AGENDA

I. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
   A. Consideration of and Possible Actions on Any Requests for Participation in Meeting by Other Means

II. Public Participation

III. Resolutions & Recognition
   A. Arts Education Poster Winner - Reese Dannenfeldt, Copeland Manor Elementary School, Libertyville School District #70 (p. 3)
   B. IPA Elementary School Principal of the Year – Kimberly Lisanby-Barber, Spring Valley CCSD #99 (p. 4)
   C. IPA Middle School Principal of the Year – Phillip Ambrose, Rock Island S.D. #41 (p. 5)
   D. IPA High School Principal of the Year – Kevin Shelton, Johnsburg CCSD #12 (p. 6)
   E. Illinois Bankers Association – Financial Literacy Program (p. 7)

IV. Presentation
   A. Instructional Change-CPS and the National Teachers Academy Technology Presentation (pp. 8-9)

V. *Superintendent’s Report - Consent Agenda
   All action consideration items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and vote. Any board member who wishes separate discussion on any item listed on the consent agenda may remove that item from the consent agenda, in which event, the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

   A. *Approval of Minutes:
      1. Plenary Minutes: February 21, 2012 (pp.10-14)

   B. *Rules for Initial Review
      1. Part 25 (Certification) (Linda Tomlinson, Vicki Phillips) (pp. 15-185)
      2. Part 100 (Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing) (pp. 186-210)
         (Linda Mitchell, Tim Imler, Deb Vespa)
      3. Part 350 (Textbook Loan Program) (Linda Mitchell, Robert Wolfe) (pp. 211-218)
      4. Part 451 (Private Business and Vocational Schools) (Darren Reisberg, Jeff Aranowski) (pp. 219-276)

   C. *Rules for Adoption
      1. Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois) (Linda Tomlinson, Vicki Phillips) (pp. 277-284)
      2. Part 100 (Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing) Emergency Rules (pp. 186-210)
         (Linda Mitchell, Tim Imler, Deb Vespa)
      3. Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant) (Reyna Hernandez, Cindy Zumwalt) (pp. 285-329)

   D. *Contracts and Grants Over $1 Million
      1. RFSP for Center for School Improvement (Susie Morrison, Monique Chism) (pp. 330-331)
      2. RFP for 21st CLCC grant (Susie Morrison, Monique Chism) (pp. 332-334)
      3. RFP for SIG1003(g) grant (Susie Morrison, Monique Chism) (pp. 335-337)

   E. *The New Teacher Project – Program Approvals (Linda Tomlinson, Vicki Phillips) (pp. 338-341)

   F. *Appointment to the State Charter School Commission (Darren Reisberg/Jennifer Saba) (pp. 357-358)

   G. *Appointments to the Department of Juvenile Justice Department of Education (Beth Hanselman) (pp. 359-360)

End of Consent Agenda
H. Approval of Cahokia Financial Plan (Linda Mitchell, Deb Vespa) (pp. 361-367)
I. Approval of School District Financial Profiles (Linda Mitchell, Deb Vespa) (pp. 368-376)
J. FY12 MCAT Transfers (Linda Mitchell, Scott Taylor, Tim Imler) (pp. 377-378)

VI. Discussion Items
A. School Maintenance Grants (Linda Mitchell, Deb Vespa) (pp. 379-380)
B. Budget Update (Linda Mitchell, Scott Taylor)
C. Legislative Update (Darren Reisberg, Nicole Wills, Cynthia Riseman) (pp. 381-424)
D. District Oversight – Monthly Update (Superintendent Koch)
E. Other Items for Discussion

VII. Announcements
A. IBHE Liaison Report (Dr. Proshanta Nandi)
B. P-20 Council Liaison Report (Joyce Karon)
C. Superintendent’s/Senior Staff Announcements
D. Chairman’s Report
E. Member Reports

VIII. Closed Session

IX. Reconvene Meeting

X. Superintendent’s Contract (as needed following closed session)

XI. Information Items
A. ISBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports (available online at http://isbe.net/board/fiscal_admin_rep.htm)

XII. Adjourn

This meeting will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the date prior to the meeting. Contact the Superintendent’s office at the State Board of Education. Phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 217-782-1900; Fax: 217-785-3972.

