AGENDA (timeframes are estimated for planning purposes)

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation 4:00 – 4:05 p.m.

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

5. Review Nominations for Resolutions of Recognition 4:05 – 4:10 p.m. (pp. 4-7)

6. Retreat Debriefing (Superintendent Koch, Susie Morrison) 4:10 – 4:40 p.m. (pp. 8-12)

7. Employee Handbook (Don Evans) 4:40 – 4:50 p.m. (p. 13)

*8. NASBE Election (Chris Ward) 4:50 – 4:55 p.m. (pp. 14-24)

9. NASBE Newsletters (Chris Ward) 4:55 – 5:00 p.m. (pp. 25)

10. Board Reflection 5:00 – 5:15 p.m. (p. 26)

11 Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items

12. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.
ROLL CALL: Dr. Chris Ward called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves for purposes of roll call. (See above.)

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no request for public participation.

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

REVIEW NEW NOMINATIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION: Dr. Fields moved that the resolution for Mark Thomas Schmidt be recommended for approval during plenary session. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NASBE DUES: Dr. Ward indicated that he will be abstaining from the vote on this motion because he serves on the NASBE Board. Members indicated that having the opportunity to serve on NASBE study groups and participate in meetings, there is a benefit of garnering experience and knowledge from other boards. It provides an opportunity to see what is happening in other states and the challenges being faced. Ms. Karon added that the side benefit is that there is an organized effort to bring together the General Counsels of the state boards of education.

Ms. Holmes encouraged members to highlight what Illinois is doing well at our national organization meetings. Ms. Karon encouraged members to participate in the study groups as well as the national conference.

Mr. Ruiz recommended that NASBE dues be recommended at the $7500 professional development level for FY09.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Dr. Koch briefly reviewed the Draft Strategic Plan for submission to the General Assembly by July 1. Superintendent Koch commented that this report is much like last year’s report in that he wanted to be sure the main objectives of the plan were discussed in the progress report, as well as an accounting of how the money was spent over the last year.

BOARD REFLECTION: Dr. Ward commented that he, Vinni and Dean attended the NASBE committees in Alexandria, VA. Dr. Ward indicated the Board of Directors discussed policy issues that were brought forward from two states for potential
consideration at the annual meeting. October will be the 50th anniversary of NASBE. The directors also reviewed NASBE finances and discussed possible topics for the 2009 study groups.

Mr. Clark indicated that the Government Affairs committee discussed the proposed Title I NCLB regulations. The committee also received an excellent presentation from the Obama campaign education staffer.

Dr. Ward indicated that Dr. Hall was the spokesperson for the Career Tech Study Group and did an excellent job of reporting in that capacity.

Dr. Fields added that Dr. Hall and he both attended the CDC-NASBE Conference on improving health and reducing sexual risk for youth as well as unexpected pregnancies. He indicated that it revealed an epidemic that needs to be addressed. The panel included youth participation which emphasized the need to address this epidemic.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND AGENDA PLANNING: Dr. Ward asked members to review their July calendars for possible dates for a special meeting if needed. It was determined that July 17 would be held for any potential items which might need immediate action. August 7 is also reserved as needed.

Chairman Ruiz suggested a refresher ethics course as a reminder for current members and because we have a new member.

Dr. Brown suggested an invitation to outside groups again, such as Advance Illinois as well as other groups to find out what others are doing. Ms. Holmes suggested Advance Illinois, the former “Burnham” Group, which is now called the Dialogue Group, and possibly the executive directors from the Small Lobby Group. Ms. Holmes indicated that she could accommodate that discussion in the September Governmental Relations meeting to be held in September.

10 ADJOURN: Mr. Clark moved that the Board Operations Meeting of the Whole be adjourned. Ms. Karon seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The committee meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.
TO: 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
This item has no direct relationship to the 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

Superintendent's Name ___________________________ District name ___________________________

Address: ________________________________________
(street address, city, state, zip)

Phone and email: ____________________________
(phone) ____________________________ (email address) ____________________________ (region)

Recommends that ____________________________
(name of program or person(s))

of the following school: ____________________________
CENTER ON DEAFNESS

School Principal: ____________________________
(name & phone number) ____________________________
DOROTHY EULASS 847-559-0110
3444 DUNDEE ROAD, NORTHBOURG, IL 60062
(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
________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

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
Achievements of Dorothy Eulass

On July 31, 2008, Dorothy Eulass will close her 55-year career as a teacher and educational administrator.

She began her career in 1953 as a teacher of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing at the Houston School for the Deaf in Houston, TX after graduating from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dorothy’s first job in Illinois began in 1959 as an audiologist with the University of Chicago Clinics.

