Illinois State Board of Education Meeting  
May 21, 2010  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, Illinois

ROLL CALL

Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Jean Ladage to call the roll. A quorum was present.

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<th>Members Present</th>
<th>Members Absent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman</td>
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<td>Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary</td>
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<td>Mr. James Baumann</td>
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<td>Dr. Andrea Brown</td>
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<td>Dr. David Fields</td>
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<td>Mr. Steven Gilford</td>
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<td>Ms. Lanita Koster</td>
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<td>Ms. Melinda LaBarre</td>
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Chairman Ruiz indicated that anyone wishing to speak regarding the Southland College Prep Charter Appeal to please hold comments until agenda Item IV.B. Public Hearing.

RESOLUTIONS & RECOGNITION

Dr. Ward moved that the State Board of Education adopt the resolutions recognizing Ms. Beverly Napper and Ms. Donna McKinley of Champaign Community Unit #4, Mr. Randy Vincent, Superintendent of Fieldcrest Community Unit # 6, Mr. Tom Urban, Superintendent, Henry Senachwine Unit District #5 and the Illinois Youth Internet Safety Contest Winners. Mr. Baumann seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Ruiz welcomed the following representatives from the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS): Louise Bassett, Regional Superintendent for ROE #22, Fulton and Schuyler Counties; Gail Owen, Assistant Regional Superintendent for ROE #53, Tazewell County and Jane Quinlan, Regional Superintendent for ROE #9, Champaign and Ford Counties.

Superintendent Koch gave a brief background on the charter school appeal process. He noted that when an appeal is filed on a charter school it is his responsibility as Superintendent to work with agency staff to come up with a recommendation to the State Board to consider. There are two thresholds to be met in making this determination; 1.) Compliance with the law. 2.) Is the charter school in the best interest of the students it is designed to serve?

Chairman Ruiz summarized the procedures for the hearing and indicated the board would recess into closed session following the hearing and return to take action in open session. There are three possible outcomes; 1.) the Board accepts Superintendent Koch’s recommendation to grant the charter; 2.) the Board denies Superintendent Koch’s recommendation and upholds the decision of the District; or 3.) the Board may decide they need more time for further analysis.

PUBLIC HEARING

SOUTHLAND

COLLEGE PREP

CHARTER SCHOOL

APPEAL

Southland College Prep Charter School Hearing

Dr. Blondean Davis, Southland Board Member and Superintendent of Matteson School District #162 shared the details of the new charter school to be located in the Southland. She said they are confident in their ability to be successful and confident that such an institution would be able to accomplish its goals and objectives.
Dr. Davis stated that the representatives with her today have diverse backgrounds, three have been local superintendents, and have managed to be successful by conservatively managing funds. She shared with the Board the data for the past seven years. (See Appendix A-Southland Power Point.) Dr. Davis indicated that their objective is that 90% of their children would be at or above the national average and that they would like for all of their students to go to college and finish.

She shared that they have attempted to incorporate intervention strategies. The success of Southland College Prep ultimately depends on what occurs on in the classroom and they expect to be accountable. Dr. Davis introduced Dr. Brian Ali to address the curriculum components of their proposal.

**Dr. Brian Ali**, Southland Planning Committee and Associate Superintendent of District 162, commented that research suggests that there are two new basic skills for 21st century learners; the ability to think critically and to problem solve. Dr. Ali shared their learning goals for all students, how they will measure each student’s progress, how they will respond to students having difficulty, and how they will deepen the learning for students who have mastered essential knowledge and skills. Dr. Ali proceeded to clarify how they would accomplish their goals so that no child will be left behind.

**Ms. Yvonne Williams**, a member of Southland’s Planning Committee and District 162’s Director of Special Education, stated that the vision and the mission for Southland College Prep High School are to prepare all students for success. Ms. Williams commented that they have created a plan to ensure that all eligible students enrolled at Southland will receive special education and related services in accordance with the Illinois rules and regulations for special education, IDEA and all applicable state and federal rules and regulations.

Southland will provide a nondiscriminatory enrollment process without barriers for students with disabilities. All advertisements or recruitment materials developed will clearly indicate that all students who reside in the School District #227 attendance area are eligible to submit applications. Southland will ensure that all Southland teachers receive continuing professional development for providing differentiated instruction for all students.

The Charter school will hire a full-time special education administrator to provide supervision of special education services including initial referrals, reevaluations, and annual reviews. They are planning to hire highly qualified LBS 1 Certified Special Education teachers as needed. There will be a certified paraprofessional for each special education teacher allowing for a class size for special education teachers between 10 and 15 students. They will hire a full-time guidance counselor, a full-time certified school nurse and necessary services from a speech pathologist, school social worker and psychologist as required. The psychologist will be contracted through SPED in the early years, with full time staff being added as necessary. Full time teachers and paraprofessional staff will be considered each year based on student IEP needs.

Southland will be seeking partnerships with area universities for student interns and student teachers in order to further individualize instruction. Dr. Davis shared a copy of their Proposed Special Education Policy Draft.