NOTE: Chairman Chico may call for a break in the meeting as necessary in order for the Board to go into closed session.
Mr. Gery Chico, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Chairman Chico asked Ms. Jean Ladage to call the roll. Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent of Education, was in attendance in Springfield. A quorum was present.

Members Present
Mr. Gery Chico, Chairman
Mr. Steven Gilford, Vice Chairman
Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary
Mr. James Baumann
Dr. Andrea Brown
Dr. David Fields
Ms. Lanita Koster
Ms. Melinda LaBarre

Chairman Chico recognized and welcomed Regional Superintendents Darlene Ruscitti (DuPage County), Susan Sarfaty (St. Clair County), Amy Jo Clemens (Lee-Ogle Counties) and Gerald Brookhart (Peoria County).

Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Regional Superintendent of Schools from DuPage County shared with the Board a packet containing several documents. Two of the documents highlighted the effectiveness of the DuPage County Regional Office in supporting its local districts. She also shared two documents suggesting a vision and strategy for a streamlined model of service delivery. Dr. Ruscitti noted that the United States Constitution gives each State the responsibility for education; it is a sacred trust that is given to us. She indicated that the Regional Offices of Education stand ready to serve and assist in any means to support education in the State of Illinois.

Amy Alsop, IFT’s Professional Development Director, spoke at the request of Brent Murphy, President of the Cahokia Federation of Teachers, an affiliated local union. Ms. Alsop shared the local’s concerns regarding the financial plan submitted by Cahokia Unit School District #187, specifically the district’s finances and the health and safety of the school buildings. The local union also wanted the State Board to be aware that they had not been consulted, advised nor made aware of the financial plan that was being brought before the Board. Ms. Alsop stated that the local union is concerned about portions of the financial plan that will have a direct impact on their members (which includes teachers, secretaries, and educational support personnel) of Local Union # 1272. Since the referendum did not pass, the local would like to see evidence that the district has a viable alternative plan to address the health and safety issues at Cahokia High School. (Ms. Alsop was then handed a copy of the Cahokia Unit School District #187 Financial Plan.)

Ms. Alsop commented that the primary reason for her testimony on Mr. Murphy’s behalf was to ask for continued guidance and support from ISBE on school facility and safety issues. Their concern is that students have a safe learning environment, employees have a safe working environment, and at the same time, that the district’s long term ability to maintain the resources to support educational programs is best ensured. Ms. Alsop thanked the Board and Agency for their support of the district’s needs.
**Pam Manning,** Superintendent of Cahokia School District, stated that the Cahokia School District Financial Plan has been explained and discussed at the last four or five local board meetings and that Mr. Murphy has been present at those meetings. Ms. Manning stated that she will call Mr. Murphy and talk with him personally about any request he might have. She did note that the district is discussing RIFs and potential plans for teachers next year and is, of course, sharing that information with their board before public release. She indicated the concern for the health/life safety issues is addressed in the school district’s financial plan. Ms. Manning stated that they are in contact with ISBE staff to ensure compliance and together they are working hard to address all of the issues in Cahokia and added that they are also applying for a SIG Grant.

**Gerald Brookhart,** Peoria County Regional Superintendent, stated that he has met with Two Rivers Professional Development in Peoria and would like to recommend the following two key operational suggestions to the Board in regard to the new Center for School Improvement:

1. Creating an opportunity for an effective transition to the new system that continues to provide needed local supports and resources for districts and schools, and
2. Building the new system in such a way to best utilize regional (ROE & ISC) resources and supports for districts and schools. (One of the documents refers to “On-The-Ground Support” being delivered through the existing Regional Delivery System comprised of 44 Regional Offices of Education and 3 Intermediate Service Centers).

