Illinois State Board of Education

Board Operations Committee of the Whole
October 29, 2009
11:00 a.m.
(This meeting will begin immediately following the previous session.)
All open meetings will be audio cast on the Internet at: www.isbe.net

AGENDA (timeframes are estimated for planning purposes)

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

3. Public Participation 11:00 – 11:05 a.m.

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

*5. Review Nominations for Recognition 11:05 – 11:10 a.m. (pp. 4-11)

*6. ISBE Education Commission of the States Commissioner (Chairman Ruiz) 11:10 – 11:15 a.m. (pp. 12-14)

7. Committee Agenda Planning/Additional Items
   a. Discussion of potential change in location for December 2009

8. Committee Wrap-up – as needed (Superintendent Koch)

9. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.
1. **ROLL CALL:** Mr. Ruiz called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. and asked for a Roll Call. (See roll call above.)

2. **BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MEANS:** None.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

4. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:** Dr. Hall moved that the minutes of the June 2009 Board Operations Committee be approved. Ms. Karon seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed on a unanimous voice vote.

5. **REVIEW NEW NOMINATIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION:** Mr. Ruiz recommended that the language in the Civic Mission resolution be revised to include a statement that the Board supports their ongoing efforts to improve civic education and the civic engagement of high school students in Illinois. There were no objections to that change, so the resolution will be revised prior to the vote during plenary session.

6. **BOARD OPERATIONS BUDGET/EXPENDITURES:** Mr. Ruiz indicated that he had recently attended a Better Government Association presentation and listened carefully to a lively discussion where an audience member criticized the big spending of government boards and commissions. Mr. Ruiz commented that he believes the Board operates on a fiscally prudent budget for the nine members to represent their areas and would like for the citizens of Illinois to see that is the case. Assuming that no board member is opposed, Mr. Ruiz suggested the posting of Board expenses in general categories, e.g. travel, meals, lodging, etc. There was no objection and Chairman Ruiz instructed Jean Ladage and Linda Mitchell to get the information posted as soon as practicable.

   Dr. Koch asked Matt Vanover to speak to the Board about the creation of a FOIA link on the agency website. Mr. Vanover indicated that staff have been working on developing a FOIA website where all FOIAs would be posted, along with the response the agency provided the requester. The goal is to reduce the number of repeated FOIA requests, save staff time, and to provide more transparency for public information.

7. **2010 BOARD CALENDAR:** In May, 2009, the Board Operations Committee asked staff if it would be feasible to reduce the number of Board meetings in a calendar year. Following a staff discussion, it is the staff recommendation that, in 2010, the Board conduct regularly-scheduled meetings in January, March, May, June, August Retreat, September, October and December. This schedule will allow for a savings in Board member and staff travel as well as more efficient planning of board and committee agendas throughout a calendar year. It was suggested that members hold the previously planned dates in their calendars for February, April and November in case there is a need for a meeting to be called by the Chair.
Board members concurred that a reduction in the frequency of meetings will provide a respite for an already over-tasked staff and that, with advanced planning, agenda items can be more efficiently handled with less frequent production of materials. They agreed that they would move forward to plenary session with the proposed calendar printed in the meeting materials.

8. **NASBE ELECTIONS:** Following discussion of the candidates for office, Mr. Ruiz indicated that Dr. Vinni Hall would represent the Board at the NASBE business meeting and would represent the Illinois Board in casting her votes for Dana Mann-Tavegia, Greg Haws and Chris Ward for their respective offices.

9. **BOAR RETREAT DEBRIEFING:** Dr. Koch noted that the minutes from the retreat appear in the packet and asked if there were additional questions. Superintendent Koch and his staff were complimented on the smooth transition from one topic to the next during the three-day retreat.

10. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND COMMITTEE AGENDA PLANNING:** Parameters for review of Contracts and Grants - Darren Reisberg indicated that he would be bringing to the Board a plan to reduce the work of staff in this regard, but still allowing for the visibility of the grants and contracts processed by the agency. Dr. Brown would like the Board to be informed of grants that have been issued which are intended to close the achievement gap or intended to raise the bar. She suggested the Board take a more holistic look at the hard data of what we do with all types of funding to schools.

Ms. Karon commented that she learned of a new agency communication tool and asked Matt Vanover to inform Board members of the [ISBE Twitter and Facebook accounts](#). Mr. Vanover indicated that the agency is taking some new steps to be more accessible and accountable to stakeholders and the general public. The agency is getting ready to launch Facebook and Twitter accounts, which are social networking sites and popular ways to stay connected. These sites will be used to increase the Agency’s Internet presence as well as to remind the field of upcoming deadlines.

11. **COMMITTEE WRAP-UP:** None.

**CLOSED SESSION MOTION** – Chairman Ruiz called for a motion for the Board to go into closed session. It was agreed that the Board would take advantage of the time available on Wednesday afternoon to have their closed session discussion.

Ms. Karon 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;
- Section c11 for the purpose of considering pending or probable litigation against or affecting the Board.

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

Chairman Ruiz announced that the Board will recess and return only to adjourn the Board Operations Committee meeting. The meeting recessed at 3:20 p.m. and the Board went into closed session.

12. **ADJOURN:** Dr. Brown 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 3:56 p.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

Address: _6137 Beck Road, Red Bud, IL 62278 ____________________________
(street address, city, state, zip)

Phone and email: 618-473-2222 dalbert@monroe k12 il.us _____________________
(phone) (email address)

Region 5 ____________________________
(region)

Recommends that _Deborah Forsythe and the Outside-the-Box Improv Troupe ____________________________
(name of program or person(s))

of the following school: _Beck Area Career Center and Monroe Randolph ROE 45 Alternative Education Program_

School Principal: _______________Patti Miles, 618-473-2222, Ext. 101____________________
(name & phone number)

__6137 Beck Road, Red Bud, IL 62278____________________________
(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.)

It is my sincere pleasure to recommend Deborah Forsythe as a candidate for the Recognizing Achievement Award. Mrs. Forsythe has been an employee at the Beck Area Career Center in the Monroe/Randolph Regional Office of Education Alternative Education program since 1994 and has served as Guidance Counselor and currently as an English and Drama teacher. The alternative program serves students ages 16 to 21 who are identified as being “at risk” of failing by their home school.

In the fall of 2003 Mrs. Forsythe presented the idea of starting a performing troupe, later named “Outside the Box Improv Troupe” comprised of the at risk students in the alternative program. The students studied the Illinois Learning Standards for elementary and middle school drama. They then developed activities to do with the elementary and middle school students. At the leadership of Mrs. Forsythe the students traveled to several local elementary and middle schools, divided the elementary and middle school students into groups and before the end of the session, each group under the direction of the troupe members had performed some of the Illinois Learning Standard fine art skills. During that first year the troupe visited and worked with over 1,000 students. In February 2005 the troupe did their most ambitious workshop which was a multidisciplinary workshop on movement integrating the ISBE standards for music, P.E., and drama. Those activities continued each year through the 2006/2007 school year – each year adding new schools as the troupe’s reputation became more known. The troupe has also presented their workshops at the Monroe/Randolph Regional Office of Education teacher institute, local organizational meetings such as the Red Bud Rotary, and has also entertained at senior citizen centers.

In the 2007/2008 school year the troupe decided to shift the focus of their presentation and developed an anti-bullying presentation called “Captain Cool and the Courage Kids”. This program has been well received by local elementary and middle schools and the presentation has reached over 2,500 students with more workshops being scheduled for this school year.

Each year about twenty to twenty five of the “at risk” students participate in the troupe or about 20% of our enrollment. By participating in the troupe these students have gained confidence and pride in their accomplishments. One rather shy student felt that his best contribution would be the role of a tree in the forest in one of the skits but by the end of the school year he was an undisputed leader in the troupe. There are numerous examples of students who have developed amazing leadership qualities because of their participation in the troupe. More than one student has reported that he or she stayed in school because of the troupe. One student
reported that "Beck is my home, and Outside the Box is my family." The members of the troupe develop a bond as authors, actors, and team members.