After a six-year hiatus from 1964 to 1970 during which she had two children, she returned to education as a teacher and administrator of deaf and hard-of-hearing programs for the Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED) in Highland Park, Illinois.

In 1978, she was named the founding director of the Low-Incidence Cooperative Agreement (LICA) serving children with low-incidence disabling conditions in the northern suburbs of Chicago.

In addition in 1978, Dorothy received her Masters Degree in Educational Administration from the National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois.

From 1982 to 1988, she returned to NSSED to serve as Assistant Superintendent with primary oversight of low-incidence programs.

For the last 18 years, Dorothy served as the Director of Educational Programs for the Center on Deafness in Northbrook, Illinois.

In her more than 50 years as a teacher and administrator, Dorothy has worked with and touched the lives of thousands of children with disabilities in Illinois.
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 Fairgrieve Boone/Winnebago Regional Office of Education
Regional Superintendent's Name Region name

Address: 300 Heart Boulevard Loves Park, Illinois 61111
(street address, city, state, zip)

Phone and email: 815-636-3060 rfairgri@kidsrae.org Boone/Winnebago
(phone) (email address) (region)

Recommends that Christina M. Meyer
(name of program or person(s)
of the following school: Marsh Elementary School, Rockford School District #205, Rockford, Illinois

School Principal: Christina M. Meyer 815-229-2430
(name & school phone number)

2021 Hawthorne Drive Rockford, Illinois 61107
(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.)

The Boone/Winnebago Region can point with pride to Christina M. Meyer. Her service to and the example that she sets for the students, staff and school communities in the Rockford Public School District #205 has been outstanding. As a Special Education teacher, Mrs. Meyer was recognized by the Parent Special Education Advisory Council for her work with students with disabilities. She was also selected as one of the "Top Twenty Golden Apple Teachers" in the Rockford School District #205. As an elementary school principal, Mrs. Meyer has distinguished herself by being awarded a Fulbright Administrative Exchange, presented a week-long seminar on best practices in Reading instruction in Lusaka, Zambia and was one of the first nominees for the Rockford community's "Principal of the Year" award. Most recently, Mrs. Meyer returned to the Rockford Public Schools after a year's leave of absence during which she was employed by the Ministry of Education of the United Arab Emirates. She was part of an elite group of international educators enlisted to mentor school principals and provide staff development sessions on instructional best practices throughout the country.

What is remarkable is that Christina Meyer has accomplished all of this and more while facing life-threatening health crises including strokes and significant cardiac issues. Others, in similar circumstances, may have decided to lighten their load and slow down, but not Mrs. Meyer. She does not believe in wasting her time. She states that she recognizes how precious time is and wants to use her's wisely and importantly, use it for the good of children.

It is with great pleasure that the Boone/Winnebago Region recommends Christina M. Meyer for recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Signature of Regional Superintendent of Schools

Date: Friday, August 22, 2008

Send Information to: Jean Ladage, Board Services Coordinator, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777. email: jjladage@ilsbe.net fax: 217/785-3972

Board Operations Committee Packet - Page 7
Chairman Ruiz called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Board Members Present
Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman
Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary
Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman
Dr. Andrea Brown
Dr. David Fields
Ms. Brenda Holmes
Ms. Joyce Karon
Ms. Lanita Koster

Senior Staff Present
Matt Vanover
Don Evans
Linda Tomlinson
Beth Hanselman
Connie Wise
Darren Reisberg
Susie Morrison
Linda Mitchell
Jean Ladage

Others Present
Gene Wilhoit, CCSSO

Superintendent Koch introduced Mr. Gene Wilhoit from the Council of Chief State School Officers who will be leading the Board Self Evaluation discussion on Wednesday, August 20, 2008.

Dr. Koch updated the Board on the background of the creation of the Strategic Plan. Superintendent Koch indicated that in order for the Strategic Plan to drive the work of the agency on a day-to-day basis, and because the Plan is a living document, it is time for it to be reviewed. He commented that after the trip to Harvard and having the opportunity to reflect with others at the meeting, he felt even more strongly that it was time to do so. The Harvard meeting also provided an opportunity to reflect on strengths and weaknesses as an agency. Dr. Koch expressed a desire for the Board and staff to better use the data available to us in the planning process.

As an example of the need for the agency to continue to strive to use research and data to drive policy, Superintendent Koch reported that a Harvard faculty member and researcher of quality professional development, Heather Hill, presented at the CCSSO on the importance of academic content exposure for future teachers. Her research determined a positive correlation between teachers who complete Masters Degrees in content and increased student achievement. This positive correlation was not present for teachers who complete Masters degrees in Education.