Mr. Brookhart stated it is in the best interest of all parties (the Center/ISBE, the ROEs and ISCs, and most importantly, the districts and schools in the System of Support) to use this coming fiscal year to continue Statewide System of Support (SSOS) area grants with the explicit purpose of engaging the 10 existing area SSOS coordinators and staff to assist ISBE and the new Center for School Improvement. The transition will enable districts and schools to continue receiving local services from staff they have come to trust and rely upon. Finally, it will enable the new system that will evolve to benefit from the input and participation of the ROEs and ISCs who should serve as critical partners in the delivery of services locally.

**Tim Daly,** President of TNTP, which is national non-profit organization out of New York that works to improve access to effective teachers, stated that his organization is an approved educational institution to prepare teachers and he is seeking the Board’s approval for specific programs. He has received a recommendation from the State Educator Preparation and Licensing Board for several of their programs but the SEPLB did not recommend approval of TNTP’s Special Education Program-Leaning Behavior Specialist I Program. Mr. Daly stated this program warrants approval because the requirements are the same as other students must meet for post baccalaureate programs. They must have a bachelor’s degree and they must past the Illinois Basic Skills Test, they must also pass the Learning Behavior Specialist I and the Special Education General Curriculum Test prior to teaching students. Forty percent of the candidates admitted to this program have prior experience working with special needs students; most are career changers and not just out of college. Admittance to the program does not guarantee that candidates will become teachers in the classroom; they must not only past the test but demonstrate skills in the classroom. They will be assessed at the end of their first year and certification will be withheld from those candidates not meeting standards. Mr. Daly noted that they have a strong track record of success and they have recruited over 36,000 people into the profession in the last 10 years and Special Education is one of the things they do best. He is very confident in their program.
Daryl Morrison of the Illinois Education Association spoke on behalf of the five IEA members of the Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board: Eric Brown, Mike Engfer, Rainy Kaplan, Kathleen Valenta and Gloria Walsh. Mr. Morrison shared the following comments on the New Teacher Project.

The mission of the Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB) is to support a system of certifying (licensing) teachers, administrators and school service personnel that reflects the highest standards and best practices to meet the educational needs of every child in the State of Illinois. Two goals that help achieve that mission and are relevant to our decision to recommend denial of TNTP’s LBS I proposed program are:

- Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

In our deliberation on the proposed LBS I program offered by The New Teacher Project: Chicago Teaching Fellows, we found that TNTP was not providing that every student will be supported by a highly prepared teacher. We also understand that because of this and the types of students served, not every school would be providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. We look at the impact our decisions have on the well-being and academic achievement of Illinois students. Since this program deals specifically with special education students, we know that our decision is of the utmost importance and we do not take our responsibility lightly.

This is why we feel it necessary to share with you our concerns regarding any recommendation to overturn the decision made by the SEPLB at the March 2012 meeting.

TNTP LBS I candidates will not be adequately prepared to be the teacher of record for our special needs students at the end of their five week summer practicum. TNTP describes a five-week summer practice teaching experience where candidates are "spending approximately half of each day at a school site in a Cooperating Teacher’s classroom." Also within that five-week experience, "fellows are required to observe multiple classrooms and to seek additional opportunities to diversify their perspective." Not only do these experiences prevent a development of expertise with any one special needs student, they don't provide for an appropriate amount of time to experience a diversity of special needs. This can lead to a candidate having a limited experience during the summer, and then subsequently being placed as the sole teacher of record in a classroom full of students with diverse special needs with no other certified professional in the classroom. While we are concerned about the adult's preparation, we are even more concerned about the impact this situation has on the special needs students who require an expert on day 1, not someone who is embarking in their career in this initial year of experience. We do not believe that a candidate receives the requisite exposure to k-12 classroom situations that encompass the variety of special needs children. We do not believe this would qualify them to be the teacher of record at the beginning of the very next school year.

Please consider the special needs students of Illinois as you decide whether to uphold the deliberations of the SEPLB. As teacher members of the SEPLB, we bring our expertise working with special needs students into our classrooms every day. We are putting our students first and want to make
sure they have a highly prepared teacher who will create a safe and healthy learning environment on their first day of school.

We strongly recommend that you vote to deny approval of the TNTP proposed LBS I program."