It was a very rewarding experience for these students to be able to return to their home district in roles of actors and teachers.

All in all, troupe members grow in responsibility, leadership, confidence and pride. They benefit from bonds of friendship and trust. They learn to trust others by becoming more trustworthy themselves.

Mrs. Forsythe has indicated that the Outside the Box Improv Troupe is about the most exhausting and riskiest thing she has ever done professionally, but is probably the most professionally rewarding in its success. Due to limited funding the continuation of the troupe has been in jeopardy several times, however, Mrs. Forsythe has used her own personal funds to purchase costumes and other needed items. She has also been responsible for obtaining a grant from the St. Clement Foundation to help cover the cost of substitutes and transportation of the troupe.

Attached is a copy of the troupe's brochure.

Your consideration of Mrs. Forsythe for this award is greatly appreciated.

Signature of Superintendent of Schools  

Date: 10/16/09

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
Captain Cool signs autographs at the end of a classroom session at Chester Grade School.

Outside The Box Improv Troupe at Valmeyer Middle School for Captain Cool workshop, February 09.

Outside The Box Improv Troupe
Beck Area Career Center
6137 Beck Road
Red Bud, IL 62278
Phone: 618-473-2222 Ext 123
Fax: 618-473-2222
Email: dlsayth@csarnro2.k12.il.us

Above: Competitive Improv at Garden Place in Red Bud March 2007
Top and Above Right: Red Bud Healthy Kids Day 2009
Left: Smithton Elementary December 2005

Outside The Box at Smithton Elementary Dec. 05
Outside The Box Improv Troupe

Outside The Box Improv Troupe was formed in the fall of 2003 from a talented group of students at Back Area Career Center. Since then, we have provided Drama Workshops linked to ISBE Learning Standards for area elementary and middle schools and community organizations. All workshops are tailored to the needs of the individual schools, teachers, or organizations.

In 2007, we created an original series of anti-bullying workshops featuring Captain Cool and the Courage Kids who teach others how to take a stand and lend a hand to stop bullying. The funding for these workshops was generously provided by a grant from the St. Clements Foundation. During the 2007-08 school year, we worked with over a thousand elementary and middle school students. Last year, we presented the program to over 1,500 students. We are pleased to announce that we will once again be offering five days of Captain Cool workshops free of charge to area schools, thanks to the continued generosity of the St. Clements Foundation.

For more information on Outside The Box, the workshops or to book one for your school, contact Deborah Forsythe at Back Area Career Center.

Captain Cool and the Courage Kids

Captain Cool teaches kids that you don’t have to be a superhero to stop bullying. He teaches them to be Courage Kids who stand up for the victim, helping to remove him or her from the situation and get the help needed from adults. Focusing on the needs of the victim of the bullying, Captain Cool teaches them that violence is not the answer and that often just being a friend will make a difference.

Above: Waiting for Captain Cool’s big entrance from his “undisclosed location.”

Below: The Troupe visits a classroom at Chester Grade School.

Left: Captain Cool teaches Casey to be a Courage Kid.

Top Right: Captain Cool talks to the kids after the show.

Bottom Right: Evansville kids enjoy the presentation.

Top: The Troupe at Chester Grade School.
Bottom: Captain Cool teaches his Courage Kids how to help the victim of bullying.
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. Kevin Settle
Mount Vernon City Schools, District 80
Superintendent's Name

Address: 2710 North Street, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
(street address, city, state, zip)

Phone and email: 618-244-8080 ksettle@mtv80.org Egyptian
(phone) (email address) (region)

Recommends that Dr. Judith York
(name of program or person(s))

Benjamin Franklin Early Education Center, Mount Vernon Primary Center,
of the following school: J. L. Buford Intermediate Education Center, and Zadok Casey Middle School

School Principal: Aletta Lawrence, Dee Ann Schnaatz, Patrick Rice, and Mike Green (respectively)
(name & phone number)

500 Harrison, 401 N. 30th, 623 S. 34th, and 1829 Broadway (respectively)
(school address) Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

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.)

