. 140-141)

*5. 2008 Board Calendar (pp. 142-144)

*6. IMAGE Performance Descriptions (pp. 145-160)

(continued)
7. Recommendations from the Teacher Certification Board
   a. Program Approvals (pp. 161-162)
      1) National-Louis University: Social Sciences (Economics, Geography, History & Political Science)
   b. New Programs (pp. 163-167)
      1) Eureka College: Learning Behavior Specialist I
      2) Aurora University: Learning Behavior Specialist I
      3) Dominican University: Early Childhood Education Alternative Certification
      4) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Director of Special Education

8. Update List of SES Providers (pp. 168-170)

F. New Business

G. Announcements and Reports
   1. IBHE Liaison Report (Dr. Proshanta Nandi)
   2. Superintendent’s Announcements
   3. Chairman’s Report
   4. Committee Reports
   5. Member Reports

H. Information Items
   1. Rulemaking Monthly Status Report (pp. 171-173)
   2. SBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports (pp. 174-190)

I. Adjourn
**Illinois State Board of Education Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2007**  
**100 North First Street**  
**Springfield, Illinois**

| ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Jean Ladage, Assistant to the Board, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent of Education, was also in attendance.  
The Board members, Dr. Koch and anyone who wished to join them faced the American flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Chairman Ruiz announced that the Board meeting was being audio-cast live over the Internet. |
|---|---|
| Members Present: | Members Present:  
Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman  
Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman  
Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary  
Dr. Andrea Brown  
Mr. Dean Clark  
Dr. David Fields  
Mr. Edward Geppert, Jr.  
Ms. Brenda Holmes  
Ms. Joyce Karon |
| Members Absent: | Members Absent:  
None |
| RESOLUTIONS & RECOGNITION | Dr. David Fields moved that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution recognizing Ms. Martha Lindvahl for her outstanding dedication to education.  
Joyce Karon moved that the State Board of Education adopt the resolution recognizing Ms. Becky McCabe for her leadership and dedication to the field of education. Vinni Hall seconded both motions and they passed with a unanimous voice vote.  
Ms. McCabe stated that it had been a pleasure to work with the Board and staff at ISBE. She commented that she appreciated the State Board members’ experience in the field of education and the fact that members have always been very supportive of agency staff. Ms. McCabe thanked everyone and commented that she will always be supportive of the Agency.  
Dr. Koch thanked Becky McCabe for her efforts and wished her well in her new position in the DeKalb School District. |
| PUBLIC PARTICIPATION | Mr. Jay Runner, State Coordinator for Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) thanked the Board for their continued support of the agriculture education line item in the budget. Mr. Runner stated that it is because of ISBE’s continued support that the FCAE is able to enhance local programs that impact student success and career development. Mr. Runner introduced Mr. Richard Treat who reported on the Improving Agriculture Education Program Grants (IAEP). IAEP is one of the agricultural projects funded by the agricultural education line item. Mr. Treat commented that twenty IAEP grants were awarded and were classified in three divisions: Computer Technology, Greenhouse Structures and Construction and Upgrading Current Classrooms/Agriculture Mechanics Laboratories. Mr. Treat |
shared with the Board a summary report of the twenty schools that received IAEP Grants. (See report for more details.)

Brenda Holmes asked that arrangements be made for the Board to visit one of the Agriculture Education Program sites. Chairman Ruiz stated that he has been invited to visit Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHSAS) on June 8th and invited any Board member that would like to see CHSAS to accompany him on his visit. Chairman Ruiz noted that Mr. Troy Justesen the Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education of the United States Department of Education will be the commencement speaker. Jean Ladage also commented that we would be in the Mt. Vernon area for our October 2007 Board Meeting and that she would attempt to arrange a visit to an Agriculture Education Program during that meeting.

Ms. Gail Perkey, Director of Communications for the Illinois Federation of Teachers and a steering committee member of Illinois Creates (a statewide coalition of arts education stakeholders) spoke on behalf of the Arts in Foreign Language Grant Program. Ms. Perky commented that they are pleased to see a funding increase in the arts line item in the proposed FY 2008 budget. She thanked the Board for their work with the Illinois Arts Council to help make those grants possible. Ms. Perkey asked that Arts Education be added to the school Report Cards in order to collect data for targeting resources to schools that do not have arts programs. Current studies show that 20% of Illinois public schools do not have arts education programs.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) introduced themselves to the Board and presented a PowerPoint project entitled "Welcome Back to High School". The presentation compared the disparity in schools across the state. The students highlighted the following key issues: safe school environment, access to teachers, college expectations, resource counseling, non-academic support and student involvement opportunities.

Ms. Bittman discussed a program at New Trier called "Names Can Really Hurt Us". The program starts in the freshman year and continues with through the senior year. She commented that school is not just about the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. when students get instruction. It is not only about math, science, reading and writing, but it is about life, friendships and building strong relationships with peers and teachers. Motivational tools that allow students to reach for higher goals.

Sam Schoenberg also thanked Andrea Wingo, Advisor to the Student Advisory Council for her invaluable help. Ms. Holmes congratulated Sam Schoenberg on winning the Chase Bank Student of the Year Award.

Dr. Koch commented that he, Jon Furr, Elliot Regenstein and Darren Reisberg met with the Student Advisory Council on Wednesday evening. They discussed various ideas for student motivation reading the PSAE Work Keys test. Dr. Koch indicated said they also discussed minority student participation in advanced placement classes and teacher quality.

Superintendent Koch asked Samuel Schoenberg to explain how Springfield High School motivated the students for two-day testing. Sam commented that Springfield High School has worked very hard all year to raise test scores and increase student understanding of the significance of their scores. The administration announced that students who met or exceeded expectations on
the Prairie State Achievement Exam would be exempt from their first semester final exams in their senior year. The students took the PSAE very seriously and the test exemption was very popular and was successful in raising the school’s test scores.

Chairman Ruiz presented the following graduating SAC members with Certificates of Appreciation: Anna Bittman, Kent Kiefer, Samuel Schoenberg, Michael Byerley, Alix Olian (absent), Stephanie Matos (absent), Allison Tharp (absent), Andrea Lockley (absent). Each student upon receiving their certificate shared their plans for the future.


**SUPERINTEDENT’S REPORT**
**Phase I-Illinois College and Work Readiness Partnership**

Prior to this discussion, Ms. Holmes acknowledged legislators that were in the audience attending the meeting: Representative Robert Pritchard and Representative Roger Eddy. She also acknowledged education leaders that were in attendance: Mike Johnson, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards; Judy Ewrin, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Elaine Johnson, Vice President for Instruction & Policy Studies at Illinois Community College Board. There were also representatives from Illinois public universities, regional superintendents, IFT and IEA.