Superintendent Koch commented that he and his staff have reviewed the criteria for the Learning Behavior Specialist I offered by The New Teacher Project and he felt encouraged. He stated that Illinois needs to have a different preparation approaches for all teachers, ensuring that not only special educators but academic teachers can provide accommodations and modifications and that a special education teacher can teach the content. Dr. Koch added that the practicum and on-the-ground experience that TNTP is offering is important to a teacher’s preparation. They have also covered language development which is often not offered in traditional programs. It is very important that special educators can differentiate and understand language development so that they are not misdiagnosing students. We are not closing the achievement gap fast enough for the students in Illinois with disabilities.

The program has the equivalency of time of a candidate in a traditional university program. Dr. Koch said they have given the program a lot of study to come to the recommendation they have reached. He said he has great respect for the IEA members and did not want them to think he was not taking their recommendation into consideration.

Peg Agnos from the Legislative Education Network of DuPage and SCOPE, which represents the school districts in South Cook-Will County, spoke on the proposals received from ISBE on transportation funding. Ms. Agnos commented that her members realize that it is highly unlikely that there will be transportation reimbursement in the manner that has been available in the past, but they are hoping that the ISBE will consider not mandating transportation. Removing the mandate will give districts the discretion and flexibility to set fees and to do what is right for their districts. The members are concerned about the mandates and tying transportation funding to CPI. She also thanked Linda Mitchell and Tim Imler for speaking to her administrators on the proposals.

RESOLUTIONS & RECOGNITION

Motion:
Dr. Hall moved that the Illinois State Board of Education adopt the resolution recognizing Reese Dannenfeldt, 2012 Arts Education Poster Contest Winner from Copeland Manor Elementary School in Libertyville School District #70. Resolutions were also adopted recognizing Kimberly Lisanby-Barber, Illinois Principals Association Elementary School Principal of the Year from Spring Valley Community Consolidated School District #99, Phillip Ambrose, Illinois Principals Association Middle School Principal of the Year from Rock Island School District #41, Kevin Shelton, Illinois Principals Association High School Teacher of the Year from Johnsburg Community Consolidated School District #13 and the Illinois Bankers Association Financial Literacy Program. Ms. LaBarre seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Kimberly Lisanby-Barber stated she is honored by her recognition from the Illinois Principals Association as Elementary School Principal of the Year and that she could have not done it without the staff, mentors and people that she has worked with along the way. She said that if administrators always put children first and at the center of decisions, good things will happen.

Julie Clark from the Illinois Bankers Association, thanked the Board for recognizing their EverFi program and stated that they continue to look forward to
working with the State Board of Education and the school districts they serve. Ryan Swift, from EverFi, thanked the Board for giving EverFi the opportunity to get their tools and resources into the hands of the students.

Cornelia Powell thanked Board Member Melinda LaBarre on behalf of the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education for presenting the awards and giving the presentation on March 15, 2012 at the Governor’s Mansion. Ms. Powell noted that there are signed copies of Reese Dannenfeldt’s poster available for each board member. Ms. Powell also commented that the Kennedy Arts Center recognized Leepertown Community Consolidated School District.

PRESENTATION: INSTRUCTIONAL CHANGE – CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE NATIONAL TEACHERS ACADEMY TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION

Chairman Chico introduced John Connolly and Margaret Murphy from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Technology, Jennifer Mageria, 4th & 5th grade CPS teacher and ISBE employee Kathy Barnhart. Mr. Connolly asked Ms. Murphy to share a brief overview of the Chicago Public Schools iPad Program.

Ms. Murphy stated that in the school year 2010-11, the Educational Technology Department of Chicago Public Schools was able to fund the initial pilot program with federal Title IID monies, in which 23 school were awarded the an iPad grant. In 2011-12, CPS received funds from the Illinois Children’s Low-cost Laptop Program that enabled them to extend this successful program to 35 more schools.