Dr. Koch indicated that his senior staff had been reviewing statewide data and that Board members would have a similar opportunity at this retreat. Data will be reviewed so that we can better reflect on our mission and goals. The object of this week’s retreat will be to have the Board approve a revised mission and three goals by this Thursday. Superintendent Koch asked Susie Morrison to speak on data.

Ms. Morrison opened by saying that as a state we are data rich and information poor. A lot of data is collected but we do not always turn that data into information to utilize in decision making. There are four types of data: program data, demographic data, achievement data and perception data. Ms. Morrison began the exercise with perception data by asking each Board member what they felt the strengths of the Board and Agency are and what opportunities for improvement there might be. Following Board comments, Ms. Morrison shared the responses of senior staff when asked the same questions. The following represents a compilation of both Board and staff comments:
# Agency Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Opportunities for Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus on student improvement</td>
<td>Alignment of staff abilities to jobs/tasks/position</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership team</td>
<td>Need to serve specific populations with resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIS</td>
<td>Use current data to drive decision making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable board</td>
<td>Technology for data collection, analysis – improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-grants system</td>
<td>process, sharing, logistics, equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder support from field</td>
<td>Human capital resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good relationships with post-secondary education</td>
<td>Data warehouse needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial oversight system</td>
<td>Political influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication with districts</td>
<td>Recruitment – need to find qualified people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeliness of Information</td>
<td>Position ourselves as pro-active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness of agency to public</td>
<td>2 offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High funding levels and good relationships with general assembly</td>
<td>Negative media coverage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starting to look across and break down silos</td>
<td>Lack of staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hold staff/managers accountable</td>
<td>Overcoming past perceptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognize need for better communication</td>
<td>Lack of new I.T. systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data driven decision making</td>
<td>Data indicates wide gap in achievement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognition – honor roll</td>
<td>Impact of outside influences</td>
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<td>Spec. Ed monitoring</td>
<td>Lack of funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early childhood programs</td>
<td>Inequity in school funding</td>
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<td>Strong legal services</td>
<td>Accountability without Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Staff</td>
<td>Lack of Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness/Honest</td>
<td>Communication (districts, stakeholders, G.A.</td>
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<td>Work Ethic</td>
<td>o Focus on what the Board feels needs to be done.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficiency of Effort (Outreach)</td>
<td>o Lack of ideas/discussion/decisions and follow-through</td>
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<td>Providing good resources to stakeholders</td>
<td>o Means by which to communicate our focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecting the dots</td>
<td>Random approach to school reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Local Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusion of stakeholders</td>
<td>Federal gov’t mandates/expectations</td>
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<td>Reduction of redundancy with schools</td>
<td>Allocation of resources</td>
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<td>Efficient process of large amounts of information</td>
<td>Unfunded legislative mandates</td>
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<td>Content expertise</td>
<td>Lack of external political will</td>
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<td>Confusion of Board and the Agency</td>
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<td>Professional development of staff</td>
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<td>Turnover of agency staff &amp; Board</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Increasing the numbers of minority staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Facility</td>
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The Board and senior staff then broke into four groups for a review of the following data: Achievement Data, Achievement Gaps, and Teacher Quality. Following the breakout of these groups, they returned to provide what the data revealed. The following is a summary of those discussions.

## REPORT & DISCUSS DATA FINDINGS

### ACHIEVEMENT DATA

- Demographics/Achievement
- Appearances of a disconnect between 8<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grade student scores
  - The differential in reading scores are much lower than in Math (Math scores are consistently higher)
- Significant achievement gaps (minority/low-income)
- High school data is FLAT for 5 years
- Significant gaps in student performance among districts
Chicago has gradually scored increases grades 3-8
East St. Louis just the opposite – scores decline in 3-8

- Whites are getting older
- Hispanic is the largest growing subgroup
  - 70% have less than a high school education
- Northeast area of the state is the only area showing growth
- IL is competitive with other states on ACT scores
- Number of districts remains essentially unchanged.