Elliot Regenstein and Jonathan Furr from the law firm Holland + Knight LLP were accompanied by Amy Starzinski from the Holland & Knight Washington Office Education Team, and Michael Cohen, President of ACHIEVE, Inc. Mr. Regenstein presented the Board members with Phase I of the Illinois College and Workforce Readiness Partnership Report. Mr. Reginstein provided a review of the extent to which Illinois policies are aligned with college and work expectations, particularly with regard to standards, data systems, and interventions in underperforming schools and districts. This presentation focused on the alignment of standards, course requirements, assessments, and accountability.

Mr. Cohen reviewed a power point presentation regarding the American Diploma Project (ADP). The ADP is managed by ACHIEVE and has a network of 29 states. ADP aligns high schools standards with the demands of college and work; requires students to take college and work-ready curriculum to earn a high school diploma; builds college and work-ready measures into statewide high school assessment systems; and holds high schools and postsecondary institutions accountable for student preparation and success. The ADP Network provides technical assistance and training research and development support, advocacy, and networking.

Mr. Cohen stated that ADP conducted a survey in 2004 on high school graduates that had been in the workforce or in college anywhere from 1-3 years. Forty to forty-five percent of the graduates felt that they had significant gaps in work skills. Most students lacked the skills to get the jobs they desired coming out of school and lacked the skills to advance. Faculty who teach first-year credit-bearing courses were also surveyed and they estimated that 40% of the students they taught were not prepared for the courses. Employers surveyed estimated that 45% of the students may have been prepared to get the first job out of high school but they lacked the skills to go beyond the first job.
Brenda Holmes asked if 45% of the students lacked skills to advance, why do universities admit these students. Mr. Cohen stated perhaps it is due to our tradition of giving students a second chance and the fact that no one is very clear with what students need to prepare themselves. Mr. Cohen went on to explain that a common core of knowledge and skills are necessary to succeed. English Language Arts and Math are the two core subjects that provide the basics to learning.

Mr. Cohen noted that assessments need to measure what is in the standards. He believes that the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) will approve these changes because they are affecting the high school students more than elementary school students. USDE would verify that a state has standards and that the test aligns with those standards. If states take action early, they will have an opportunity to drive what the federal government does when it reauthorizes NCLB rather than be driven by the requirements written in Washington.

Mr. Regenstein closed by letting the Board know that they will be back later this year for a more detailed discussion on targeted intervention. Mr. Regenstein thanked the Illinois Education Research Council, ACT, the Illinois Learning Standards Implementation Study at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the Illinois Community College Board for materials used in this presentation. (Copies of the report are available by contacting Board Services.)

Ms. Holmes commented that Illinois has been through several reform efforts and that the most perfect standards and assessment program can be proposed, but the General Assembly has the final impact on what and how it is done. The General Assembly will decide whether it is funded and whether the Agency will effectively implement the reform. There are a number of issues relative to implementation which are key to reform. NCLB has moved us toward a national curriculum. The determination of who authors the standards is particularly important. The result of a single test should not determine what a student is. For standards reform to be successful in Illinois, it will take the right people, in the right place, with the right input.

Representative Roger Eddy commented that standards implementation has been seen as an evolution and a difficult period for people in education because of past versions of the “DLO” and the “SLO,” etc. Classroom teachers are frustrated in having to deal with change instead of being a part of it. There is discontent with the current assessment system in regard to NCLB. This could be the opportunity to direct the energy toward positive change and adjust the standards toward the kind of college preparation and workforce skills needed. Without accountability discussion there is no justification for policymakers to provide additional resources for education. The challenge becomes how we ultimately define what accountability is. It cannot be one test on one day of the school year. Accountability begins to be defined by the students’ success level, whether that be post-secondary education or in the world of work.

Representative Robert Pritchard, Chair of the Education Caucus, stated that leadership is needed to help our students achieve. He commented that he strongly supports efforts to rethink how we measure and hold ourselves accountable. We need to allow teachers to adjust their teaching styles. Recently he received a presentation by the Gates and Joyce Foundations
outlining the importance of using data to effect changes. Representative Prichard stated that he looks forward to working with the State Board of Education in this challenge: a P-20 challenge, not just a K-12 challenge. Illinois leaders need to work together to make sure our teachers are prepared and given the resources they need to help students progress.

Ms. Holmes thanked Representative Pritchard and Representative Eddy for being present at the meeting today.

Ms. Elaine Johnson, Vice President for Instruction & Policy Studies at the Illinois Community College Board commented that she is excited to be involved with the alignment of the K-12 process and to work with the State Board. Ms. Johnson noted that much of the work has been done in post-secondary world with the community college and university systems. There is an Illinois articulation initiative in place in Illinois.

Judy Erwin from the Illinois Board of Higher Education thanked the Board for their leadership and also offered any assistance the agency might need.

Dr. Koch noted that on page 5 of the plenary packet there is a draft Timeline and Work Plan for the Illinois College and Workforce Readiness Partnership with the Gates Foundation and Office of the Governor.

Mr. Regenstein thanked the Board for their time and input. He also committed to having a draft schedule ready for the Board to consider in June on the work to be implemented on college and work readiness.

CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Hall moved that the Board enter into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:

Section c 1 for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of an employee; and

Section c 11 for the purpose of considering pending or probable litigation against or affecting the Board.

Dr. Hall further moved that the Board might invite anyone they wish to have included in this closed session. Dr. Ward seconded the motion and it was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

The open meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. and the Board went into closed session at 11:55 a.m. The open meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Chairman Ruiz commented that all items listed with an asterisk (*) on the agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and vote. Any board members who wishes separate discussion on any item listed on the consent agenda may remove that item from the consent agenda, in which the event, the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

Superintendent Koch gave the Board members a brief summary on the items on the consent agenda noting that there had been a modification to Part 226 (Special Education) additional language. Dr. Koch stated that we want to include that any case load/class size for any service provider includes each student who receives direct or indirect services, such as consultation services, as delineated in an IEP. This language is currently in Part 226 Section 226.730 Class Size for the 2009-10 and Beyond. We would be retaining this language
Consent Agenda Items and Motion

Chairman Ruiz asked for a motion regarding the consent agenda.

Motion:
Dr. Ward moved that the State Board of Education hereby approve the consent agenda items as presented. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call voice vote.

The following motions were approved by action taken in the consent agenda motion:

Approval of Minutes
The State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes for the meeting of May 17, 2007 Board meeting.

Rules for Initial Review
New Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting & Auditing)
Proposed Amendment to Part 110 (Program Accounting Manual)
Proposed Amendment to Part 125 (Student Activity Funds and Convenience Accounts)

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing (23 Illinois Administrative Code 100),

Program Accounting Manual (23 Illinois Administrative Code 110), and

Student Activity Funds and Convenience Accounts (23 Illinois Administrative Code 125),

including publication of the proposed rules and amendments in the Illinois Register.