**Mr. Roger Prietz**, Southland Planning Committee and District 162’s Director of
Technology, spoke on the technology plans to prepare the students of Southland College Prep Charter High School for 21st Century Careers. Southland will have 21st Century classroom tools with a strong emphasis on STEM curriculum tools. Every student will have an electronic portfolio of work and a blog for each subject area. Students will have technology-based collaborative learning with other students, video conferencing, and technology assisted home/school communication to keep parents informed.

Mr. Donald Theobald, Southland Planning Committee and Financial Consultant, shared with the Board a copy of the projections and submissions based on one thousand students. Accomplishment of the goals of the Southland College Prep Charter has been determined to be feasible with five hundred students.

Mr. James Tapscott, Southland Financial Consultant, noted that this is not just about District #162, it is about the entire Southland and it is the Planning Committee’s belief that this charter is in the best interest of everyone and will preserve the financial interest of District #227. Mr. Tapscott pointed out that Southland Charter does not wish to financially harm District #227 and that these reduced levels will provide the district adequate time to phase-in any changes they need to make. He believes the charter school could help increase property values in the communities and in turn increase property taxes.

Dr. Davis closed by saying they do not intend to hire teachers that are not highly qualified and there will be four years of English, mathematics, science, social studies, world language, technology, etc. It is expected that Southland students will graduate being conversant in at least one foreign language. There will be nine hours of mandatory instruction each day.

Responses to Board Questions
Chairman Ruiz commented that State Representative Al Riley was in the room earlier but had to leave to meet with students visiting him in the capitol. Mr. Ruiz noted that Representative Riley did take a minute to encourage the Board to do what is best for the children when making its decision. Representative Riley also wanted to send regards to all who work hard every day to do the best for our kids.

Chairman Ruiz encouraged the Planning Committee to write into their bylaws that all feeder districts have a seat on the board and that board members will not be paid for their services.

Speaking to the process of student selection, Dr. Davis responded that an ad would be placed in the newspaper to communicate to residents of all feeder communities. Dr. Davis said she also has had the opportunity to attend three lotteries for Chicago charter schools and that has provided valuable insight. The projected student-teacher ratio is 25-1.

Dr. Davis also indicated that they have contacted Kickert Bus Company which has given them some preliminary figures for student transportation. They have a preliminary agreement to provide services if the charter does not have the same start time as School Districts #162 and #227.

In response to an inquiry about textbooks and curriculum, Dr. Davis said they have a committee reviewing textbooks and estimate an average cost of about $875 per student. They are also considering bookless curricula.
Dr. Davis added that the biggest challenge they anticipate would be finances. They would like to get involved with not only foundations but whatever funds might become available at the federal level. Dr. Davis stated that they have two commitments to the school in which she has absolute faith.

They intend to have an open door policy and believe if a school district is strong enough and has it values in place it can motivate a community.

Mr. Theobald indicated that the debt service component with a five year charter is structured as a leased arrangement based upon a 75,000 square foot facility at a commercial rental rate in the south suburban area. Dr. Davis said they have not signed a facility contract yet but they have looked at the Marshall Fields Building which belongs to the Village of Park Forest. They have also looked at a foreclosed building in Richton Park. However, in year one they will be using a wing of their own facilities.

**Rich Township High School District Presentation**

**Howard Hunigan**, Superintendent of Rich Township High School District, indicated that the district will be sharing information about the process pertaining to charter schools. He also stated that they will be sharing accomplishments in the Rich Township High School District. Mr. Hunigan asked Mr. John Fester to talk about the charter school proposal presented to the district.

**Mr. John Fester**, Board Attorney for Richland Township High School District #227, stated that they are here today not to debate the merits of charter schools nor to ask the Board to deny charter schools in general; but they will be asking the Board to deny this charter school and the process by which it came to this Board.

The law states that the local board receives a proposal, conducts a public hearing, deliberates and votes; and that is exactly what happened. If denied at the district level and the charter proposal is in compliance with the law and in the best interest of the students, it can be appealed to the State Board which may reverse the local board. However, what the State Board has received today is not the charter proposal that Rich Township High School District #227 received. The funding request for example has been dropped from 125% to a 100%, the proposal eliminated some classes while adding others and an entire new section on special education has been added. Today’s proposal now has a recommendation for ISBE to approve a proposal for 500 hundred students rather than 1000. Today we hear of unnamed benefactors who financially support this proposal and yet, another location for their building. While your staff certainly has the authority under your own rules to request additional information from the charter school, what you have before you is a brand new proposal and District # 227 was cut out of the process that created that new proposal.

Mr. Fester stated that what should have happened, according to ISBE rules, is that the notice should have gone to each party indicating that it was legally deficient and the charter planning committee should have been instructed to go back and try again. The people of District #227 have not seen this new proposal, they have not had a chance to comment on it nor provide input. He urged the Board not to grant the charter on the backs of District #227 students.

**Dr. Donna Simpson Leak**, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Accountability (and the new Superintendent for District 227 as of July 1, 2010), shared a document on the “Relationship Between the ISAT and PSAE Scale Scores”.

