AGENDA (timeframes are estimated for planning purposes)

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation 3:45 – 3:50 p.m.

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

5. Review Nominations for Resolutions of Recognition
   a. (No new nominations received at time of print.)

6. Board Retreat Planning and Strategic Plan Discussion (Chris Koch) 3:50 – 4:10 p.m. (p.5)

7. Board Reflection 4:10 – 4:15 p.m.

8. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items

9. 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 1:00 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. Hall moved that the minutes of the Board Operations Committee for the March 2008 committee meeting be approved. Dr. Fields seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

5. **REVIEW NEW NOMINATIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION:** Dr. Fields moved that the nominations for Thelma Grave of Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUSD #4 and the Bilingual Transition to Teaching (BTTT) recognition be approved for consideration. The BTTT resolutions will be considered during the March plenary session and a resolution for Thelma Grave will be considered at the April plenary. Ms. Karon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6.a. **2008 BOARD CALENDAR:** The following changes were recommended for consideration during the April plenary session. It was also recommended to leave the November 2008 meeting as posted, but cancel if it is determined that it is not needed. If Veto Session dates do not conflict, perhaps a one-day board meeting could be held in Chicago in November.

   - The dates for the 2008 Board Retreat be changed to August 19-21;
   - The location of the September 17-18, 2008 meeting of the State Board of Education be changed to Bloomington, Illinois.
   - The October Board meeting be changed to October 21-22, 2008 and will be held in Springfield at the Illinois State Board of Education office.

6.b. **2009 BOARD CALENDAR:** The committee will recommend the dates and locations for a draft 2009 Board calendar be considered during this month's plenary session.

7. **BOARD RETREAT PLANNING:** Superintendent Koch and board members discussed the following issues for potential retreat agenda items:

   - Strategic Plan, Goals, Mission and Vision: Dr. Koch provided an example of a document from the Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and recommended that a similar document be developed for the Strategic Plan this year. During the retreat the Board could revisit the Strategic Plan, the Goals, and the Mission and determine what the Board wishes to revise.
o Graduation Policy: Dr. Koch commented that he has spent some time with Connie Wise discussing graduation policies, definition of graduation. Some states have a 5-year graduation policy. The CCSSO agenda dedicated some time for that discussion as well. Secretary Spellings is going to be coming out with direction soon on consistency among states on graduation policies.

o School Consolidation: consolidation issues and statistics could be reviewed during the retreat, with perhaps some local districts invited as well as a legislator who has interest in this area.

Superintendent Koch indicated that he and Susie Morrison will be revisiting Standards and ACHIEVE frequently with the Board and retreat time may not be needed.

Ms. Holmes commented that two or three of these issues would be more than enough due to the need for the Board self-evaluation and the Superintendent’s evaluation needing to be accomplished. The evaluations alone would at least take one-half day. Ms. Holmes also indicated that the Strategic Plan discussion would fold into the high school discussion, high school graduation policy, etc. She commented that if the Board is going to tackle a controversial topic such as school consolidation, she believes that the Board should discuss school finance as opposed to anything else. However, her personal thoughts are Strategic Plan, Self Eval, Supt. Eval and the high school discussion.

Dr. Brown suggested that for the Board Self Evaluation, that we somehow measure our policies against something – measuring states against states. Dr. Brown continued that the state is “graded” on various issues: Technology, Governance, etc. There is also Quality Counts, etc. Dr. Koch indicated that Matt Vanover has already compiled some of the information from those national reports and that information could be circulated prior to the Board’s self-evaluation at the retreat.

Dr. Fields suggested that the Board attempt to determine an initiative in which the Board could be proactive and not reactionary. Chairman Ruiz agreed that taking time attempting to foresee problems before they arise, such as IMAGE, is time well spent.

Superintendent Koch responded to Chairman Ruiz’s comment about forecasting and preventing the next “bombshell”. Dr. Koch indicated that there is considerable concern about restructuring of schools and that issue is significant in terms of staff capacity and the budget.

Ms. Karon suggested the topic of transitioning students from elementary to “early secondary” and then to secondary education. That weaves into the discussion that Dr. Hall recommends regarding graduation policies and Career Tech and the ability for students to scholastically cope in those transitions.

Dr. Hall commented that there are so many new and not necessarily collegiate opportunities for our students: virtual schools, Career Tech education which provides skills for students entering the work force, etc. What are we as a State Board going to do to change the policy for the way we teach?

Dr. Ward commented that Illinois is one of the only states to mandate physical education and, with the current focus on childhood obesity, that is a policy issue that is potentially life-threatening that the Board should take a look at.

Superintendent Koch indicated that he would put together a list for Board members from which they could prioritize issues for discussion at the retreat. The agenda items determined to be of highest priority by the majority of board members would be brought
back to the May Board Operations Committee meeting in order to develop the retreat agenda.

Ms. Holmes agreed with the Superintendent’s suggestion that there is no reason to leave some of the policy discussion to the retreat. Some committee time can and should be spent on discussion of policy. Ms. Holmes indicated that she is almost ready for a consent agenda in committees. Dr. Brown agreed that if there is reading material in the packet, and there is a recommendation of the Superintendent, compressed planning should take place. Review the agenda items and weigh them in order to place the appropriate priority status to them for time spent in committee.

8. REVIEW LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SURVEY: This agenda item had been deferred to the April committee meeting. Dr. Brown commented that she sent Susie Morrison some suggestions for revision to the survey. She suggested some general identifying factors for the respondents such as their geographic location in the state, whether they are on annual financial watch list, etc. Dr. Ward also indicated that perhaps they could identify if it is the school board president, or the superintendent who is completing the survey. Ms. Morrison indicated that the committee would be meeting sometime this summer, so if other board members have suggestions, please forward them to her.

9. BOARD REFLECTION: Ms. Karon requested that members spend some time looking at the IBHE Public Agenda Plan prior to next month’s board meeting. It serves as a forecast on education in Illinois.

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

11. ADJOURN: Dr. Fields moved that the Board Operations Meeting of the Whole be adjourned. Dr. Hall seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The committee meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.
TO: Illinois State Board of Education  
FROM: Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education, Susan C. Morrison, Special Assistant to the Superintendent  

Agenda Topic: Board Retreat Planning  
Contact(s): Christopher A. Koch and Susan C. Morrison

Purpose of Agenda Item
To provide an overview of the content and topics for the Board Retreat.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan
GOAL 1 Enhancing Literacy  
GOAL 2 Improving Educator Quality for All Children  
GOAL 3 Expanding Data-Informed School Management & Support Practices

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
Board Members will have a better understanding of the content and expected outcomes of the retreat.

Background Information
For the past two months several ideas for the annual retreat have been forwarded. In July a progress report for the Board’s Strategic Plan is due to the General Assembly. A draft of the progress report will be provided at the June meeting for Board approval. Progress will be reported for the three goals listed above, which were adopted in March of 2005.

At the August retreat, Board members will have an opportunity to reflect on the three Strategic Goals adopted by the Board in March, 2005, as well as the strategies and activities designed to support the attainment of the goals.

Staff will present the need for a greater use of data in driving the agency’s future work and will make suggestions for modifying the Strategic Plan accordingly.

The Board has determined that the Superintendent’s evaluation and the Board’s Self-Review will also be discussion topics for the retreat.

Superintendent’s Recommendation
The Superintendent recommends that the agenda for the Board retreat include a discussion and modification of the Board’s Strategic Plan to incorporate regular reviews of performance indicators for key Board initiatives. A focus on updating the Illinois Learning Standards and teacher standards and the establishment of a P-16 student data system is suggested as a starting point for this discussion.