Rules for Adoption

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

The State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for:

Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (23 Illinois Administrative Code 1).

Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical and nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Rules for Adoption

Part 226 (Special Education)

Rules for Adoption

Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other)

The State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for:

Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings (23 Illinois Administrative Code 475).
Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical and nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

**Rules for Adoption**

**Part 485 (Appeal Proceedings Before the State Certification Board)**
The State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for:

Appeal Proceedings Before the State Teacher Certification Board (23 Illinois Administrative Code 485).

Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical and nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

**Contracts and Grants over $1 million**

**Grow Your Own**
The State Board hereby approves the contract renewal for Grow Your Own Illinois to administer the GYO Statewide Outreach Program.

**New Principal Mentoring Contract**
The State Board hereby approves the posting of an RFSP in order to secure a contracting entity to manage the New Principal Mentoring Program.

**Beginning Teacher Mentoring**
The State Board hereby approves the renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement to oversee the Beginning Teacher Pilot Mentoring Programs. The State Board also approves continued funding for the current teacher mentoring projects per appropriation and approves the posting of an RFP in order to expand the program to additional schools/districts.

**21st Century Community Learning Center Continuation Grants**
The State Board hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to award 21st Century Community Learning Center grants to recipients selected on the basis of a competitive bidding process.

**2008 Board Calendar**
The State Board of Education hereby approves the 2008 Board Calendar of Meetings be approved as presented:

- January 16-17: Chicago
- February 20-21: Springfield
- March 19-20: Springfield
- April 16-17: Springfield
- May 21-22: Springfield
- June 18-19: Springfield
- July: No Meeting
- August 7: Springfield (as needed)
- August 20-22: Board Retreat - Chicago
- September 17-18: Springfield
- October 15-16: Bloomington
- November 19-20: Springfield
- December 17-18: Springfield
Recommendations for the Teacher Certification Board

National-Louis University New Programs
The State Board of Education hereby approves the following programs for National-Louis University, and thereby authorizes the university to continue conducting the programs and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

- Social Science: Economics;
- Social Science: Geography;
- Social Science: History; and
- Social Science: Political Science

Aurora University: Learning Behavior Specialist I New Programs
The State Board of Education provisionally approves the Learning Behavior Specialist I program for Aurora University, thereby authorizing the university to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

The State Board of Education provisionally approves the Early Childhood Education alternative certification program for Dominican University, thereby authorizing the university to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

The State Board of Education provisionally approves the Learning Behavior Specialist I program for Eureka College, thereby authorizing the college to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

Further, the State Board of Education provisionally approves the Director of Special Education program for the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign thereby authorizing the university to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

END OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Update List Of SES Providers
Mr. Dean Clark moved that the following motion be adopted:

Whereas the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that the State Board of Education promote maximum participation of Supplemental Educational Service providers and maintain an updated list of approved providers, I move that the applicants indicated on Attachment 1 be approved for addition to the Illinois Approved List of Supplemental Educational Service Providers.

Dr. Andrea Brown seconded the motion and it passed on a roll call vote, with Dr. Vinni Hall voting “No”.

NEW BUSINESS
Chairman Ruiz announced that “New Business” is a new item printed on the agenda. Although we will not be allowed to vote on any non-posted agenda
items; this is an opportunity to discuss any upcoming agenda items. Chairman Ruiz asked if there was new business to be presented at this time; there was no new business.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:**

**IBHE Liaison Report**

Dr. Proshanta Nandi from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) was not present at the Board meeting. Ms. Karon commented that IBHE had not yet had their monthly meeting. It is scheduled for June 4-5, 2007.

Dr. Koch met with Regional Superintendent Richard Fairgrieves of Boone/Winnebago counties on May 11, 2007 and visited several districts.

Dr. Koch commented that he met with Mike Johnson, Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards, to discuss ways in which ISBE and IASB could work together in the future. They also discussed the Joint Annual Conference.

Superintendent Koch stated that he, Ginger Reynolds and Becky McCabe met with the NAEP Ambassador this week. They discussed the NAEP scale and information soon to be released.

Superintendent Koch commented that he would like to take the opportunity to recognize several employees for their years of service to the Agency. Those recognized were:

- Jean Ladage 30 years
- Jeannie Schulze 20 years
- Sally Vogl 20 years
- Winnie Tuthill 20 years
- Marsha Moffett 10 years

**Senior Staff Announcements**

Linda Mitchell, Chief Financial Officer, stated that progress has been made on the Electronic Grants Management System (e-Grants) in the last month. The Reading Improvement Block Grants and IDEA/Part B are now on the system.

Don Evans, Director of Human Resources, Professional Development and Conference Planning, reported that the Agency has become more aggressive in advertising of positions and recruitment.

Beth Hanselman, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Services and Support, commented that staff have been working with stakeholders in regards to LEA determination. Special Education staff have also worked with Connie Wise and Terri Chamberlain on integrating and linking our Special Education Data System with the Student Information System. Ms. Hanselman also shared copies of the Special Education Annual Report with the Board members.

Matt Vanover, Director of Public Information, reported that his division will be releasing an employee newsletter in the next few weeks and that if any Board members have information or announcements they would like to share with employees, please see him.

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Ruiz reported that the following Board Members will be attending out of state meetings:

- Dean Clark, Vinni Hall and Chris Ward will attend NASBE Study Groups on Models of Success on June 1-2, 2007 in Alexandria, Virginia. Expenses will be paid by NASBE dues.
Chairman Ruiz reported that he had participated in the following meetings since the last Board meeting:

**April 24**
- Attended the Chicago Public Education Fund Annual Meeting

**April 28**
- Grand Marshall at the Chicago Dia de los Ninos/Celebrating Young Americans Parade

**May 02**
- Participated in the Invest In Excellence Rally at the State Capitol

**May 09**
- Participated in a community meeting on Education Funding in DesPlaines

**May 10**
- Read to 2nd Graders at Ortiz De Dominguez Elementary School as part of Real Men Read Program sponsored by Chicago Public Schools
- Participated on a panel hosted by Winston & Strawn; A Community Renewal Conservation: Fixing Our Schools

**May 15**
- Speaker at Northwestern School of Law at Tutor/Mentoring Leadership & Networking Conference

Chairman Ruiz commented that the Board Members and ISBE staff would like to share their condolences with Arne Duncan and his family. Mr. Duncan’s father, Starkey Duncan, Jr. passed away on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