TEACHER QUALITY

- How is Illinois context changing?
  - Changing demographics
    - Students more minorities; more in poverty; more ELL
    - Teachers – fewer minorities, fewer males; aged
- Teacher Quality Challenges
  - Degree or upward mobility is tied to administration not to content knowledge/expertise
    - Where does a science teacher go for master’s degree in the summer time?
    - Reward system focused on more degrees but not areas needed in content needs for classroom
    - Availability and ease of acquiring the programs
    - Reward system focused upon administration, not in increasing quality
  - Student Achievement
    - Gap between Gender in achievement
    - Achievement gaps widen among minority populations
    - 8th grade – 11th grade become the line where achievement plummets
- Urgent issues to inform policy & practice
  - Teacher Preparation – immersion from Freshman year
  - Teacher Certification requirements
  - Continuing Professional Development
  - Teachers need to teach kids how to learn
  - Connecting the best teachers with students in need
  - More math and science teachers
  - Supporting new teachers
  - Teacher Supply & Demand

ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

- Low poverty increased
- Feds drive for more data (Their data not always helpful to us)
- Diversity issues affecting more schools & districts
- What is happening with literacy after 3rd grade?
- Partnering with other groups to solve those problems
- How do you cope with students who lack social/emotional skills
- Look at increasing monitoring program data at district level?

Challenges
- Poverty Level increase
- Diversity Growth Shifts
- Effective School Leaders
- How do we hold effective conversations with stakeholders to achieve that?
Urgent Issues
- Menu of wrap around services
- How to use free and reduced lunch/poverty to drive the services
- Shift focus of reading across all grades (Certification?)
- Tailor data to meet our needs as well as the needs of the feds?

CONCLUSION AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Dr. Koch indicated that he and his senior staff (with input from division administrators) recommend the following Mission Statement and Goals as a starting point for the Board's discussion and further edits.

Proposed Mission Statement
The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education by sharing accountability for serving the students of Illinois with Illinois School Districts and Schools.

What does the Board like about the statement?
- Shared accountability
- Simplification of the mission statement
- Preparation for succeeding in careers.
- Postsecondary education applies to career standards
- Clarity – no education speak
- May have longevity
- “serving”

What would the Board like to see revised?
- Are we supposed to “serve” or “educate” students?
- What about oversight function?
- What does shared accountability mean?
- Mission statements reflect what & how – reverse the order of the statement
- Inclusion of all Illinois school districts (does that exclude private schools?)

PROPOSED GOALS (As proposed by Superintendent and Management)
1. Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
2. Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
3. Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

The Board members discussed the goals and were pleased with the staff recommendations for new goals.

Superintendent Koch and Ms. Morrison indicated that once the Board agrees on a Mission Statement and three Goals, staff will return to develop a work plan including strategies and measurable indicators for those goals. The Strategic Plan will continue to be a work in progress.

Dr. Koch suggested that the Board take time in the next day or two to think about the following options for a Mission Statement and review the recommended Goals. On Thursday during the plenary session further discussion can take place prior to Board action.

Mission Statement – option 1
The Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Districts and Schools share accountability for educating the students of Illinois. The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education.
Mission Statement – option 2
The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education and share accountability with Districts and Schools.

Mission Statement – option 3
The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education.

Wednesday, August 20, 2008
The Board spent the day in closed session.

Thursday, August 21, 2008
The Board reconvened in closed session for a brief period. At 9:30 a.m. they reconvened in open session to conduct a plenary session. See plenary session minutes dated August 21, 2008.
Agenda Topic: Revised Employee Handbook

Materials: Draft Employee Handbook

Staff Contact(s): Donald W. Evans, Director of Human Resources and Professional Development
Darren Reisberg, General Counsel

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of the Employee Handbook is to provide information about current benefits, policies and procedures in conjunction with and not specifically addressed in the current bargaining unit agreements. Human Resources has revised the existing H.R. Manual and Code of Conduct and incorporated them into a comprehensive document, the Employee Handbook.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan
Not Applicable.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
The Board will review and approve the Employee Handbook, providing employees with an updated and improved resource for policies, procedures and benefits.

Background Information
The existing H.R. Manual was last revised in 1998. Much of the material required updating.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications
Policy Implications: Not Applicable
Budget Implications: Not Applicable
Legislative Action: Not Applicable
Communication: Not Applicable

Superintendent's Recommendation
The Superintendent recommends the following motion be considered for Board adoption in October.


Next Steps
Implementation of the Employee Handbook.
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 17-18, 2008

TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Jesse Ruiz, Board Chairman

Agenda Topic: NASBE Election: President and Central Area Directors
Materials: Background Information on Candidates

Purpose of Agenda Item
To review materials relating to the respective NASBE candidates and to discuss candidates prior to the election at the NASBE annual business meeting in October. One member from Illinois will be appointed as voting delegate to attend the business meeting.