Ms. Mageria discussed how the inclusion of iPads into the curriculum has transformed the students’ learning experience by increasing student engagement, providing opportunities for differentiating instruction, helping meet students’ special needs (i.e. ELL, special needs), and providing immediate assessment results to teachers to inform their instruction. Both teachers and students have reported that the integration of iPads as an instructional tool has increased student engagement and creativity in the classroom. Students have choices in how they demonstrate learning through the creation of apps which creates an atmosphere of student ownership of their work and accountability for learning. Teachers have access to a large number of resources to vary instruction. Students remain on task and complete more assignments. Teachers have reported that students are more willing to participate, communicate and collaborate during learning assignments because they enjoy using the technology.

Mr. Connolly commented that as they get more dollars they continue to look forward to future CPS iPad Program expansion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Chico noted that Agenda Item V. G. (Appointments to the Department of Juvenile Justice Department of Education) had been pulled from the consent agenda and will be acted upon at another time.

Consent Motion:
Ms. Koster moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the consent agenda, with the exception of Agenda Item V.G. (Appointments to the Department of Juvenile Justice Department of Education). Dr. Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

The following motions were approved by action taken in the consent agenda motion.

Approval of Minutes
The Illinois State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes for the February 21, 2012 Board Meeting.
Rules for Initial Review

Part 25 (Certification)

The Illinois 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.

Part 100 (Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing)

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing (23 Illinois Administrative Code 100).

Part 350 (Textbook Loan Program)

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for Secular Textbook Loan (23 Illinois Administrative Code 350), including publication of the proposed repealer in the Illinois Register.

Part 451 (Private Business and Vocational Schools)

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for Private Business and Vocational Schools (23 Illinois Administrative Code 451), including publication of the proposed repealer in the Illinois Register.

Rules for Adoption

Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois (23 Illinois Administrative Code 30). 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.

Part 100 (Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing)

Emergency Rules

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby adopts the emergency rulemaking for Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing (23 Illinois Administrative Code 100).

Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for Early Childhood Block Grant (23 Illinois Administrative Code 235). 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.

Contracts and Grants Over $1 Million

RFSP for 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 $15 million per year. Staff will bring the recommended awardee(s) to the Board for approval prior to the issuance of any award(s).
**RFP for 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant**
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to release an RFP whereby one or more public or private entities are expected to receive a competitive 21st CCLC grant which exceeds $1 million over the term of the five year grant (i.e., FY2013-2017). Staff will bring the recommended awardee(s) to the Board for approval prior to the issuance of any award(s).

**RFP for School Improvement Grants SIG1003(g) Grant**
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to release an RFP whereby one or more eligible entities are expected to receive a competitive School Improvement Grants which exceeds $1 million over the term of the three year grant (i.e., FY2013-2015). Staff will bring the recommended awardee(s) to the Board for approval prior to the issuance of any award(s).

**The New Teacher Project-Program Approvals**

**Appointment to the State Charter School Commission**
The State Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of William Farmer to the State Charter School Commission to fill the remainder of 3-year term expiring in October 2014.

**End of the Consent Agenda**

**APPROVAL OF THE CAHOKIA FINANCIAL PLAN**
Mr. Bauman moved that the State Board approves the $1.6 million for the Capital Projects Funds borrowing and the $1.5 million annual borrowing for the health, life, safety needs at the elementary schools for Cahokia Community School District 187. Ms. Koster seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous roll call vote.

**CHARIMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT PRIOR TO LUNCH AND CLOSED SESSION**
Chairman Chico announced that the Board would recess for lunch and closed session and will reconvene after closed session to continue the meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**
Dr. Hall 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 c1** for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of an employee; and

**Section c3** for the purpose of considering the selection of a person to fill a public office; and

**Section c11** for the purpose of considering pending or probable litigation against or affecting the Board.
Dr. Hall further moved that the Board may invite anyone they wish to have
included in this closed session.

Dr. Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

The open meeting reconvened at 2:18 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING

SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT
Chairman Chico announced that Superintendent Koch was presented with his annual evaluation during closed session and the Board is very happy with the performance of State Superintendent Koch and we look forward to a long tenure with him at the helm.