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<th>Committee Reports</th>
<th>Board Operations Committee of the Whole</th>
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<td>Dr. Chris Ward reported that the committee discussed the following topics:</td>
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<td>• Mr. Larry Pfeiffer, Liaison for Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, addressed the committee on budget line items that affect regional offices.</td>
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<td>• Discussed the 2008 board calendar.</td>
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<td>• Discussed Board retreat plans and agenda.</td>
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<td>• Reviewed and approved two new nominations for Resolutions of Recognition.</td>
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|                   | Education Policy Planning Committee |
|                   | Dr. David Fields reported that the committee discussed the following topics: |
|                   | • Dr. Penny Bill of Northern Illinois University discussed with the Committee the NIU evaluation of the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum at the high school level. |
|                   | • Mr. Jack Wuest of the Alternative Schools Network spoke on the success his group is having with the re-enrollment of student dropouts. |
|                   | • Approved the minutes from the April 2007 Education Policy and Planning Committee Meeting. |
|                   | • Discussed and reviewed grants and contracts over $1 million. |
|                   | • Becky McCabe presented to the Committee the proposed ISAT Math Definitions for approval. |
|                   | • The Committee has requested an update on the Pre-K Report, Growth Model Task Force and introductory information on school safety issues. |

|                   | Finance and Audit Committee |
|                   | Mr. Edward Geppert reported that the committee discussed the following topics: |
|                   | • Linda Mitchell and Ronny Wickhauser updated the Committee on the FY 08 budget. |
|                   | • Approved the minutes from the April 2007 Finance and Audit Committee meeting. |
|                   | • Discussed agenda items for the upcoming June committee meeting. |
Governmental Relations Committee
Ms. Brenda Holmes reported that the committee discussed the following topics:
• Melina Wright, NCLB Liaison, gave a federal update on NCLB Reauthorization.
• Nicole Wills and Kristi Kenney updated the committee on upcoming ISBE legislation and other issues occurring in the General Assembly.

Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole
Mr. Darren Reisberg reported that the committee discussed the following topics:
• Bev Johns addressed the committee regarding her concerns involving Part 226 (Special Education).
• Discussed the three sets of rules for initial review concerning the Program Accounting Manual.
• Discussed the rules for adoption.
• Reviewed the history of Part 226 (Special Education).
• Discussed upcoming rules on the agenda for the June board meeting.

Members’ Reports
Mr. Geppert attended a breakfast meeting sponsored by ED-RED on May 4, 2007, in Glenview. NCLB Reauthorization: Empowering Districts to Take Action was the topic of discussion.

Dr. Ward had the opportunity to speak on the topic of education in China at a joint community meeting of the Lockport/Romeoville Rotary Clubs.

Dr. Hall attended the Golden Apple Awards Ceremony and Gala on May 12, 2007, in Chicago. Dr. Hall also commented that her sister Frana Allen who is a science teacher at the Skinner Classical School will be retiring. Ms. Allen has been honored by Oprah Winfrey and Mayor Richard Daley has declared her “Teacher of the Day.” She is a credit to their mother who was a teacher in Harlem, New York.

Ms. Holmes thanked Brent Clark for inviting Board Members to attend the Illinois Association of School Administrators’ Conference. The conference was attended by Dr. Brown, Dr. Fields and Ms. Holmes. Superintendent Chris Koch was the keynote speaker on Friday morning. Ms. Holmes also stated that she spoke to the Women In Government group this past week.

Dr. Brown had the opportunity to speak to the Illinois Women Administrators in Bloomington and heard Dr. Koch speak in Mt. Vernon on aspiring interventions.

Information Items
Chairman Ruiz asked that the Board members please read the Monthly Status Report on Rulemaking and the State Board of Education Fiscal and Administrative Monthly Reports printed in the Board meeting materials each month for information purposes. There were no inquires this month regarding these reports.

Motion for Adjournment
David Fields moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ed Geppert seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary

Mr. Jesse Ruiz
Chairman
Board Operations Committee of the Whole  
Wednesday, May 16, 2007  
10:30 a.m.  
Board Room, 4th Floor  

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (listen only)  
Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 5  

AGENDA  

1. Roll Call  
2. Board Member Participation by Other Means  
3 Public Participation  
4. Discussion Items  
   a. Minutes of the April Board Operations Committee Meeting (pp. 2-3)  
   * b. Review New Nominations for Resolutions of Recognition (pp. 4-6)  
   c. 2007 Retreat Planning (Chris Ward, Joyce Karon) (p. 7)  
   d. Review and Recommend Draft 2008 Board Calendar (pp. 8-10)  
   e. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items  
5. Decision Items  
6. Adjourn  

NOTE: 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 an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.
1. ROLL CALL
Dr. Chris Ward called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves for purposes of roll call. (See above.)

2. BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MEANS
There was no participation by Board members through any other means for this committee meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Mr. Larry Pfeiffer, Regional Superintendent for Calhoun, Green, Jersey and Macoupin Counties introduced himself as the new liaison to the State Board on behalf of the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS). He indicated that he will be attending State Board meetings following the retirement of Judy Pacey of Champaign. Mr. Pfeiffer indicated that the Regional Superintendents look forward to working closely with the State Board in the budget development process.

4.a. COMMITTEE MINUTES,
Mr. Geppert moved that the minutes of the Board Operations Committee for the April committee meeting be approved. Dr. Fields seconded the motion. The motion to approve the committee minutes passed with voice vote approval.

4.b. REVIEW NEW NOMINATIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION.
The Board will have two resolutions to approve in plenary session on Thursday. There is a resolution recommended for Becky McCabe and a resolution for Martha Lindvahl of Danville. Dr. Fields moved that the Committee recommend approval of the two nominations. Mr. Geppert seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4.c. RETREAT PLANNING
Dr. Ward indicated that he has talked with Brenda Welburn of NASBE. She will identify a staff member to lead the Board in the discussion flow of information, agenda planning, committee structure, etc.

Dr. Ward asked for input regarding senior staff involvement in discussion regarding agenda planning and flow of information. The following comments were made:

- Board agenda planning; materials distribution, etc.
  - Compressed planning at the retreat and advanced reading materials in order to get a good return on the time spent during the retreat.
  - Someone from NASBE might be useful in the discussion regarding board materials, but the more important participants would be Jean Ladage and Dr. Koch.
  - Process for how items come to be on the agenda, format for how background materials are presented.
  - Board members should have reviewed their packet information, so a complete summary of the agenda item during a meeting is not necessary.
Public awareness of an issue and the reasoning for the Board’s action is important.

Board background material is public information.

Receipt of the tentative agenda provides the opportunity for members to review topics and determine items for detailed review.

Timing for posting the agenda for the public is critical.

Dr. Koch and staff should continue to focus on explanation in the cover memos. Why this issue is before the Board, what is the background, what are the pros and cons, etc., as each member comes to the table with their own perspective and background. Having the detail in the cover memo brings other perspectives to members and allows them to see the big picture in order to make a decision.