Please see attached pages.

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

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__________________________________________

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__________________________________________

Signature of Superintendent of Schools

Kevin Settle

Date: September 22, 2009

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
September 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As Superintendent of Mount Vernon City Schools, District 80, I work with many organizations and individuals. A few individuals rise to the top when considering their support for public education. Dr. Judith York is one of those people, and I am recommending her for Special Recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Dr. York retired as an Administrator from District 80 in 1994, after 23 years of service. During the past few years, she has become reconnected to the District and has assisted us in many ways. She began by serving as a volunteer in the classroom of her special needs grandchild when he entered kindergarten. Throughout the past five years she has been an outstanding volunteer in his classroom.

She also serves as a substitute when our principals are out of the District. Last year she worked in this capacity twenty-six times. It is extremely valuable having someone with her background and knowledge to substitute, because things are in good order when the regular principal returns.

She is very active in the Jefferson County Operation Iraqi Freedom committee that sends gift cards to our enlisted men and women. She has helped to organize school assemblies and fundraisers so our students understand the important role our armed services have in America.

She serves as the hospitality coordinator for the Cedarhurst Craft Fair. This event raises money to fund the programs at the Mitchell Museum which our students attend. For most of our students, these cultural experiences will be the best they will ever be provided.

Finally, she has served as the President of the Mount Vernon City Schools Foundation for the past five years. In the past, the Foundation solicited donations from friends of the District and had relatively little impact. Through her leadership, she has created a new image for the
September 21, 2009

Foundation. Many teachers and community members are now aware that there is a Foundation and that it assists with educational goals and projects. For example, last year excitement was created throughout the community because the Foundation held a silent auction with sales of old sports memorabilia. Hundreds of people came to the event not only to purchase items but to reminisce about the wonderful memories in District 80. The spirit and attention that this event provided the District was extremely positive. Later in the year one of the schools decided to host a trivia night with all of the proceeds going to the Foundation. Without Dr. York’s leadership, the Foundation would still be relatively unknown and non-productive. The money raised last year provided classroom grants for twelve teachers to fund projects for which there was no school funding available. It also provided funding to help purchase new sound systems at each of our schools. The Foundation has also become a conduit for receiving other grants which benefits District 80.

It is rare that an individual impacts a school district in so many positive ways. Therefore, I am requesting you adopt a resolution to recognize Dr. Judith York for her outstanding contributions to public education.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kevin Settle
Superintendent

KS: jm
TO: Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Jesse H. Ruiz, Chairman

**Agenda Topic:** Education Commission of the States (ECS) – Appointment of Commissioner Representing the State Board of Education

**Materials:** ECS Letter of Request for Appointment
ECS Information

**Purpose of Agenda Item**
To discuss a nomination by the State Board of Education to fill a vacant ECS Commissioner seat.

**Background**
Attached is a request for the Illinois State Board of Education to appoint someone to fill the vacancy of an ISBE-appointed Commissioner on the Education Commission of the States. The attached materials describe ECS and the commissioner role.

According to § 45 ILCS 90/2 of the Illinois School Code, the members representing the State of Illinois on the Education Commission of the States shall consist of the Governor, two persons appointed by the Governor, the State Superintendent of Education, one person appointed by the State Board of Education, one member of the Senate appointed by the President and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker.