Dr. Leak shared specific data with the Board. (See Appendix B - Rich Township
power point.) She commented that one of Rich Township’s high schools was recognized for being on the honor roll and listed on the ten most improved high schools in the State of Illinois. The high schools above them on the list do not serve the student population that District #227 serves. She added that they have already been doing a lot of the things that the charter school talks about doing, such as aligning standards and making sure courses align with the ACT. They have gender specific classrooms embedded in their freshman academy; they have algebra or above for every freshman student and students are provided assistance as needed to get up to speed. They continue to embrace staff development.

Mr. Ilandus Hampton, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operation, spoke about the District 227 budget. Mr. Hampton stated that the budget for Rich Township is about $70 million, as it relates to 25,000 residents and 4,100 students. Mr. Hampton stated that the district’s budget has increased significantly over the past five years and with that comes more programs, services, and operational needs. Rich Township High School District is very proud of the fact that they are fiscally responsible with the community’s tax dollars and its portion of the state’s dollars. However, they are concerned that the recommendation on the table will draw down the district’s fund balance. The fund balance is there to ensure the district is able to make it through economically tough times.

He added that if everything stays as it is today (without the charter school) the fund balance would decrease by $3.5 million dollars by next year. The charter school would cause the balance will erode even faster.

Mr. Robert Grossi has been Financial Advisor and Treasurer for School District #227 for the past 24 years. He has also served as CEO of the Hazel Crest School Finance Authority, Chair of the Calumet Park District #132 Voluntary Oversight Panel and treasurer for two charter schools in the City of Chicago. Mr. Grossi indicated that he has worked with the State Board staff for 24 years and has never worked with a more passionate and dedicated group then those who currently work for ISBE.

He stated that he is 100% confident that the impact of a decision of this Board to allow the creation for Southland Charter School will result in certain academic and financial bankruptcy to Rich Township High School District #227 under both scenarios -- a 500 student charter school where the district will pay over $7 million dollars annually and a 1000 student charter school where the district will pay over $14 million annually.

He suggested that the methodology used by Southland to conclude the charter school will not adversely impact District #227 was intellectually lazy. They state that if District 227 cuts enrollment by 25% the district can cut expenses by 25% and it will have no impact on the quality of education provided. Southland’s assumption is that all expenses in a school district are variable and anyone who works for a school district knows that this is not true. Over $2.6 million or $700 of the operating expense per pupil is due to interest on the district’s debt. If Southland took 1000 students they would receive over $700,000 annually from District #227 solely because of this interest component. Southland’s assumption is that even though Rich Township has to give them $700,000, Rich can save $700,000 in interest expense. The fact is the expense won’t be reduced one penny. This alone would cost Rich High School $7 million dollars over the 10 years of the initial proposal. Over $6.8 million or $1,800 of operating expense per pupil is due to in-district special education costs. The district has over 700 IEPs. Southland would receive $1.8 million dollars annually if they took the 1000 students, even if none of the students were special education students.
Mr. Grossi added that Southland claims that classroom teachers can be eliminated proportionately with student reduction; again this is inaccurate. For example, if the district lost 120 students and they represented 40 students in each of these buildings and within those 40 students there were 10 freshman, 10 sophomores, 10 juniors and 10 senior students, the district would not be able to reduce staff much but they would lose over $1.7 million dollars a year to Southland. There may be savings with transportation but it will still cost the same whether the bus is 100% full or 80% full. The district will still need a Superintendent, a Business Manager, utility expenses will remain unchanged, and the cost of cleaning will not be reduced proportionately. Dr. Koch is correct when he states the charter school funding scheme adversely impacts schools.

He indicated that Southland makes other inaccurate assumptions to shore up their case including the assumption that the district could eliminate one teacher for every 12 students lost, when in fact both ISBE and the district agreed that the figure is more likely one teacher for every 25 student lost. They also use an average teacher salary of $70,600 to calculate the savings, but the district would be cutting non-tenure teachers at about $53,000.

In order to delay the crisis ISBE is recommending that the charter take only 500 students and $7.2 million annually. ISBE’s hope is that the district will be able to use its existing fund balances to cover the structural deficit. Unfortunately, the expected impact of the State’s crisis and the impact of the charter school will dissolve the funds well before the five year period. Mr. Grossi stated in one of exhibits from Dr. Koch’s recommendation it states that if the Board approves the charter school for 1000 students, the district will be bankrupt in 2 years. Using the same methodology for 500 students, the district will be bankrupt in 3 years as the district will be forced to make expenditure reductions in excess of $8 million dollars a year in order to remain solvent. There is no budget that can be developed to provide even the basic level of education for the students left.

In conclusion, Mr. Grossi indicated that if the Board approves the Southland charter at either 500 or 1,000 student level, the financial impact of that decision will likely destroy the quality of education received by those remaining 3,000 students at Rich Township

**Responses to Board Questions**

Rich Township representatives confirmed that the reasons the charter should be denied are: 1) the process in which this proposal was presented to the State Board and 2) the financial impact it will have on Rich Township School District.