Staff should review the compilation of agenda items that the Board is required to act upon in specific months. If possible, some of the more substantive issues for discussion should brought to the Board during months when there is a lighter action-required agenda.

**Board self-evaluation process**

- Third-party evaluations should be used in the Board self-evaluation process, in addition to staff involvement. (Chamber of Commerce, Education Week, etc.) Lt. Governor’s survey is not an effective tool for local districts or regional superintendents to provide detailed feedback.

- What senior staff should be invited to participate in the Board self-evaluation discussion at the retreat? (Seek comment on various issues such as communication of Board priorities, specificity of Board requests, etc.) Should the Board instead (or also) seek input from outside sources such as regional superintendents or other organizations?

- Process is as important as the product. It is important for ISBE staff to know that the Board welcomes their input and that the Board continues to provide that opportunity.

- The Board might consider conducting their self-evaluation at a time other than the retreat. Since this is Superintendent Koch’s first year, it is important to spend a good amount of time solely with the Superintendent.

- Now is the time to review comments from Brenda Welburn and Michael Hill from prior Board self-evaluations and for the Board to review trends and accomplishments.

- It is particularly important with a new Superintendent that the Board have a significant discussion on what the Board would like to accomplish. It is the Superintendent’s role to listen to individual Board members, learn their philosophies, and to direct the Board as a group into knowing what can be accomplished with current resources, both human and financial. There could be resources that Dr. Koch is aware of that have not been tapped.

- A recap of the retreat during the September Board meeting was suggested. This would ensure that not only the Board, but the Superintendent, and the staff are all communicating on the priorities and critical issues discussed.

- Ms. Karon and Dr. Ward will develop and provide a tentative schedule for the retreat at the next committee meeting.

### 4.d. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND DRAFT 2008 BOARD CALENDAR

Dr. Ward asked for consideration of agenda item 4.d. He explained that there were a couple of updates to the draft calendar from the last committee meeting. The location for the 2008 retreat is Chicago and the October 2008 recommended location is Bloomington. Dr. Fields moved to approve the recommended calendar and to present for Board action during plenary session on May 17. Mr. Geppert seconded the motion and the motion carried on a voice vote.

The Committee recommended the following sites for 2008:

- January – Chicago
- February through June – Springfield
- July – no meeting
- August – Springfield
Retreat – Chicago
September – Springfield
October – Bloomington
November – Springfield
December – Springfield

4.f. COMMITTEE AGENDA PLANNING/ADDITIONAL ITEMS
   The June Board Operations Committee meeting will include a draft Board Retreat schedule.

5. DECISION ITEMS
   Some items were moved from discussion to immediate decision per above notes.

6. ADJOURN
   Dr. Hall moved to adjourn the committee meeting. Dr. Fields seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.
AGENDA

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation

4. Minutes of the February 26 Special EPPC Meeting with H.S. Coalition (pp. 2-5)

5. Minutes of the April Education Policy Planning Committee Meeting (pp. 6-7)

6. Grants and Contracts over $1 million
   *a. 21st Century Community Learning Center Continuation Grants over $1 million (Myron Mason) (Plenary pp. 140-141)
   *b. Beginning Teacher Mentoring Grants (Linda Jamali) (Plenary pp. 138-139)
   *c. New Principal Mentoring Contract (Linda Jamali) (Plenary pp. 136-137)
   d. WIDA Memorandum of Understanding (Becky McCabe) (pp. 8-9)
   e. University of Illinois Memorandum of Understanding (Becky McCabe) (pp. 10-12)

7. ISAT Math Definitions (Becky McCabe) (pp. 13-34)

8. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.
The Education Policy Planning Committee meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL:** Dr. David Fields requested a roll call. See above.

2. **BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MEANS:** There was no participation from Board members by any other means.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Dr. Penny Billman of Northern Illinois University was in attendance to discuss an evaluation of the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum at the high school level.

   Jack Wuest of the Alternative Schools Network was in attendance to discuss the success his group is having with the re-enrollment of student dropouts.

4. **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26 SPECIAL EPPC MEETING WITH H.S. COALITION:** The Committee approved the minutes of the February 26 Special EPPC meeting with the High School Coalition.

5. **MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2007 EPPC MEETING:** The Committee approved the minutes from the April 2007 EPPC Meeting.

6. **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS OVER $1 MILLION:**

   a) **21st Century Community Learning Center Continuation Grants over $1 million (Myron Mason):** Myron Mason was in attendance to obtain the Committee’s approval for the FY 08 21st Century Community Learning Center Continuation Grants.

   The Committee approved this item for a full Board vote at the plenary session.

   b) **Beginning Teacher Mentoring Grants (Linda Jamali):** Linda Jamali was in attendance to obtain the Committee’s approval for the renewal of an intergovernmental agreement to secure a state university to oversee the Beginning Teacher Mentoring program.

   The Committee approved this item for a full Board vote at the plenary session.
c) New Principal Mentoring Contract (Linda Jamali): Linda Jamali was in attendance to obtain the Committee’s approval for the issuance of an RFSP to secure a contract to manage the New Principal Mentoring Program.

The Committee approved this item for a full Board vote at the plenary session.

d) WIDA Memorandum of Understanding (Becky McCabe): Becky McCabe was in attendance to obtain the Committee’s approval for the continuation of the existing Memorandum of Understanding with WIDA.

The Board will vote on this issue at the June plenary session.

e) University of Illinois Memorandum of Understanding (Becky McCabe): Becky McCabe was in attendance to obtain the Committee’s approval for the issuance of a Memorandum of Understanding establishing an intergovernmental agreement with the University of Illinois to provide ongoing evaluative services to the Agency’s Student Assessment system.

The Board will vote on this issue at the June plenary session.

7. ISAT Math Definitions (Becky McCabe): Becky McCabe was in attendance to present to the Committee the proposed mathematics definitions for the ISAT test. The Board will vote on these at the June plenary session.

