AGENDA (timeframes are estimated for planning purposes)

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation 8:30 – 8:35 a.m.

4. Minutes of the May Board Operations Committee Meeting (pp. 2-3)

*5. Review Nominations for Resolutions of Recognition (pp. 4-6)

*6. NASBE Dues (Chris Ward) 8:35 – 8:40 a.m. (pp. 7-9)

*7. Strategic Plan Update (Chris Koch) 8:40 – 8:50 a.m. (pp. 10)

8. Board Reflection 8:50 – 9:00 a.m. (pp. 11)

9. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items

10. Adjourn

* 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 4:15 p.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:** There was no request for public participation.

4. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:** Dr. Fields moved that the minutes of the Board Operations Committee for the March 2008 committee meeting be approved. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

5. **REVIEW NEW NOMINATIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION:** There were no new nominations received.

6. **BOARD RETREAT PLANNING AND STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION:** Superintendent Koch commented that over the last couple of years, the mandated update of the Strategic Plan has been completed by retrofitting work accomplished in the agency into the goals of the Strategic Plan. We will likely do some of that again this year in order to meet the June 30 deadline. When the Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board in 2005 it was intended to be a living document. Dr. Koch recommended that it is time to look at the Plan and to facilitate that discussion at the retreat. Dr. Koch stated that he would conduct a senior staff retreat over the summer to reflect what the Agency believes are the current plans and goals of this Board at this date and will then present a proposal at the Board’s retreat in August to be used as a starting point for the Board’s review and crafting into the Board’s Strategic Plan. Dr. Ward asked if Standards would be a part of that discussion and Superintendent Koch indicated he expected it would, as well as at the June committee meetings.

Dr. Ward indicated that the Board Self-Evaluation would also take place at the retreat. There was discussion surrounding organizations that would fall within the parameters of the Open Meetings Act allowing the Board to conduct their self-evaluation in closed session. Suggestions for organizations eligible to facilitate were Education Commission of the States (ECS), the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), or the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), as the Board is a dues-paying member of each organization. Dr. Koch indicated that, if the Board desired, he would be happy to reach out to Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director of CCSSO to see if he would be willing and available to facilitate. The Board concurred that Mr. Wilhoit would be an excellent choice to assist the board in this effort.
Dr. Ward also reminded members that the structure of the Board and its committees has the potential to change dramatically in January 2009. Chairman Ruiz added that the structure of the Board and its committees can impact performance, so it could play into the evaluation discussion.

Dr. Ward recommended that the Board use the existing Superintendent Evaluation instrument for the August evaluation and from that point forward there would be revised goals for the coming years. At the retreat there would be new goals related to the contract and a new instrument would be developed at that point. Board members concurred that annually, by the retreat in August, an evaluation cycle of the Superintendent, complete with pay incentives would be completed.

Dr. Fields suggested that looking down the road from the retreat, he thought the Superintendent could identify some hot button items on which the Board could do some reading and further study. It wouldn’t take a lot of retreat time, but just identify the issues that the Superintendent recommends.

7. **BOARD REFLECTION:** Ms. Karon shared that she enjoyed attending the IASBO breakfast with Superintendent Koch, that she was impressed with his honesty and that he reflected the thinking of the Board. It was a tough audience with the uncertainty of the 23rd and 24th General State Aid payments. They were appreciative of his comments and the assistance of Agency staff.

Dr. Hall and Chairman Ruiz shared the video from the celebration at the Adler Planetarium for Astronaut/Teacher Barbara Morgan.

Dr. Ward added that he attended a SCOPE meeting with Superintendent Koch and appreciated his comments.

8. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND AGENDA PLANNING:** Retreat topics will be finalized during the May committee meeting.