Dr. Simpson-Leak indicated that Rich Central has about 1,600 students, Rich East about 1,300 and Rich South approximately 1,400, and that the graduation rate is about 92-93%. She added that the pupil/teacher ratio is 15.5 to 1, but can range anywhere from 16 to 26 students per teacher. They have begun operating a community involvement program on Saturdays at the Rich East Campus and it has been very successful.

Deb Vespa, ISBE Division Administrator for School Business Services, explained her projections and indicated there are two components to be considered: the economic condition of the state and the additional expenditures the district would incur for the tuition they would pay to the charter school. In reviewing their annual financial reports for FY05 through FY09 and looking at their FY10 budget, she attempted to provide linear projections for salaries, benefits and other expenditures. Considering fund balances in the district, the economy and the charter school, Ms. Vespa predicts
the district can sustain through 2013 but in 2014 they will likely have a negative fund balance of about $20 million dollars. The district would be certified in financial distress in year two of negative fund balances. Ms. Vespa added that she is fearful that many more districts will be in the same situation due to the economy.

Dr. Koch thanked Superintendent Hunigan and his team for their presentation and he commended them on the advance placement courses and other accomplishments. Dr. Koch questioned the district about their 11th grade assessment data and the estimate that 42% of their students were taking the PSAE in the 12th grade. He also commented on the EXPLORE data and asked if they have any PLAN data. Dr. Simpson-Leak responded that their students take the EXPLORE in Grades 8 and 9, and then PLAN in Grade 10 and they do follow through with that data. She explained that almost 90 new untested seniors came to the district this year, resulting in an even larger number than anticipated. They also had students who moved away and then returned to the district. She added that she did not bring the PLAN data with her because they were talking about District #162 in particular.

Dr. Simpson-Leak indicated she intends to be a hands-on administrator and the first thing she did when she came to the district was to review test data. She began weekly meetings with her teachers and principals, and meets with the administrative staff once a month. They have a five-year curriculum plan, and although the staff was cautious at first, they have now embraced the process.

Darren Reisberg, ISBE General Counsel, clarified the Charter Schools Law in regard to the State Board’s responsibilities. The State Board may reverse a local board decision if the State Board finds that the charter school or charter school proposal is in compliance with the School Code and is in the best interest of the students it is designed to serve. Further, the State Board may condition the granting of an appeal on the acceptance by the charter school of funding in an amount less than that requested in the proposal submitted to the school board. State Board of Education staff received the denial by Rich Township #227, the charter school appealed that denial, and State Board of Education staff had and have the ability under State Board of Education rules to seek additional information from the charter school in order to assist in its determination as to whether or not it wishes to recommend to the State Superintendent and State Board of Education that the denial be reversed. In reviewing the voluminous appeal documents, the State Board of Education staff did have questions which required additional information. While the State Board of Education staff did not meet face to face with the charter school representatives, it did under its authority have conversations where it sought additional information on a number of issues that would assist in evaluating whether the charter school proposal was in compliance with the law and in the best interest of the students it was designed to serve. Further, State Board of Education staff copied the District on the letter wherein additional information was requested from the charter school and when we received the follow-up information and documentation from the charter school we immediately forwarded that information to the District. As for today’s hearing before the State Board of Education, State Board of Education staff provided both sides with sufficient notice of their respective opportunity to participate. The State Board of Education believes that the appropriate process was followed, that the District received any and all due process owed it, and the appeal is now before the State Board of Education for its determination. Mr. Reisberg stated he would be happy to answer any questions.

Public Support of Charter School
Linzy Jones. Mayor of Olympia Fields and former Board member of a feeder school to District 227, spoke in support of the appeal for the charter. Mr. Jones stated
that many members of the communities that are represented by the elected officials present today have been completely dissatisfied for many years with the change process at Rich Township. Test scores reflect the District’s failure to deliver quality education. There is very little parental involvement and little interchange between the feeder districts and the high school. The time has come to move forward and he urged the Board to approve the charter agreement.

Robert McCray, Village Trustee of Park Forest, spoke on behalf of Park Forest Mayor John Ostenberg and the Citizens of Park Forest. Mr. McCray stated that Park Forest expects the children of their village to have the very best education afforded to them. When Mr. McCray arrived there 38 years ago he said that he has seen transitions and plans come and go. They would like to see the State Board grant School District #162’s request to create the Southland Prep Charter High School. Under Dr. Blondean Davis’ direction, the Charter High School would provide Park Foresters, and others that feed into the charter school from their districts, the ability to continue to dream big, strive for higher education and result in achievement.

Anthony Burton, Village Trustee in the Village of Matteson, spoke on behalf of the Matteson Board, Board President Andre Ashmore and the residents that live in the Village of Matteson. Mr. Burton stated that they all fully support and are enthusiastic about this opportunity for the Southland Charter High School. Mr. Burton said that the Board takes education very seriously and have just recently approved an education commission and their goal is to strive for better opportunities around education. Typically village boards look at public works, fire and police and community economic development. In this situation the Board realized that the cornerstone to our community is education and in order for all the other things to work from police and fire to economic development, we must have a viable educational system. Our goal is for this charter school to become successful and in turn increase property values and perhaps attract businesses once we have good and viable educational system.