8. COMMITTEE AGENDA PLANNING/ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- NIU Contract for Interactive Report Card (Contract exceeding $1 million)
- Illinois New Teacher Center Intergovernmental Agreement
- Pre-K Report
- Introductory Information on School Safety Issues

9. ADJOURNMENT: Andrea Brown moved to adjourn the EPPC meeting and Chris Ward seconded the motion. The EPPC meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.
AGENDA

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation

4. Discussion Items
   a. FY 08 Budget Update (Linda Mitchell & Ronny Wickenhauser) (pp. 4-9)

5. Decision Items
   a. Minutes of the April Finance and Audit Committee Meeting (pp. 2-3)

6. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items

7. Adjourn

NOTE: 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 an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
May 16, 2007
Springfield, Illinois

Committee Members Present
Ed Geppert, Chair
Andrea Brown
Brenda Holmes
Dean Clark

Other Board Members
Chris Ward
Vinni Hall
Joyce Karon
David Fields
Jesse Ruiz

Staff Present
Chris Koch
Linda Riley Mitchell
Ronny Wickenhauser
Darren Reisberg
Jean Ladage
Don Evans
Ginger Reynolds
Matt Vanover

1. ROLL CALL

2. BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MEANS

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
   NONE

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS
   A. FY08 Budget Update
      Linda Mitchell stated that there has not been much in the way of requests from the General
      Assembly since the Board met last month. The Superintendent has not been asked to testify at
      any further budget hearings. There is speculation that the budget process may go on into the
      summer. Since that is the case, there have not been many questions from the public. Ms.
      Mitchell also noted that there was not a single budget question at the IASA meeting that took
      place the previous week, which is a bit unusual.

      Ronny Wickenhauser stated that although we have not been formally asked to testify, ISBE has
      been getting questions from General Assembly staff lately, primarily from the House. Mr.
      Wickenhauser updated the Board on Senate Bill 1, the Governor’s introduced Education plan.
      Mr. Wickenhauser stated that shortly after they introduced SB 1 they introduced a new
      companion appropriation bill for the agency which was SB 1132. The big change in it was that
      $1 billion was added for property tax relief. The only other significant change in SB 1132 was
      that a couple of projects that had been excluded from the Governor’s original proposed budget
      have been added back. Among these projects was $5 million dollars added for Gifted Education.

5. DECISION ITEMS
   A. Minutes of the April Finance and Audit Committee Meeting
      The minutes were approved and accepted.

6. COMMITTEE AGENDA PLANNING/ADDITIONAL ITEMS
   During the June Board meeting, it is anticipated that there will be another update on the FY08
   Budget, if the findings have been released there will also be a discussion of the FY06 State Wide
   Single Audit. It is anticipated that there will be recommendations regarding QZAB Bond
   Authorization.

7. ADJOURN
Governmental Relations Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, May 16, 2007
3:30 p.m.
This meeting will begin immediately following the previous session.
Board Room, 4th Floor

Public Conference Call Access Number: 1-866-297-6391 (listen only)
Confirmation # 1 7 8 3 6 2 3 5

AGENDA

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation

4. Minutes of the April Governmental Relations Committee Meeting (pp. 2-3)

5. Federal Update – Reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB (pp. 4-14)
   (Chris Koch, Ginger Reynolds, Melina Wright)

6. Legislative Update (Nicole Wills, Kristi Kenney, Sumantra Lahiri) (pp. 15-227)

7. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items

8. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.
1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
There was no public participation.

2. INFORMATION ITEM:
The committee meeting convened at 3:15 p.m. Dean Clark made a motion to accept the April Committee notes into the record and the motion was seconded by Chris Ward.

4. FEDERAL UPDATE – REAUTHORIZATION OF ESEA/NCLB (Melina Wright)
Melina Wright was present at this meeting to update the Board on the coming reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy initially hoped to introduce a comprehensive NCLB bill by April or May; however, it currently does not look as though that will happen this year. In addition, Congressman George Miller has expressed a degree of opposition to major changes in NCLB, particularly with regards to accountability. However, there are ten new freshmen on the committee discussing this issue and most of those new members campaigned actively in opposition to elements of the Act, so the Congressman has been open to negotiation.

Currently, almost all aspects of NCLB are on the table for discussion for reauthorization. ISBE, various education stakeholders and the Governor’s office will be convening to discuss reauthorization to make sure that Illinois has a cohesive voice during the discussions.

3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
Nicole Wills and Kristi Kenney provided a status report on pending legislation, including:
- HB 3654 – This is the Grow Your Own Teacher legislation and is a twin bill of SB 446 on 3rd reading in the House. The bill has been amended from the Senate form, but the amendment only clarifies the allowable expenditures under the program.
- SB 79 – Makes changes to require that certain items be considered when developing an IEP for a student with any form of autism. ISBE has opposed this legislation because it makes particular arrangements for one specific disability when those factors should already be considered during the IEP process. The legislation has just passed out of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee.
• SB 194 – This bill gives transitional assistant payments to one particular school district. The bill is assigned to the House Executive Committee, but has not been posted to actually be heard in committee.

• SB 397 – The introduced version of this bill is identical to HB 817. Because HB 817 is poised to pass in the Senate, this bill has been shelled and an amendment added that contains two ISBE initiatives concerning special education that were previously on HB 2009 and HB 2013. This bill has passed out of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee.

• SB 398 – As introduced, ISBE was in opposition to this legislation because of fiscal impact, but the bill has been amended to make it subject to appropriation.

• SB 424 – This legislation allows a school district to have a policy that would allow 7th and 8th grade students to take high school courses and receive high school credit, under certain provisions. It is on 2nd reading in the House.

• SB 841 – ISBE originally opposed this legislation because it was not subject to appropriation. However, the College Board worked with ISBE to make the bill subject to appropriation, as well as make additional changes to clarifying the program, so our opposition was removed.

• SB 1165 – This legislation is an ROE initiative that repeals obsolete and duplicative provisions in the School Code.

• HB 146 – Creates a management care plan for students who have diabetes. This bill has been introduced in previous General Assemblies in various versions, but it is currently in the Senate Rules Committee.

• HB 1030 – This legislation will require ISBE to run annual reports for expenditures and revenue with regards to special education services. ISBE staff and advocates for the legislation have come up with a way to use existing information from various reports to calculate the information so that there is not a lot of additional work on school districts or the agency.

• HB 1330 – The introduced legislation has been shelled and the amendment creates a task force to study education services and issues with regards to students who are pregnant, victims of abuse, or parents/expected parents. ISBE would be part of this task force, as well as being responsible for staffing it.

• HB 1466 – The original bill has been amended to give ISBE the power to go into school districts that were deemed in need because of mismanagement, similar to the Financial Oversight Panel/School Finance Authority provisions. ISBE provided technical assistance on drafting the amendment based on his requested intent, but stated that ISBE would be neutral on the bill. There are many groups that are in opposition to this bill.

• HB 1663 – This bill deals with the I-CONNECT Program, which has been brought to the Board’s attention before. It has not been moved out of the Senate Rules Committee, so it is unlikely to move during the remainder of the legislative session.

• HB 3406 – This piece of legislation would require ISBE to prioritize rank the districts that have submitted school construction applications by December 31 of this year. This bill does not have a sponsor yet, but ISBE will continue to monitor this bill closely.

• SB 176 – This is a Secretary of State initiative concerning graduated driver’s license requirements. This bill is on second reading in the House.