NASBE Election
The election procedures for the NASBE Board of Directors was amended with the passage of the Bylaw change last October. Beginning in 2008, the election for President-elect and Secretary-Treasurer (when applicable) will take place at the Annual Business Meeting during the Annual Conference (Friday afternoon, October 17, 2008). Candidates will be elected by a majority vote of all voting member states (one vote per state by the voting delegate).

States that are unable to send a delegate to the Annual Business Meeting may vote by mail, to be received at NASBE Headquarters by September 30 after notifying the Senior Area Director from the region. In the absence of a majority vote, voting member states present at the Annual Business Meeting shall vote by secret ballot to decide the outcome of the election. In the event the second vote does not result in the required majority, the NASBE Board of Directors, excluding any candidates in the election in question, will vote through a secret ballot to determine the outcome of the election.

Area Directors will be elected by majority vote of the voting states of a particular area; that election will take place during the Area Meetings (Thursday morning, October 16) at the Annual Conference. Again, states unable to send a delegate to the Area Meetings may vote by mail ballot, to be received at NASBE headquarters by September 30 after notifying the Senior Area Director from the region. In the event of a lack of a majority vote, the voting delegates of an area at the Area Meeting will vote to determine the winning candidate.

Additional nominations for the offices of President-elect and Secretary-Treasurer may be made by written petition signed by voting delegates of five or more states from two or more regions eligible to vote, provided that such nominations are received at NASBE headquarters by August 31 by electronic mail, facsimile, or written report. Additional nominations for the office of Area Director may be made by written petition signed by the voting delegates of three or more states from the region eligible to vote – to be received at headquarters by August 31.

If between the close of nominations and the Annual Business Meeting a candidate’s withdrawal leaves either one or no candidate for a position, nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting.
Attached is background information on each of the candidates for President-elect and Area Director, including a resume and statement of interest.

There are three candidates for President-elect:
- Isis Castro-Virginia;
- Randy DeHoff-Colorado;
- Lowell Johnson-West Virginia

The two candidates for Central Area Director are running for two different seats:
- Joe Higgins is running for a second two-year term;
- Chris Ward is running to fill the second year of a term.

**Recommended Motion:**
None. The Chairman has appointed Dr. Vinni Hall to serve as the Illinois voting delegate at the NASBE business meeting in October. Following discussion on this topic in committee, Dr. Hall will vote accordingly.
STATEMENT OF INTENT
CANDIDATE FOR 2009 NASBE PRESIDENT-ELECT

ISIS M. CASTRO
VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

I am pleased to be in the running for the office of President-Elect of the National Association of State Boards of Education. I currently serve as a Southern Area Director on NASBE’s Board. I was instrumental in having Virginia re-join NASBE and have been an active member ever since. I have served on the on the following Study Groups: Language and Learning, Value-Added Assessments and Civic Engagement and Ethical Behavior.

I am a life-long educator, beginning my career as a classroom teacher, then as the first Latina elected school board member in the Commonwealth of Virginia and first Latina appointed to serve on the Virginia State Board of Education. I am the former chair of the Fairfax County School Board, the thirteenth largest school district in the United States. In 2004, former Governor Mark Warner appointed me to the Virginia Board of Education. Governor Tim Kaine recently re-appointed me to that position, and I will serve on Virginia's state board until 2012.

This is an exciting time to be involved in the complex and many times controversial issues confronting public education. Simply put, NASBE serves as a beacon for public education in this country. My colleagues and I from across the country, find NASBE to be an invaluable opportunity to network and exchange ideas, which will truly empower us in making a difference in our states. In light of upcoming federal legislative debates such as the reauthorization of NCLB and critical funding issues-the outcome of which is of critical importance to all of us--NASBE can continue to strengthen its partnerships with other national organizations to influence the debate and inform our constituents of the critical issues involved.

Our organization enjoys tremendous respect not only at the state level but at the federal level, as well. This is due in large part to NASBE’s leadership and professional staff. It will be my highest priority to maintain NASBE’s excellent working relationship with our member states and partnership organizations and increase our membership so that non participant states can benefit fully. It is critical that we remain responsive to our members’ needs, and it is critical that we are responsive to opportunities to influence the national debate on educational policy and legislation.

Isis Castro
Isis Maria Castro  
2404 Culpeper Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22308

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Board Member  
2004-Present  
Appointed by Governor Mark Warner and reappointed by Governor Tim Kaine to serve the children of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the state board of education. First Hispanic ever to be selected for such a distinction.