Regan Stockstell, Community Development Director for the Village of Richton Park, represented Village President Rick Reinbold. Under the strategic leadership of Dr. Blondean Davis, Superintendent for District #162, the district has achieved impressive successes in the face of many social economic challenges driven by a belief that the district can educate all children who enter their doors. Superintendent Davis, the District #162 administration, faculty, and staff, have been unrelenting in their pursuit of academic excellence. As creators of the Southland College Preparatory Charter High School, School District #162 has taken on this challenge because they are confident they can provide superior educational options for students in the Southland area. Under Dr. Davis’ leadership and support from the district board, a culture of academic excellence is now the hallmark of District #162. President Reinbold urged the Illinois State Board of Education to consider approval of the District #162 Southland College Preparatory Charter High School Proposal.

Frederick Veazey, resident in both districts #162 and #227 communities, spoke on behalf of Alderman Sherman M. Williams of the City of County Club Hills. As a former District 160 Board of Education President and current City of Country Club Hills Education Committee Chairman, Mr. Williams is committed to ensuring the city’s children receive every possible resource needed to ensure their continued academic achievement. It is by necessity not choice that local government officials seek alternatives in providing public education resources. The constituents of Country Club Hills are demanding action be taken to address the deteriorating state of public education and feel a charter school is one way to help fulfill these expectations.
David Mekarski, Chairman of the Village of Olympia Fields Education Commission, stated that their Education Commission supports the charter school proposal. The diverse communities of the Chicago Southland cannot allow yet another generation of its children to wait for the right politics for an opportunity of choice. Our citizens’ primary interest being diminished in value - their homes. The communities, the regions’ economic development and long-term economic sustainability are threatened and most of all the future of our children is at risk.

Susan Merkarski, a certified teacher, shared with the Board a letter from Diversity, Inc, Executive Director Joseph M. Martin in support of the charter school. Ms. Merkarski wanted that board to know how much this vote means to over 21 communities in Southland Chicago and that Diversity, Inc. is supporting the charter school.

Kelvin Oliver from the Village of Olympia Fields, and a parent who has raised two children who attended Schools District# 227 and a child currently attending a parochial school, spoke in support of the charter school.

Dr. Doris Langon, Superintendent of Fairmont School District, former ISBE and CPS Administrator, resident of Olympia Fields, is a proponent of public education but also a supporter and product of school choice. Dr. Langon asked the Board to provide additional support and oversight to close the glaring high school performance gap and turn around the three Tier One high schools so approximately 3,500 students can have access to a high quality secondary education. Ms Langon also asked that the Board exercise the Charter School Law, approve, certify and fund the Southland College Prep Charter High School so approximately 500 teens will have a smooth transition to a viable alternative high school focused on maintaining high performance standards and successful matriculation to high school and to college.

Dr. David Morgan, a 40-year educator as a teacher, principal, central office administrator, college professor and a Board Member of School District 227, let the State Board know that School District #227 is a dysfunctional school board. Dr. Morgan indicated he has been on the District #227 school board 13 months. Dr. Morgan believes that our first responsibility is to our community and our children and that Dr. Blondean Davis is qualified to lead the way to provide the parents of District #227 and the Chicago South Suburbs a choice in the education of their children.

Lee Langon, a Community Activist and President of Olympia Club Home Owners Association, commented that he lives in a community where the taxes are quite high and yet most of his neighbors send their children to private schools when there are three high schools in the district. Mr. Langon said that he and his wife moved to the community knowing that the schools were Tier 1 schools and were at 40% on their test scores, but they were hoping that they could help make a difference. Mr. Langon said that they support District #227 and they will continue to support them, but the children in the district need help right now. The community needs a choice and the children deserve a choice right now and they deserve proven leadership. Mr. Langon asked that the Board please approve the Southland Charter School.

Daniel Evans, a parent of two children from Richton Park who attend school in District #162, thanked District #162 for daring to bring reform to the community in the form of a charter school. He also thanked Dr. Davis for leading the charge to go up against the status quo. For some change is difficult, for others change is an opportunity. Mr. Evans sees Southland College Prep Charter School as an educational opportunity for his children and all children in the area. He is glad to see the children have an educational alternative.
Shelila Morrow, a Matteson resident who grew up in the Cabrini Green Housing of Chicago, stated that she got what she would consider a mediocre education, at best. She is disappointed by the quality of education she sees in the Southland area and would like to see the children have better educational opportunities and choices. Ms. Morrow asked that the Board approve the charter school proposal.

Anthony Woods, a parent, taxpayer, and Community Activist from Olympia Fields, spoke in support of the new charter school and would to see his tax dollars go to support it. He asked that the Board make the charter school a reality now.

Mark Daniels, a parent from Richton Park, has two children who attend District #162. He is going to pay about $9000 a year to send his children to a private high school because he does not want them to attend School District #227. He supports the charter school in Southland.