V.I. APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL PROFILES
Dr. Fields moved that the Illinois State Board hereby approves the financial designations of school districts as set forth in the Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Profiles scores. Ms. LaBarre seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

V.J. FY12 MCAT TRANSFERS
Dr. Brown moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the reallocation of the FY2012 Mandated Categorical budgets to result in the proposed appropriations shown in Exhibit A. Dr. Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Maintenance Grants
Linda Mitchell provided an overview of School Maintenance Grants, which require a “dollar-for-dollar” local match for a maximum grant award of $50,000 for a project up to $100,000 or more. Chicago School District 299 will receive twenty percent of the total amount awarded as per statute. As part of the application process, school districts are required to demonstrate that they have the required local match of funds. The grant funds must be used for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes only. They may not be used for ongoing operational costs. The grant application process was opened on March 1, 2012. School districts have until May 1, 2012 to submit an application. As of March 12, 2012, 260 school districts were in the process of creating applications. The applications are for projects related to maintenance for bleachers, flooring, roofs, security, paving, playground equipment, plumbing, etc. All funds must be obligated by school districts within two years of the grant award and expended within five years.

Budget Update
Ms. Mitchell indicated that staff have appeared before both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and several board members participated in the meetings. Ms. Mitchell, Superintendent Koch and staff from Governmental Relations have visited one-on-one with a number of legislators who are on the appropriation committees in order to make the case for our 3.9% increase in the budget. Ms. Mitchell also noted that she, Deb Vespa and Tim Imler have traveled around the state speaking to stakeholders on the regular and vocational transportation line item in the budget. Ms. Mitchell commented that the regular and vocational transportation line item was $351 million dollars a couple of years ago and in FY2011-12 it was $205 million dollars. Staff shared concerns with the Board at its December 2011 meeting around best utilizing those dollars to provide relief to those school districts who because of their geography, or the number of students benefitted, appeared to have a greater need for regular and vocational transportation support. Through meetings with stakeholders, staff have come up with a proposal to change the distribution of this funding. Ms. Mitchell pointed out that originally the regular and vocational transportation dollars were a cost reimbursement line item, and until we made the cuts we would just simply pay whatever the school district said they had incurred for regular and vocational transportation. Some districts took this as an opportunity to transport children in SUVs; we are trying to scale back from this situation and
are now proposing to eliminate all reimbursements other than yellow school buses. Although the proposal is to eliminate the flat grant funding associated with this line item, we are proposing to have a hold harmless for the next three years, to allow for a transition of 75% for the first year, 50% the second year and 25% for the last year of hold harmless dollars.

Ms. Mitchell stated that a budget update meeting with Governors Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) was held to discuss the Board’s recommendations in greater detail.

Legislative Update
Ms. Wills, Ms. Riseman and Mr. Reisberg reviewed a listing of pending legislation and discussed proposed positions on various bills. Ms. Koster said that she had visited with several legislators over the last week and attended the Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing. She and Chairman Chico encouraged other members to make visits with legislators about the Board’s priorities and the FY13 budget.

Other Items for Discussion
Chairman Chico reminded the Board that the April 18 Board Meeting will be a one day video conference meeting. The Board decided the June 21st board meeting would be a one day meeting in Springfield so that Board members could attend the Annual Teachers Luncheon. The Southland Charter School has offered their facility for our October Board meeting.

District Oversight-
Monthly Update
Superintendent Koch stated a charter school will be opening this fall in North Chicago on the Great Lakes Naval Base and the Agency will be helping the administration with decisions and providing oversight as necessary. Superintendent Koch indicated that East St. Louis has had a layoff of 120 non-certified personnel and in addition to that they are now faced with the possibly of closing five of their building and another large lay-off. Deb Vespa and Linda Mitchell have been meeting regularly with the local board. Art Culver continues to be very helpful and is doing a great job.

Dr. Koch indicated that with the new Basic Skill Test, a score setting process is being evaluated by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and he would like the panel selection policy approved by the Board. Linda Tomlinson will be finalizing the policy to bring to the Board.