PROGRESO HISPANO, INC., Alexandria, Virginia  
Executive Director  
2001- 2004  
Founded and incorporated Progreso Hispano. This organization serves low-and moderate income immigrant community. Secured the building, furniture, and computers. Developed strategic goals and marketing targets. Secured funds through grants and donations. Recruited and trained over 90 volunteers and three employees. Developed programming and curriculum. In first two years of operations, the organization served over 2000 clients through legal assistance, language, and citizen classes.

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, Fairfax County, Virginia  
Mount Vernon District Representative  
1999-2003  
Elected by the Mount Vernon citizens to serve a four-year term on the school board (January 2000-2004). Established policy for the 12th largest school division in the nation and the largest in Virginia. Served as the Instruction Committee Chairperson, Vice chair and Chairman of the Board. Ensured that instructional issues were discussed, reviewed, and adhere to board policy. Advocated to local and state government for funding. Approved and presented a school budget to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of our 165,000 students and 20,000 employees. Responsible for establishing a Dual Immersion Program where students in kindergarten are exposed to Spanish 1/2 day and English 1/2 day. Responsible for establishing an International Baccalaureate Program at the elementary school where students are exposed to four languages at the sixth grade class.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Fairfax County, Virginia  
Teacher  
1991-1995  
Taught Math and Science to elementary school students in the Spanish Immersion Program.  
1991-1996  
Taught Spanish to seventh and eighth graders and as the foreign language department chairman, was responsible for coordinating the foreign language department.  
2004- 2007  
Serves as a Resource Teacher in the Fairfax County Public Schools Foreign Language Department. Responsible for interviewing teacher candidates, coordinates an internship program with the U.S. State Department, serves on the selection committee for the Washington Post and the Embassy of Spain Teachers Fellowships Program. Makes presentation to parents about the different foreign language programs available. Attends different educational conferences, and trains teachers in the latest methods of teaching foreign languages.  
2007 -Present  
Teaches Spanish at the middle school level for Fairfax County Public Schools.

AWARDS  
2003 - Public Advocate of the Year Award by the Greater Washington Ibero- American Chamber of Commerce  
2002 - Excellence in Community Service Award, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution  
2000 - The Fitz Turner Humanitarian Award, by the Virginia Education  
2001 - Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, by the Coalition of Hispanic Agencies & Professionals  
1996 - United Community Ministries. Outstanding Volunteer Award  
1992 - Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Outstanding Volunteer Award
CURRENT BOARD MEMBERSHIP
Virginia State Board of Education
National Association of State Boards of Education; Southern Area Director
Bishop Loverde's Peace and Justice Commission
Hispanic Leadership Alliance Inc.

PAST BOARD MEMBERSHIP
Member, Board of Directors, Fairfax County Falls Church Community Services Board
Member, Board of Directors, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services
Member, Board of Directors, United Community Ministries (UCM)
Vice Chair, Good Shepherd Catholic Church Pastoral Council

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Arts, Spanish, City College of New York, New York City, NY
Masters in Fine Arts, Spanish and Latin American Literature, New York University, New York City, NY

PERSONAL
Born in Havana, Cuba. Came to the United States as a refugee at age 14. Married, mother of three.
STATEMENT OF INTENT  
CANDIDATE FOR 2009 NASBE PRESIDENT-ELECT

RANDY DeHOFF  
COLORADO BOARD OF EDUCATION

The states and the nation face the challenge of transforming public education to meet the needs of the 21st century. The system of education designed in the early twentieth century has changed relatively little in the last one hundred years; it is totally inadequate to the demands and necessities of the immediate future. At the same time, the hard realities of public school finance make it clear that this transformation will have to take place within approximately the current levels of funding – significant new sources of funding simply do not exist in most states. The stark choice we face is this: either we will transform public education for the 21st century, or it will be transformed for us.

The leading issues driving this transformation include the growth of school choice, especially charter schools, a greater emphasis on math and science education, redefinition and expansion of career and technical education, and the exponential growth of online schools. Online education has been characterized by Clayton Christensen as a “disruptive innovation” that will force a transformation of public education.

NASBE is well positioned to lead states through this transformation. They are a nationally recognized resource ready to assist states as they negotiate the policy implications of that transformation. But policy implies politics, and these issues are already as disruptive to the politics of public education as they are destined to be to its structure. If NASBE is to lead this discussion as it has the potential to do, it requires leadership that brings the credibility of nationally recognized expertise, and the proven ability to work through the political divisions to reach a common goal.

I bring that expertise, credibility, and proven leadership to the race for President-elect of NASBE. As Chairman, I successfully led a politically divided Colorado State Board of Education through these complicated policy debates, drawing both sides to common agreements that satisfied the key concerns of all stakeholders. I have earned a reputation in Colorado as a non-partisan advocate and policy expert for online education, charter schools, and math and science education. I have shared that expertise at a national level through articles, conference presentations, and service on national advisory boards and committees, as well as through my commitment to NASBE.