Public Opposed to Charter School

Alyssa Hernandez, a product of School District #162 and #227 and is the youngest appointed official school board member on the Chicagoland area. Ms. Hernandez introduced Latesa Cook, Jabari Scott, Porshia McPherson and Brittny Jordon who are all former successful students of School District #227. Latesa is a member of 100 Strong; she is a leader and a student of the University of Illinois. Porshia is a student at Purdue University North Lafayette, social chair of the Association of Multicultural Science Students, and a football ambassador. Jabari is a student at Louisiana State University who is involved in American Government. Brittany is a student at Northern Illinois University and a participant of the S Plan, a mentoring program for minorities. These young citizens were Ms. Hernandez’ classmates last year. They were the first class to actually raise the test scores at District #227 and show a positive increase. Things have changed at the District and you can get a great education. Ms. Hernandez asked that the Board put people before the politics.

Jacqueline Jordon, a District #163 Board Member, spoke on behalf of the District. Ms. Jordon is an employee and a resident of Park Forest; she is proud to say that both of her children are successful products of District #163 & #227. Ms. Jordon indicated that District #163 has never received a copy of the charter school proposal, plan or application. District #162 has failed to communicate with district #163 board, staff, students and parents in regards to the proposal. If allowed to exist, this school will directly affect the community and cause the demise of District #227. Ms. Jordan urged the Board to deny the charter.

Shirl Lynn Jackson a parent of three children; one is an honor student still attending District 227 and she has two successful graduates from School District #227. Ms. Jackson believes that if a child wants a good education it is available at #227 and that the community should work together to help children get the education they need.

Mike Curran, President of Rich Township High School Education Association, took the opportunity to speak on behalf of the 340 member teachers he represents. Mr. Curran stated that all of the expected goals in the outcomes associated with the vision professed in this charter school proposal are currently already in place and are very much alive in Rich Township District #227. The only argument anyone can make about the opportunities which are available to each and every high school student in this district is that their accomplishments go unpublicized and unappreciated. A look at the facts shows why there is not a need for a charter high school and it is very disturbing that the State Superintendent’s office would
accommodate the wishes of a very few at the expense of the 4000 high school students currently enrolled in District #227. District #227 is in the business of educating all students not just a select few. The district has been able to accomplish this without losing track of its talented and gifted teenagers. This district currently offers 57 honors level classes along with 28 Advance Placement (AP) classes. The number of participants continues to increase at both the honors and the AP levels with the majority of students gaining college level credits for their AP test performance. The above average students in District #227, that this type of charter school would be looking to include, have a long history of scholarship awards numbering millions of dollars and placement in the top colleges and universities across this country.

Rich Township High Schools are in the business of educating the complete student and it is not enough just to carry a full schedule of weighted grades as a student. All students are encouraged on a daily basis to become involved in their total physical, social and intellectual growth. Each campus currently offers 22 interscholastic sports for students to get involved in along with another 12 clubs competing at the local, state and national levels. There are endless opportunities for students to reach their potential in the areas of performing and fine arts. The development of the whole student includes a four-year sequence of physical education which includes health and driver education components not found in charter schools.

District #227 has its own problems, certainly, as all high schools in the state do. Yet we do not hide them or ignore them. Overall test scores, a large district mobility rate, incoming freshman ability levels and school climate issues are being addressed on a daily basis. The district will continue to make every effort possible to educate all students who walk through their doors and not only a select few. A charter school created in a way that erodes those efforts for all students to the benefit of a select few is contrary to the purpose and intent of creating a charter school. The creation of charter school which results in destabilizing the financial well being of the entire school district is a disservice to the students, parents and tax payers of that district. Mr. Curran thanked the Board for their time.

Sonya Norwood, Board President of School District #227, moved to Matteson 25 years ago, has six children and loves the community. They are involved parents, she stays home with her children and serves on two school boards at the same time. They believe in public education and giving back to the community. Ms. Norwood believes that District #227 is on the verge of greatness and she asked the Board to deny the charter school.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Section c4 to review evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where specifically authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determination reasoning; and

Section c11 for the purpose of considering pending or probable litigation against or affecting the Board, and

Dr. Hall further moved that the Board may invite anyone they wish to have included in this closed session. Mr. Gilford seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.
The Board entered into closed session at 1:50 p.m. and reconvened from closed session at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Bauman asked the representatives from the Southland Charter Planning Committee if the revenue coming in from benefactors is only for the first year. They responded affirmatively. Dr. Davis said that she does not feel $250,000 is a huge sum of money for their community to raise if the benefactors would fall through, but she has confidence in the benefactors.

Chairman Ruiz reminded them that the charter is a public school and public funds will come into the school. Therefore, it cannot be a captive charter school of District #162. It must have broad representation from all three feeder schools and all the citizens whose tax dollars go to support District #227. The board of directors should have members from all the feeder schools and there should be bylaws on how the board members will be selected. The Chairman also cautioned the Planning Committee about the current bylaws mentioning that the directors could earn money from the school. Directors of non-profit organizations should not earn money; the IRS now agrees with this. The Chairman indicated that there is a precedent for a state run charter school which this new agreement will follow.