**Current Illinois Appointments**
1. **Commissioner by Statute:** Governor Pat Quinn
2. **Commissioner by Statute:** Superintendent Christopher Koch
3. **Commissioner by Statute:** VACANT (ISBE appointee formerly Brenda Holmes)
4. **House of Representatives:** Rep. Kevin McCarthy
5. **Senate:** VACANT
6. **Governor Quinn’s appointee:** VACANT (held by Anne Davis until new appointment is made)
7. **Governor Quinn’s appointee:** VACANT (held by Ed Geppert until new appointment is made)

**Recommended Motion:**
Following discussion in the Board Operations Committee meeting, the following recommended motion will be finalized with the insertion of a Board appointee.

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby appoints _____________ to serve as the ECS Commissioner representing the State Board of Education.

**Next Steps**
Upon Board approval ECS staff will be informed of the name of the new appointee.
August 26, 2009

Jesse Ruiz  
Chair  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. 1st Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

Dear Mr. Ruiz:

The Illinois State Board of Education is asked to select someone from the Board to serve as an Education Commission of the States (ECS) commissioner, according to Illinois statute [§ 45 ILCS 90/2]. We had the pleasure of working with Brenda Holmes until her departure in May. She was an active ECS commissioner and, in fact, served as the steering committee member for the Illinois delegation of ECS commissioners.

As you may know, ECS was established in 1965 as a nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to state education. We are the only organization that serves a wide range of state policymakers — including governors, legislators, chief state school officers and higher education leaders — with resources on the full spectrum of education from preschool to postsecondary. As a membership organization, each state is represented by seven commissioners.

I invite the entire Illinois State Board of Education to visit the ECS Web site at www.ecs.org to learn more about ECS and explore the information we have available on dozens of education issues. If you have any questions about the ECS commissioner role, you may contact Heidi Normandin, ECS staff associate of Governance and Committee Relations, at 303.299.3629 or hnormandin@ecs.org. We are looking forward to working with your new appointment.

Sincerely,

Roger Sampson  
President

Enclosures
ECS Commissioner Information

ECS was established in 1965 as a nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education at all levels. Our core purpose is to enlighten, equip and engage key education leaders — governors, legislators, chief state school officers, higher education officials, business leaders and others — to work side by side to improve education across the 50 states and U.S. territories.

ECS commissioners are the backbone of ECS. They guide ECS’ policy directions, help set the agenda for our annual National Forum on Education Policy, and ensure our work is relevant and timely. ECS provides a variety of services to its member states and commissioners, including:

- Conducting research and policy analysis in areas such as high school reform, early learning, college access and success, teacher quality and leadership, school finance and service learning to help leaders develop policy for preschool to postsecondary education and workforce development
- Convening state, regional and national policy conferences where commissioners can share ideas and hear from education experts
- Promoting the sharing of information, ideas and resources by developing networks and partnerships involving legislators and their staff, governor’s aides and other education leaders
- “Connecting the dots” across the policy landscape by highlighting the impact policies in areas such as social services and corrections can have on the success on education policy, and encouraging state leaders to align these other policies with the goals of their education agenda
- Maintaining the nation’s most extensive Web site devoted to education policy with information ranging from brief overviews to in-depth policy analyses
- Providing customized technical assistance such as policy audits, legislative testimony, research, meetings, consultation and advice.

Because ECS so highly values the participation and leadership of its commissioners, they are asked to serve in two ways.

Engage with ECS and other commissioners by:

- **Attending ECS meetings**, including our annual National Forum on Education Policy each summer and the biannual steering committee meetings
- Taking on an active role at ECS meetings, such as serving as a panelist or moderating a discussion
- Guiding ECS’ work by identifying key state education concerns and information needs where ECS resources can make the most impact
- Suggesting nominees for ECS’ annual awards
- Providing feedback on the usefulness of ECS initiatives, Web resources, publications and online issue forums
- Leading ECS by reviewing our performance and casting critical votes on policy and procedure during the business session at the annual National Forum
- Working with ECS staff to identify in-state project opportunities and funding resources.

Represent and promote ECS in their state by:

- Distributing ECS resources to peers and colleagues
- Attending other organizational or state meetings as an ECS representative
- Assisting in the collection of the annual state fee assessment.