• SB 505 – This bill was shelled and amended. It now provides that with respect to those school construction projects for which a school district first applies for a grant on or after July 1, 2007, the school construction project must receive certification from the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System or the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes Green Building Rating System or must meet green building...
standards of the Capital Development Board and its Green Building Advisory
Committee.

- HB 1910 – ISBE initiative that is on 3rd reading in the Senate.
- HB 2008 – ISBE initiative that has passed out of the House and is moving over to the
  Senate for action.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned with a motion to adjourn by Chris Ward and was seconded by Jesse
Ruiz.
AGENDA

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation

4. Minutes of the April Ad Hoc Rules Committee Meeting

*5. Rules for Initial Review
   *a. New Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting & Auditing) *(Plenary pp. 17-96) (Deb Vespa)
   *b. Proposed Amendment to Part 110 (Program Accounting Manual) *(Plenary pp. 97-98) (Deb Vespa)
   *c. Proposed Amendment to Part 125 (Student Activity Funds and Convenience Accounts) *(Plenary pp. 99) (Deb Vespa)

*6. Rules for Adoption
   *a. Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) *(Plenary pp. 100-117) (Ginger Reynolds)
   *b. Part 226 (Special Education) (Beth Hanselman) (tentative; materials to be sent under separate cover)
   *c. Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings) *(Plenary pp. 118-122) (Darren Reisberg)
   *d. Part 485 (Appeal Proceedings Before the State Teacher Certification Board) *(Plenary pp. 123-133) (Linda Jamali)

7. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items

8. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.
Committee Members Present
Jesse Ruiz
Andrea Brown
Dean Clark
David Fields
Vinni Hall
Brenda Holmes
Joyce Karon
Chris Ward

Absent
Chris Koch
Darren Reisberg
Ginger Reynolds
Beth Hanselman
Deb Vespa
Lou Ferratier
Sally Vogl

Others
Ed Geppert

Chairman Ruiz called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. and noted that no members were participating by telephone. He announced that one individual had signed up for public participation.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Bev Johns, Chair of the Illinois Special Education Coalition (ISELA), stated that she had major concerns about the process that had been used in presenting the changes in the special education rules that were being recommended for adoption. She noted that she had received a copy of these changes for the first time upon arriving for the meeting and stated that never in ISBE’s history had a document being recommended been distributed on such short notice. In her view, professionals, families, and others who work with students had not been represented in the development of the changes although they would be significantly affected by the rules.

Speaking to the issues of class size and case load, Ms. Johns indicated that all controls over case load would be eliminated for the next two school years and that she found this very disconcerting. She went on to note that the work load provisions would not take effect for at least two years and that there were concerns with those as well.

The Superintendent and Board members agreed that these issues would be considered as part of the relevant agenda item, and Ms. Johns was thanked for her remarks.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chris Ward moved approval of the minutes of the April 18, 2007, meeting. Dean Clark seconded the motion. Andrea Brown identified a needed correction to the statement that she had participated in a lengthy conversation with representatives of the Chicago Public Schools in connection with administration of the state assessments at special education facilities. Instead, she had been recalling a conversation on that topic between the Board as a whole and those representatives and had expressed the understanding that the rule amendment would solve the problem identified by the district. The motion was amended accordingly and the minutes were approved as corrected.

5. RULES FOR INITIAL REVIEW:

PART 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing)
PART 110 (Program Accounting Manual)
PART 125 (Student Activity Funds and Convenience Accounts)
General Counsel Darren Reisberg invited Division Administrator Deb Vespa and staff member Lou Ferratier to provide an overview of these three related items. Ms. Vespa explained that the goal of amending these requirements was to achieve a clearer picture of the status of certain school district funds and the actual costs of the fundamental components of education. She provided specific examples, such as the segregation of funds in the tort fund in order to keep restricted funds from being mixed with monies used for operational purposes. Further, the bonding and interest fund would be opened up into a broader “debt” fund, while “site and construction” would become “capital improvements” (exclusive of transportation, required by law to be kept separate).

Ms. Vespa also indicated that the new rules would provide for appropriate internal controls over student activity funds and convey a knowledge base that would be useful to districts in establishing adequate internal controls. This material, instead of being kept in a separate Part as is previously the case, would be incorporated into the main set of accounting rules so that district staff would only need to look in one place for information and requirements. She explained the deferred implementation date as providing a needed opportunity for working with software companies and others so there would be time to adjust systems. She emphasized that no levies would be abolished; the names of funds were being modified to reflect the line items covered.

Vinni Hall complimented the staff for the work done on the rules and stated she had found them very clear. With regard to student activity funds, she requested clarification of the rules’ effect on classroom-based fund-raising activities. Information was provided regarding the establishment of accounts, the ownership of the funds by the students rather than by the district, and the role of a fund’s custodian.

Dean Clark asked whether any substantive changes were being made in connection with the working cash fund, and there were none. Joyce Karon asked whether account numbers would basically remain the same, and it was affirmed that they would. Lou Ferratier clarified that there would be some new account numbers to “create room” for new initiatives and requirements but that the existing ones were not being changed. There should be no impression in the field that “everything” was going to be changed.

General Counsel Darren Reisberg noted that a new procedure would be implemented, involving a motion at the conclusion of the meeting recommending action on the rules to the full Board at the plenary session.

6. RULES FOR ADOPTION

Mr. Reisberg noted that three of the items being presented for adoption had come before the Board for initial review at the February meeting.

PART 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Rules Coordinator Sally Vogl reminded the Board of the origins of this rulemaking, which was essentially a set of technical corrections to eliminate duplicate provisions. The rules had incorporated two contingencies as a result of enactment of a state law that was later followed by disapproval of certain provisions by the U.S. Department of Education. She explained that one additional change was being recommended for adoption in connection with classification of scores on the various state assessments. It had been noted at the April Board meeting that the same labels were being given to groups of scores achieved on the accommodated state assessment as for the ISAT and the PSAE. However, Ms. Vogl pointed out that Section 1.30(h) needed to be revised because it currently provided for a different set of labels for reading scores on the accommodated assessment.

It had been verified that no scores would fall into different groups by virtue of the differing labels, and on that basis this revision should be seen as a technical correction rather than a substantive change.
Mr. Reisberg suggested that agenda item 6b (Special Education) be deferred until after the other sets of rules had been discussed, in light of the expectation that it would take the greatest amount of time.

PART 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings)
Mr. Reisberg indicated that no public comment had been received on the proposed amendment to this Part, which would simply reflect long-standing agency practice. Due process is afforded in the affected instances, but not a full evidentiary hearing. There were no questions.

PART 485 (Appeal Proceedings Before the State Teacher Certification Board)
Mr. Reisberg noted that there had been no public comment on this new set of rules either, but that some suggestions and questions had been raised by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). Some of those had been very useful and had led to several changes that were being recommended for adoption. Board members raised no questions or issues on this Part.