Superintendent Koch introduced David Osta who will be directing the Race To The Top effort within in the agency. Mr. Osta briefly updated that Board on the RTTTT3 initiative. He noted that 140 districts have indicated interest and by March 30, we will have a better idea how many will be continuing in the process. On or around April 2, the state scope of work will be forwarded to the United States Department of Education. Half of the money will go to districts to implement the requirements set forth in the application, and the other half is allowed for state support to state projects that will bolster the Agency’s ability to provide strong support to existing efforts. The RTTTT3 goal is to bolster current efforts and will provide a significant resource to the Center for School Improvement, Common Core Learning Standards implementation, and performance evaluation of teachers and principals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Chairman Chico stated that Dr. Proshanta Nandi from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) was not present today but he did send in his written summary of the IBHE meeting to share. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) meeting was held on February 7, 2012 at Kendall College in Chicago. The highlights of that meeting are as follows:

- Performance funding in meeting state goals in financing higher education is still the main topic for discussion with our Board, since the new
performance funding law. Public Act 97-320 requires IBHE to develop a new funding approach for higher education that will reward colleges and universities based on progress in raising educational attainment levels for Illinois citizens. This approach is to begin with next year's Fiscal Year 2013 budget. The Board was briefed on the metrics that have been developed for the public universities and community colleges, and the FY 2013 budget recommendations were approved, including a performance funding set aside of $6.5 million for universities and $720,000 for community colleges. This is based upon anticipation of flat funding for higher education operating funds for this upcoming budget.

- The "2011 Underrepresented Groups in Higher Education Report" was presented showing that high school dropout numbers are down; enrollment is up; and completions are improving for underrepresented student populations.

- Another interesting report was presented on "A Longitudinal Study of Illinois High School Graduates with Disabilities: A Six-Year Analysis of Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion," presented by Illinois Education Research Council and the IBHE Disabilities Advisory Committee. The cohort includes 113,135 public high school students who took the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE)/ACT in the Spring of 2001 and indicated they would be graduating from high school in 2002. Students with disabilities differences with students without disabilities on postsecondary enrollment and degree completion patterns where examined. In brief, the study finds 66% of students with disabilities are enrolling in colleges; are more likely to use community colleges and public universities; were at a much higher risk of dropping out; and are less likely to complete a bachelor's degree in six years. [The PowerPoint presentation is available as part of the Board agenda on the IBHE website.] The IBHE Disabilities Advisory Committee wants to see systematic data gathering on these students, and has a major goal that a subgroup of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) will include a classification system for types of disabilities to follow students with disabilities.

The IBHE next board meeting will be April 10 at Truman College in Chicago.

(No P-20 Council report this month.)

Chairman Chico attended the Northwest Chapter of the Illinois Association of School Boards in Dixon. He also visited the Danville New Tech High School with Superintendent Koch and fellow Board Member David Fields. They also awarded the school improvement and school achievement awards.

Ms. LaBarre attended the Illinois Arts Alliance for Education Awards Ceremony and a Parent Involvement Workshop that was sponsored in partnership with ISBE. She attended the LUDA Conference, the Legislative Roundtable, Generations to Generations, House Appropriations Hearing and the Education Committee meetings.

Dr. Hall said that she has been interviewed by NASBE about the Green Clean Act and attended the No Child Should Go Hungry meeting. Next month Dr. Hall will be attending the UIC Colloquium with Ms. LaBarre, Superintendent Koch and Ms. Koster; she will be judging the Chicago Tribune’s essay contest and the public high school film festival. Dr. Hall and Ms. Koster will be traveling to Washington D.C. tomorrow to meet with several congressional leaders and she
will be attending the Illinois Board of Higher Education meeting in April.

Dr. Brown reported that she visited the Goreville Pre-K, and was very impressed with all the technology in the Pre-K classroom. She will be attending the Southern Illinois Closing the Gap conference, where several ISBE initiatives will be discussed. She also indicated that all Board members should have received a copy of a teacher policy handbook, which takes a look at all the states’ expectations for teachers and asked if we could put this on the agenda for the Board Retreat.

Dr. Koch indicated that the Enhanced PE Task Force will be reviewing the ISBE 2011 Student Advisory Council Report and potentially revising physical education standards.

Informational Items

ISBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports are available online at http://isbe.net/board/fiscal_admin_rep.htm.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Hall moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary

Mr. Gery J. Chico
Chairman