It would be a profound honor and privilege to serve as the President of NASBE during my last year on the Colorado State Board of Education. I can think of no greater service than to share the leadership and expertise I have gained in Colorado with all 50 states and the nation, as together we lead public education through the transformation to the 21st century.
Randy DeHoff has served on the Colorado State Board of Education since 1999, representing the Sixth Congressional District. He was reelected to a second six year term in 2004, and will complete his term at the end of 2010. He has served as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Board between 2001 and 2004, earning a reputation as a passionate, non-partisan defender of quality public schools for all students, who works effectively to unite the efforts of all stakeholders to that end.

Mr. DeHoff has been active in public education for over a quarter century, since the first of his four daughters started kindergarten. His children have been educated in the local public schools, home school, and a charter school that he helped found.

After earning a B.S. in Physics from the University of Virginia, he served eight years active duty as a Naval Flight Officer, flying missions throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans. He moved to Colorado in 1984, working in the aerospace industry as a Systems Engineer and program manager on several successful missile and rocket launch programs.

In February, 2005, Mr. DeHoff left the aerospace industry to make public education his full time vocation as the Executive Director of the newly formed Colorado Charter School Institute, a statewide chartering authority. The Institute will be overseeing 16 schools with over 6000 students throughout Colorado in the 2008-2009 school year.

Since joining the State Board of Education, he has served on several National Association of State Boards of Education study groups, and currently serves on the NASBE Board of Directors. He represented NASBE on the Steering Committee to revise the standards for the 2004 NAEP Math Assessment, and has been nominated to represent NASBE on the new National Technical Advisory Committee on Assessment. The Colorado League of Charter Schools awarded him their Charter Friend Award in 2002.

Mr. DeHoff has further blended his background and interest in science and education through his membership in the American Association of Physics Teachers and the National Science Teachers Association, and as a founding board member of the Colorado Math, Science Technology, and Engineering Education Coalition (COMSTEC). He has authored numerous articles on education for local and national media. In his spare time he enjoys horseback riding, fly fishing, and back-country skiing.
STATEMENT OF INTENT
CANDIDATE FOR 2009 NASBE PRESIDENT-ELECT

LOWELL JOHNSON
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

The education of children for a modern society has always been my highest priority. With the knowledge explosion and advances in technology, state boards of education are seeking ways to improve curriculum, provide assessments that are meaningful, promote globalization through an understanding of cultural diversity, promote citizenship, promote wellness, eliminate harassment and bullying, reduce dropout rates, increase graduation rates, attract the best and brightest to the teaching profession, provide meaningful professional development, and promote community and business involvement. Although this is not an exhaustive list, all education policy must be considered in the context of federal laws and regulations, court decisions, state laws, and the power of the executive branch of government. Being an education policy maker is not an easy task.

With the challenges and opportunities facing state boards of education, you can readily see why I support and wish to be part of the leadership of NASBE. NASBE is the only organization that brings together members of state boards of education to deal with the issues facing education policy makers. By employing a competent staff and using study groups, member committees, and grants, NASBE has provided me with opportunities to network with board members from other states, listen and question experts on public policy, meet with U.S. Department of Education officials and tell members of Congress of the importance of the NASBE's educational agenda.

Since being appointed to the West Virginia Board of Education in 2004, I have attended faithfully every meeting of NASBE and have served on the Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC). I was pleased and honored to be selected to serve as a member of the NASBE Board of Directors for the Southern Region this year. I wish to be nominated as President-elect of NASBE because I want to serve an organization that cares about the education of America's children. I want the challenges we face in education to be opportunities for children. I want to serve a strong organization like NASBE because the members and staff of that organization care about the education of children and their future.
Dr. Lowell E. Johnson was appointed to the state Board of Education in January 2004 by former Gov. Bob Wise and completed his second term as state board president in 2007. He previously served as the assistant secretary for ports for the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

A lifetime resident of West Virginia, Dr. Johnson currently resides in Lewisburg in Greenbrier County. He has an extensive history with education in West Virginia. He earned his bachelor's degree in education from Concord College, a master's degree in guidance and counseling from West Virginia University, as well as a doctoral degree in reading and psychology from WVU.

Dr. Johnson began his teaching career in Greenbrier County. He then joined the teacher preparation faculty at Fairmont State College in 1970. In 1981, Dr. Johnson became president of the West Virginia Education Association, where he remained until 1985. That year, he joined the faculty at Bluefield State College, a historic black college, and served as the chairman of the Division of Education. In 1987, Dr. Johnson began working for former Rep. Bob Wise, D-W.Va., as chief of staff until 2000.