PART 226 (Special Education)
Returning to agenda item 6b, Mr. Reisberg recalled the December 2006 adoption of these amendments and the January 9 objection and filing prohibition that had been issued by JCAR. He then provided an overview of the outreach and consultation that had occurred, culminating in the version of the rules that was being recommended for adoption. In particular, he highlighted Dr. Koch’s communications with the members of JCAR, the absence of a response that would have clarified the specific basis for the filing prohibition, and the resulting necessity for filing a notice of refusal to modify the rules in accordance with the general statement that had been issued. He also described the ongoing consultation that had occurred with representatives of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Education Association, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education, and the State Advisory Council on Education of Students with Disabilities. Further clarification from the U.S. Department of Education had also been sought.

Mr. Reisberg indicated that the entire process had been very time-intensive and that the receipt of greater specificity from JCAR at its April 18 meeting had been helpful in enabling the agency to focus on the areas of the rules that would need to be modified. These centered on “RTI”, class size, and work load. He concluded this summary by explaining that apparent consensus had been reached just the previous evening. While it would certainly have been desirable to have a product to distribute sooner or to have more time to consider the changes, the timeline associated with JCAR’s filing prohibition dictated that a revised version must be adopted and available for JCAR’s review at its June 12 meeting. Of course, individuals who continued to have unresolved concerns would be free to comment on them that day or during the plenary session and to communicate with JCAR in the period leading up to JCAR’s meeting.

Mr. Reisberg then went on to summarize the changes being recommended for the Board’s consideration.

Section 226.130 (Additional Procedures for Students Suspected of or Having a Specific Learning Disability)
- The implementation deadline would be moved from the 2008-09 school year to 2010-11.
- The State Superintendent would, by January 1, 2008, be developing a plan for state assistance in terms of professional development and other resources. The plan would be developed in cooperation with the organizations representing teachers and administrators, as well as the State Advisory Council on Education of Students with Disabilities, whose membership is broadly representative of the stakeholders and certainly includes parents.
- Each district would, in turn, develop a plan for devoting resources to the transition to a process of the required type. This would presumably be based in part on the state-level plan, and districts could integrate these into their district improvement plans if they so wished.
Mr. Reisberg noted that, because of the serious concerns that had been voiced in connection with immediate implementation of the new procedures, the U.S. Department of Education had been consulted. ISBE had learned that USDE was not only comfortable with but even encouraged a period of transition, rather than expecting immediate implementation.

Section 226.730 (Class Size for 2009-10 and Beyond)
Section 226.731 (Class Size Provisions for 2007-08 and 2008-09)
  • No substantive change would be made to the version adopted in December, but the effectiveness of the new provisions would be deferred for two years instead of one and the effectiveness of the current provisions extended accordingly.

Section 226.735 (Work Load for Special Educators)
  • This Section would address “work load” instead of “case load”. “Case load” had not previously been defined or regulated at the state level, except for speech-language pathologists, but this Section would encompass all special educators.
  • The requirement for districts to have policies on staffing decisions would be discussed here and revised to refer to plans for work load.

Once it had been clarified that many in school districts had been misunderstanding what the requirements in the rules meant, a strong push arose to have some control over work load in the rules. Mr. Reisberg indicated his belief that the response that had been developed would prove very helpful. By virtue of these changes, the 60-student limit for speech-language pathologists would remain in effect, but their work load would also be subject to the provisions of the district-level plan. He then explained the basis for the district-level plans and their content and noted the relevance of labor relations law as concerns employees with exclusive bargaining representatives and contracts already in effect. He then invited questions from the Board members.

Brenda Holmes complimented Superintendent Koch and the staff for their outreach efforts and work on these rules and expressed what she believed to be the fundamental question: With this language, would the groups that had raised concerns to JCAR now be in agreement so that the rules could move forward? Dr. Koch responded affirmatively. Ms. Holmes then asked Ms. Vogl for information on the process of transmitting the rules for JCAR’s review and stated that it might be prudent to include in that transmittal some of the background information Mr. Reisberg had just provided, particularly with regard to ISBE’s efforts to resolve the issues and Dr. Koch’s repeated offers to make himself available to provide information to JCAR’s members. She noted the lack of response on JCAR’s part and expressed surprise that JCAR had not specifically identified the outstanding issues until the middle of April. She wished it to be made clear to JCAR that ISBE had done everything that could possibly be done to concentrate on the salient issues and resolve them.

Ms. Holmes also stated that, in view of the large number of constituent groups Dr. Koch and the staff had met with, it could safely be assumed that every other interested entity had had access to at least one of those groups. In response to her question as to whether he considered the “waterfront” to have been covered, Dr. Koch again responded affirmatively. He indicated that, in his time with the agency, he had never seen a more comprehensive process for public input. On that basis, he believed the rules were finished and ready to go.

Andrea Brown asked whether the Management Alliance had been included in the meetings at which the language of Section 226.735 had been developed, and their involvement was confirmed. Dr. Koch indicated a high level of confidence because the work load plans would encompass all the types of effort captured in the standards published by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA).

Vinni Hall commented that some portions of Part 226 would require time to implement and that she had come to realize there would always be an opportunity to change rules if some aspects were found not to be working well. She reiterated the Board’s central concern for children and
noted that the rules are a tool in the delivery of services to them, as well as a means of meeting federal requirements. She expressed the hope that those in the affected public would read the rules that evening and come forward with any comments. On that basis she believed the Rules Committee should recommend that the rules move forward.

Joyce Karon noted the degree to which the affected constituent groups had been empowered through this process and their vested interest in the resulting provisions. Speaking directly to the representatives of the IEA and the IFT who were present, she voiced the hope that those organizations would communicate the extent of their involvement so their members would understand that the final version had not been developed in isolation. Since the organizations had been able to work directly on the rules and come up with the solutions, she hoped they would “carry the water” out in the field, and the same with respect to the organizations representing management.

Chris Ward moved to approve all the rules that had been discussed for action by the full Board in the plenary session. Vinni Hall seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE AGENDA PLANNING/ADDITIONAL ITEMS
Darren Reisberg outlined the items that were expected to be ready for action at the June meeting. These included initial review of amendments to Part 25 (Certification) with regard to the new “master principal” designation and adoption of amendments to the same Part for the teacher leader endorsement, the alternative route to administrative certification for NBPTS-certified teachers, and the new thumb-printing requirements for certification testing. The roster of rules ready for adoption also included the amendments to Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools) and Part 350 (Secular Textbook Loan), as well as new Part 555 (Children’s Mental Health Initiative Grants). It was expected that 45 minutes would be sufficient time for discussion of those items.

8. ADJOURNMENT
Dean Clark moved that the meeting be adjourned. David Fields seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.