9. **ADJOURN:** Dr. Hall moved that the Board Operations Meeting of the Whole be adjourned. Dr. Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The committee meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.
TO: Board Operations Committee  
Illinois State Board of Education

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

Materials: Nomination(s)

Agenda Topic: Review Nominations 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, staff 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. 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.
Illinois State Board of Education
Recommendation for Recognition by the State Board of Education to be submitted by Regional Superintendents and/or District Superintendent

Dr. Richard Drury Community Unit School District 200 Superintendent’s Name
District name

Address: 130 West Park Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187
(street address, city, state, zip)

Phone and email: 630-682-2000 rdrury@cusd200.org DuPage
(phone) (email address) (region)

Recommends that Mark Thomas Schmidt, 2008 Poetry Out Loud State Champion
(name of program or person)

of the following school: Wheaton Warrenville South High School

School Principal: Dr. Dawn Snyder 630-784-7200
(name & phone number)

1993 Tiger Trail, Wheaton, IL 60187
(school address)

Please provide a description and reasons why you are recommending that the State Board adopt a resolution. Be sure to include the challenges faced in attaining this achievement. (This information will be used in drafting the resolution for the State Board’s consideration. Feel free to use an extra page, but limit to 2 pages.)

See attached information in the City of Wheaton resolution.

Signature of Superintendent of Schools

Date:

Send information to: Jean Ladage, Board Services Coordinator, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777. email: jladage@isbe.net fax: 217/785-3972
Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest hosted by The National Endowment of the Arts and The Poetry Foundation in which students are to memorize three poems out of a list of over 600 and perform them; they are judged on voice & articulation, physical presence, evidence of understanding, and difficulty of selection. This year, Wheaton Warrenville South senior Mark Thomas Schmidt was a school, Regional, and State Champion.

WHEREAS, out of the over 200,000 participants, Mark Thomas Schmidt represented our city and state as one of only 52 competitors to qualify for the National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mark won two Regional Championships in poetry recitation and served as State Runner-up in 2007; and

WHEREAS, he has proven to be a model-student and champion by also winning state titles in speech and architecture & drafting; and

WHEREAS, he has supported The Community Partners in Poetry mission of “encouraging the citizens of Wheaton and Warrenville to promote and value our human community through a common interest in reading, writing, and sharing poetry.”

Now, therefore, I, Mike Gresk, Mayor of the City of Wheaton, hereby proclaim ____________, 2008 as __________ in Wheaton and urge all citizens to recognize the value of poetry and the talents of our youth as represented by this student before us. In the words of John Barr, President of The Poetry Foundation, “In hearing the voices of our contemporary poets we learn again that we are not alone—that in our individuality we are a community. In this way the recitation of poetry brings history to life; in this way it creates community.”
TO: Illinois State Board of Education  
FROM: Christopher Ward, Board Operations Committee Chairman  

Agenda Topic: NASBE Membership Renewal  
Materials: NASBE Membership Information  

Purpose of Agenda Item  
To authorize membership renewal in NASBE for 2009  

NASBE Membership  
Each Spring NASBE invites all 50 states to renew their membership in the association for the coming year.  

Chairman Ruiz received a copy of the NASBE invoice for the 2009 Association dues. Again this year, as part of the dues, NASBE is offering all member boards the option of establishing a separate account for the explicit purpose of state board professional development. This professional development account is a way of helping members access the professional development critical to success. The account will be managed by NASBE and will be accessed to support travel, registration and other costs as necessary. If money is left over at the end of the year, it will be rolled over into the new fiscal year.  

State Boards may opt to enter into whatever level of membership they prefer. They may choose to decline the professional development fund, or they may select from three levels of professional development funds.  

NASBE membership is summarized in brief in the attached letter from NASBE Executive Director Brenda Welburn.  

Recommended Motion:  
In the past few years, the Board Operations Committee has recommended the following motion be adopted.  

The State Board of Education authorizes renewal of NASBE membership for 2009, including the middle-range professional development account for use by Illinois members.

Next Steps  
Upon Board approval staff will process dues payment after the beginning of the fiscal year.
April 29, 2008

Ms. Jean Ladage  
Office of the Superintendent  
100 N. First Street, S405  
Springfield, IL 62777

Dear Jean:

Enclosed herein is the invoice for 2009 membership dues for The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). The timing of the invoice reflects the diversity of fiscal calendars among the states and affords your state the flexibility of paying anytime between now and the end of the year.