Currently, Dr. Johnson is serving on the National Association of State Boards of Education's (NASBE) Board of Directors and is President of West Virginia's 21st Century Learning First Alliance. He previously served as chairman of NASBE's Governmental Affairs Committee and on the Board of Directors for the National Education Association, the Southern Regional Education Board and the Education Commission of the States. He also serves on the Governor's 21st Century Jobs Council, the Governor's Commission on Technology, the West Virginia International Education Commission and the Advisory Board of Directors for the West Virginia State Fair.

Dr. Johnson is married to the former Rebecca Hinkle and has two children, Amy and Paul. His term on the board ends November 4, 2012.
CHRISTOPHER J. WARD, Ed.D.
535 Rodney Street, Lockport, Illinois 60441
cward1944@yahoo.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION:
Birth: January 31, 1944
Married, 1968; Wife: Kathleen
Children: Christopher, Timothy, Sarah, Margaret Mary

NASBE GOAL:
I seek to use my skills and past experience in public and private education to contribute to the betterment of education for students throughout the nation and the State of Illinois

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT:

Employed in the field of education from 1968 – 2004 as a teacher, counselor, building administrator, and district administrator.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:
Strategic Planning Consultant to the Tri-County Education Service Center
Three Rivers Educational Partnership
North Central Association for School Accreditation
Northern Illinois University Ed. Admin. Alumni Association
Educational Advisory Committee, Elementary School District 30C – Chairman
District Representative to Bolingbrook/Romeoville Macro Planning Committee
Faculty/Staff Consultant to Joliet Catholic High School Capital Development Study
Curriculum Development Consultant to the Tri-County Education Service Center
Currently mentoring two local superintendents
Numerous local and national presentations

POST-RETIREMENT:
Appointed to the IL State Board of Education by Governor Blagojevich
Selected to fill a vacancy term on the Board of Directors of NASBE
Elected Vice-Chair of State Board of Education by Co-members
Currently serving on IL State Board of Education as Chairman of Operations Committee
Served on National Committee on Ethic & Civic Education Issues
Addressed Fulbright Scholars on Issues facing American Education at University of Illinois, Chicago Campus
Appointed to University of St. Francis Board of Trustees

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:
Organized and taught community/parent effectiveness classes.
Member of Lockport Lions.
At various times, served as a baseball, football, and soccer coach within the community.
President – Lockport Old Canal Days
Established effective home/school/community relations by organizing parent groups, presentations, TV, newsletters, and parent luncheons.
Homer Glen Executive Board – Land Use Development
Chairperson – Advisory Committee to Elementary District 30C
Homer Glen Advisory Committee – Town Center Project
Joe Higgins
NASBE Board of Directors
Central Area Director

Statement of Interest
During my five (5)+ years as a member of the Nebraska State Board of Education
I have served in a variety of positions within NASBE.
   New Member Institute (2003)
   Member of the Athletics and Academics Study Group (2004)
   Chair of Government Affairs Committee (2005)
   Member of the Government Affairs Committee (2006)
   Official delegate to NASBE from Nebraska (2005 & 2006)
   Central Area Director (By Appointment 2007 & 2008)

I seek nomination to be a candidate for the two-year term as Central Area
Director to be elected in October of 2008. My current term as a member of the
Nebraska State Board of Education continues through December of 2010. I have been
and remain committed to the mission and goals of NASBE. I am interested continuing to
serve public education in this position. My vocation and avocation over the past 45
years has been the advancement of teaching and learning. Thirty-six years within the
classroom and service as teacher leader have given me a useful perspective to continue
as a member of the NASBE Board of Directors.
TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Chris Ward, Board Operations Committee Chairman

Agenda Topic: NASBE Newsletter – State Highlights

Materials: None

Purpose of Agenda Item
Board Discussion

Background
NASBE would like to begin highlighting states in an electronic periodical. The newsletter is a service to the membership provided by NASBE.

NASBE will produce the newsletter monthly, with the first issue to be distributed in September. The newsletter will be distributed by NASBE electronically to the Board staff executive and State Board members. The template used will be similar to the one used for the regional newsletters.

Once NASBE has distributed the newsletter to Execs and Board Members, it will be the pleasure of the Board to distribute it to others who may be interested in the information.

NASBE will need a message from the chair of the Board, as well as local and state news that you would like to include.

Recommended Motion
This is a discussion item at this time.
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.