**Motion**

Dr. Hall moved that the State Board of Education reverses the decision of Rich Township High School District #227 and grants a charter to the Southland College Prep High School for a term of five years, with an enrollment cap during those five years of 500 students, all contingent on Southland addressing the remaining concerns identified in the State Superintendent’s written recommendation and expressed by members of the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education authorizes the State Superintendent and agency staff to negotiate all aspects of the charter agreement with Southland. The State Board’s approval of the charter school is further contingent on the charter agreement, subsequent to the aforementioned negotiations, being presented to and approved by the State Board of Education, preferably at its June 2010 board meeting. The Board also authorizes the Chairman of the State Board of Education to execute the Determination reflecting this decision.

Ms. Koster seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Ruiz reminded everyone that they all share common communities and, as Dr. Fields always reminds us, charter schools were developed as an experiment to feed the traditional public school system. You have to share the light with all of the students. Having 500 students do well and leaving the rest to remain behind is not a victory for anyone. This is about creating another experiment so that we can create more learning and best practices that get fed back to District #227. School District #227 should be a beneficiary in this entire endeavor, and should always be part of what the charter school is doing. The Chairman asked that they keep this in mind and work with their colleagues, friends, neighbors, and family members who are involved at #227 and care as passionately about the students there, as you care about your students. Chairman Ruiz congratulated them on their success.

**Consent Agenda Motion:**

Dr. Fields moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the consent agenda items, with the exception of V.B.3. Part 226 (Special Education) and V.C.2. Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) and V.C.3. Part 235 Early Childhood Education Block Grant) which will be brought back to the Board in June. Mr. Bauman seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote.
The following motions were approved by action taken in the consent agenda motion.

**Minutes – March 25, 2010**
The March 25, 2010, minutes of the State Board of Education were approved.

**Rules for Initial Review**

Part 1 (Public School Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for: Public School Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (23 Illinois Administrative Code 1) including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

Part 25 (Certification)
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for: Certification (23 Illinois Administrative Code 25) including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

**Rules for Adoption**

Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)
The State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for: Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools (23 Illinois Administrative Code 180), Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical and nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

**Grants over $1 Million**

Early Childhood Block Grants
The State Board of Education hereby approves the award of Early Childhood Block Grant funds exceeding $1 million to qualifying entities and authorizes the State Superintendent to enter into grant agreements on excess of $1 million with such entities.

**Contracts over $1 Million**

Intergovernmental Agreement-Harrisburg Project)
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the renewal of Regional Office of Education #20/Harrisburg Project contract through June 30, 2011 with an increase of the contract’s maximum amount not to exceed $3,574,698.

Request for RFSP- Center for School Improvement
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes agency staff to proceed with a RSFP to contract for the Center for School Improvement. The total contract when awarded will not exceed $3 million.

Request for RFSP-Evaluator of the 1003(g)of School Improvement Grant
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes agency staff to proceed with a RFSP to contract for the evaluation of the 1003(g) School Improvement Grants and the Center for School Improvement. The contract when awarded will not exceed $300,000 per year. Total contract with all possible renewals will not exceed $1.2 million.

Contract Renewal-Illinois Migrant Council
The State Board hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to renew the current
agreement with the Illinois Migrant Council through August 31, 2011, with an increase of the contract’s maximum amount not to exceed $1,473,000.

**Contract Renewal- PSAE and EXPLORE and PLAN – ACT, Inc.**
The Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes the renewal of the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) administration and development contract, and the administration of the EXPLORE and PLAN assessments with ACT, INC. for FY11 with an increase of the contract’s maximum amount not to exceed $74,669,957.

**Contract Renewal-Illinois Alternate Assessment-NCS Pearson, Inc.**
The Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes the renewal of the Illinois Alternate Assessment with NCS, Pearson Inc. through December 30, 2011, with an increase of the contract’s maximum amount not to exceed $12,068,520.

**Contract Renewal-ISAT Administration, NCS Pearson, Inc.**
The Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes the renewal of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) administration contract with NCS, Pearson Inc. through September 30, 2011, with an increase of the contract’s maximum amount not to exceed $64,647,710.

**Contract Renewal-ISAT Development, NSC Pearson, Inc.**
The Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes the renewal of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) Alternate Assessment with NCS, Pearson Inc. through September 30, 2011, with an increase of the contract’s maximum amount not to exceed $41,824,348.

**Contract Renewal-Development of Web-Based Child Nutrition Application System-Capitol Strategies, Inc.**
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the Agency staff to renew the contract with Capitol Strategies Inc. for a three year period and a maximum contract amount of $1,567,160 for the purpose of supporting the current CNS/ACES systems and implementation of the new WINS system.

**Teacher Certification Board Recommendations**

**Motion 1**
In accordance with Section 25.145 (d) (1) of the State Board’s administrative rules on review of new programs, the State Board of Education provisionally approves Judson University’s Early Childhood Special Education program, Type 04, thereby authorizing the university to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

**Motion 2**
In accordance with Section 25.145 (d) (1) of the State Board’s administrative rules on review of new programs, the State Board of Education provisionally approves Rockford College’s Early Childhood program, Type 04, thereby authorizing the university to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

**Motion 3**
In accordance with Section 25.145 (d) (1) of the State Board’s administrative rules on review of new programs, the State Board of Education provisionally approves Bradley University’s Early Childhood/Elementary program, Type 04
and Type 03, thereby authorizing the university to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

**Motion 4**

In accordance with Section 25.145 (d) (1) of the State Board’s administrative rules on review of new programs, the State Board of Education provisionally approves **Lewis University’s Early Childhood Special Education** program, Type 04, thereby authorizing the university to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution’s next accreditation review.

**Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) Authorization(s)**

I move that the Illinois State Board of Education approve the applications submitted by the districts as listed below for designation of $13,923,899 in bonds from the calendar year 2009 allocation and $21,806,001 in bonds from the calendar year 2010 allocation as Qualified Zone Academy Bonds pursuant to the provisions of Section 1397E of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program.) The amount of $30,411,999 remains available for future allocations.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>Amt. of QZAB Request</th>
<th>2009 Allocation</th>
<th>2010 Allocation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evanston THSD 202</td>
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<td>Alton CUSD 11 (Total)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$35,729,900</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,923,899</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,806,001</strong></td>
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**END OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Ward moved that the State Board of Education hereby changes the 2010 Board Calendar as follows:

- August 17 will be reserved for a 1-day meeting via video-conference in Springfield and Chicago.
- September 21 - 22, 2010 will be reserved for the Annual Strategic Planning Session to be held in Bloomington, IL, in conjunction with a plenary session for necessary action.

Ms. LaBarre seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.
**Nominations for NASBE President-Elect and/or Central Area Director**

No action at this time.

**Calumet Park Oversight Agreement**

Mr. Baumann moved that based on the progress that Calumet Public School District 132 has made over the past three and one-half years, its progress towards achieving the goals outlined in its 2009-10 Plan, and its progress towards compliance status in all areas, including special education and bilingual education, the State Board of Education hereby terminates the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement by and between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Board of Education of Calumet Public Schools District #132 in accordance with Section 1 of such Agreement. Such termination shall take effect as of June 30, 2010, contingent upon the District remaining materially compliant with applicable special education and bilingual education laws through such date.

Dr. Ward seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**State Board of Education Budget—Prioritization of Funds**

Mr. Baumann moved that the State Board of Education hereby recommends that the agency maintain its practice of prioritizing only General State Aid and Mandated Categorical in providing input to the Office of the Comptroller with the State Superintendent having discretion to establish the timing and ranking of items within Mandated Categoricals.

Dr. Hall seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Chairman Ruiz introduced Dr. Proshanta Nandi from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Dr. Nandi indicated that the IBHE

Chairman Ruiz introduced Dr. Proshanta Nandi from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The IBHE held its last meeting on April 6, 2010 at Harold Washington College in Chicago. Dr. Nandi shared the following highlights of the meeting:

The IBHE welcomed Dr. Vinni Hall from the Illinois State Board of Education as a representative to our Board. We are grateful for the service to our board provided by Joyce Karon, who is being replaced by Dr. Hall.

We had an excellent opportunity for conversation about Illinois’ educational programs and policies as well as plans for the future with the newly named chairman of the P-20 Council, Miguel del Valle. Former State Senator del Valle is currently City Clerk of Chicago. He is a renowned leader on the Illinois’ education scene for three decades, having chaired the Senate Education Committee and served in the Higher Education Committee while in the State Senate. He also founded the Illinois Latino Advisory Council on Higher Education. He shared with us his optimism about the effectiveness of the P-20 Council, in large measure, due to the strongest and most positive collaboration among ISBE and IBHE, Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Student Assistance Commission he has ever experienced. He also recommended we review the report of the University of Illinois’ Department of Education—“New Leaning: A Charter of Change in Education” which describes...
effective educational practices for the 21st Century for our school children.

The Board was presented with the Report on the Efficiency and Sustainability of the Monetary Award (MAP) Program, prepared by IBHE, in collaboration with ISAC and ICCB. The report directed by House Joint Resolution 75 examines and confirms the MAP is a highly efficient and effective need based finance aid program. However, the purchasing power and sustainability of the program at current funding levels is greatly diminished. Since MAP is such an important state policy lever addressing college affordability, it is important that state appropriations, tuitions rates and funding for the MAP program be considered together in an international fashion during the appropriations process. This report is available on the IBHE website at www.ibhe.org

The next IBHE meeting will be June 21, 2010 at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Dr. Koch announced that we received notice from the US Department of Education that we successful in our grant application for our second Longitudinal Data Grant which is about $12 million dollars over four years. This grant will help us with the Early Childhood data and revise the Teachers Certification Information System.

Chairman Ruiz stated that Dr. Vinni Hall, Dr. Chris Ward and he will be attending the NASBE Study Group Meetings in Washington, DC. on June 11&12, 2010. (Funded through the Illinois Professional Development Account via NASBE)

Members will share reports at June meeting.

Chairman Ruiz asked that the Board members read the Financial and Administrative Monthly Reports printed in the Board meeting materials.

Dr. Hall moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Koster seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned a 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary

Mr. Jesse Ruiz
Chairman