As you know, NASBE is the only organization committed to the professional development and information needs of lay leaders in education. I believe it is more important than ever to have you and the Illinois State Board involved and engaged in NASBE. I have been a member of the NASBE staff for nearly twenty five years and in all that time, I cannot recall a period when state boards have been under greater attack and yet needed more to concentrate on the comprehensive education policy issues in our country. It is ironic that an institution that is the embodiment of citizenship and public service finds the value of its services questioned by some.

NASBE will continue in the coming year to speak out on the significance of lay leadership in education policymaking and in supporting the development needs of State Boards of Education and their members. NASBE will maintain:

- High quality professional development for Boards and Board Members including:
  - Study Groups that allow members to explore in-depth critical education issues and develop recommendations for policymakers across the nation;
  - Convening opportunities for State Board Members such as: the Annual Conference, Legislative Conference, New State Board Members’ Institute and Topical Conferences like the Wallace Conference on Leadership and the CDC conference on health and academic disparities, held this year;
  - Competitive mini-grants for Board initiatives in targeted areas, such as High School Redesign and school turn around strategies;
  - In-state assistance and field services for Board retreats, strategic planning and issue-based workshops;

- A subscription to the State Education Standard, NASBE’s highly respected quarterly journal, dedicated to state education policy issues;

- NASBE’s Resource Information Binder, including education research and analysis, federal legislative updates, legal briefs on education issues in litigation, tips on effective
policymaking, coverage of education reform efforts across the nation, and other vital resource documents;

- All NASBE publications, including three to four reports annually that address topics through in-depth, original research, and provide state and local leaders with recommendations for action;

- Access to “Education Policy Central”, NASBE’s expansive clearinghouse of educational resources, including power point presentations, policy recommendations, reports, and research data, available through the “Members Only” section of our web site;

- Representation of State Board views in Congress and with the Executive Branch;

- Public relations support and services for State Boards.

Recognizing that state board members face increasing scrutiny on travel and organizational participation, NASBE will continue the practice of maintaining professional development accounts for Boards that want NASBE to handle travel and other related expenses for participation in any NASBE activity. For states with funds remaining in their professional development accounts, the balances will be applied to 2009 participation.

As the Board Executive in Illinois you are an integral part of NASBE’s success and we deeply appreciate and value our partnership with you. We look forward to working with you in the future and hope you will let us know how we can continue to assist you and your Board as they work to serve the children in your state.

Sincerely,

Brenda Lilienthal Welburn  
Executive Director

C: Mr. Jesse Ruiz
TO: Illinois State Board of Education  
FROM: Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education  

Agenda Topic: Strategic Plan Update - 2008  

Materials: DRAFT Strategic Plan Report to Governor Blagojevich and Illinois General Assembly  

Staff Contact(s): Susan C. Morrison, Special Assistant to the Superintendent  
Matt Vanover, Director of Public Information  

Purpose of Agenda Item  
The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to discuss and approve a report on the progress of the Strategic Plan as required by PA 93-1036.  

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item  
The Board is expected to review and approve the report of progress on the initiatives of Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of the Strategic Plan.  

Background Information  
The State Board of Education, pursuant to PA 93-1036, must develop and maintain a continuing 5-year Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary and Secondary Education. The Board is required to update and submit the Strategic Plan to the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly on or before July 1 each year.  

Superintendent’s Recommendation  
Recommend approval of the Draft Strategic Plan Report. After discussion in the Board Operations Committee meeting, the Board will direct staff to make any additional revisions prior to the deadline for submittal.  

Next Steps  
Forward the approved Strategic Plan Report to the Governor and General Assembly as required by PA 93-1036.
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Chris Ward, Chairman, Board Operations Committee
       Jean Ladage, Board Services Coordinator

Agenda Topic: Board Reflection
Materials: None

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of this agenda item is to allow an opportunity for Board members to share professional development experiences and other updates.