

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DoubleTree Hotel*
198 E. Delaware Place
Chicago, Illinois**

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
January 18-20, 2000**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

7:00 p.m. BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
(Working Dinner)
Old Town Room - Third Floor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

8:30 a.m. BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor

**11:00 a.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK-STUDY SESSION I**
Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor

Noon LUNCH
(Board may discuss business matters during lunch)
Park Avenue Café - Second Floor

1:00 p.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION II
Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor

6:00 p.m. DINNER
(Board may discuss business matters during dinner)
Old Town Room - Third Floor

7:00 p.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CLOSED SESSION**
Old Town Room - Third Floor

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

**8:00 a.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLenary BUSINESS MEETING**
Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
DoubleTree Hotel

10:30 a.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION III
Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor

Noon LUNCH



Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

January 18, 2000

7:00 p.m.

(Working Dinner)

Old Town Room - Third Floor

AGENDA

- A. Superintendent Evaluation Process
- B. Recess until January 19

January 19, 2000

8:30 a.m.

Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor

AGENDA

- A. Reconvene Meeting
- B. Board Sunshine Fund
- C. Superintendent Travel Review
- D. February Board Meeting
 - 1. Board Development Activities
 - 2. Schedule and Agenda
- E. Computer Training
- F. Other Business
- G. Adjourn

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777



Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK-STUDY SESSION I

Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
Chicago, Illinois
January 19, 2000
11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
- B. Illinois School Improvement System Website

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK-STUDY SESSION II**

Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
DoubleTree Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
January 19, 2000
1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
- B. Early Learning Seminar
- C. Break
- D. Accountability Matters
 - 1. Round Lake Financial Plan
 - 2. Warning List 2000/Designation System Update
 - 3. Accountability Plan
 - 4. PSAE Status Report
- E. Break
- F. Special Education Rules Commentary
- G. Other Business
- H. Adjourn

Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK-STUDY SESSION III**

Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor
DoubleTree Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
January 20, 2000
10:30 a.m.*

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Teacher Quality Issues Seminar

1. Teacher Preparation Program Report Cards/Accountability

2. Teacher Assessment

C. Other Business

D. Adjourn

* Meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session, recess for lunch and continue in the afternoon.

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777



Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

Lincoln Park Room-Third Floor
DoubleTree Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
January 20, 2000
8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

B. Minutes of December 15-16, 1999

- MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION I
- MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION II
- MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
- MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING (closed session)

C. Public Participation

D. General Consent Agenda

- Cover

1. Quarterly Report of Board Member Travel

E. Items for Immediate Action

1. Least Restrictive Alternative Policy

- Cover
- LRE Policy

2. Cumulative Waiver Report

- Cover
- Waiver Report
- Waiver Charts

3. Early Learning Position Statement

- Cover
- Statement
- Implications

4. Round Lake Financial Plan Amendment

- Motion

5. Adult Education

- Cover

6. Proposed Rulemaking

a. Part 130 - Reimbursement for Special Education

- Cover
- Rules

b. Part 151 - School Maintenance Grants

- Cover
- Rules

F. Items for Future Action

G. Special Information Reports

1. Legislative Update
2. Summer Bridges Program
3. Board Priorities
4. Center and Unit Plans

H. Announcements and Reports

1. Board Chair
2. State Superintendent
3. Committees
4. Board Members

I. Other Business

J. Adjourn

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

(Board may discuss business matters during lunch)

Park Avenue Café - Second Floor

1:00 p.m.

WORK-STUDY SESSION III (Continued)

Lincoln Park Room - Third Floor

*All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities.

**MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSIONS I AND II
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

DoubleTree Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
January 19, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie
Sandra M. Pellegrino

Connie Rogers
Vincent J. Serritella

Glenn W. "Max" M^CGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David P. Gomez, Janet Steiner

Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (Mr. Serritella joined the meeting at 4:05 p.m.)

Agenda Item B. The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Illinois School Improvement System Website.

Associate Superintendent Bill Conrad Division Administrator Frank Whitney demonstrated the School Improvement System Website. The State Board, in cooperation with the North Central Regional Laboratory and others, is developing a new website designed to assist school districts in their school improvement efforts. The website will incorporate academic and other data that can be used to better understand the school and its relationship to comparable schools throughout the state. The goal is to stimulate question-driven, data-driven planning and procedures at the local level. Although the site will not be ready for use until early spring, this gave the Board a chance to preview and react to the initiative.

Board members asked a number of excellent questions that will help to improve the website and its uses by school districts.

The meeting recessed at 12 noon and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item B.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Early Learning Seminar.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Board would devote a significant portion of this meeting to a discussion of early learning issues and the State Board position statement.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS I AND II

January 19, 2000

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Superintendent MCGee provided a few brief introductory comments. A handout on Quality Early Childhood Education and Care (see Addendum II) was distributed to Board members.

Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato and Division Administrator Kay Henderson commented on the issue and introduced the following panel members.

Barbara Bowman
President, Erickson Institute

Catherine Leonis-Muno
Program Director - Office of the First Lady

Sara Slaughter
Program Director - Chicago Metropolis 2020

Jerry Stermer
President, Voices for Illinois Children

Each of the panel members discussed early learning issues from their respective positions. Ms. Bowman discussed the criteria for a quality program, and Mr. Stermer identified critical issues. Ms. Slaughter and Ms. Muno discussed the importance of early childhood education to the business community and the Governor's office respectively. All of the speakers commented on the value of the Board's leadership on this issue, the quality of SBE-supported programs, and the potential differences that can be made as a result of the proposed position statement and coordinated activities in support of that statement.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Superintendent MCGee called the Board's attention to the immediate implications of adopting the proposed position statement.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

The meeting recessed at 2:40 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda
Item D.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.1., Accountability Matters, Round Lake Financial Plan.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that during its Plenary Business Meeting on the following day (January 20), the Board would take action on the proposed

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS I AND II

January 19, 2000

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amendment to the financial plan for Round Lake School District, which is one of the districts that has been certified as "in financial difficulty." He noted that the Superintendent and staff have indicated that the Board needs to look at the "big picture" for this District, so time has been scheduled for discussion with the Round Lake Superintendent and other officials.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey gave an overview of the financial plan amendment as submitted by the Round Lake Area Schools -- District #116 (Addendum III).

Dr. Mary Davis, District Superintendent; Kurt Valentin, Director of Business Affairs; and board member James Hult made a few brief comments and responded to Board members' questions. They noted that, unlike most other districts in Lake County, the Round Lake District has a low assessed value and a high proportion of students with special learning needs, particularly for bilingual education. They also noted that the contract with the teacher union, which was reached after a lengthy strike, has put restrictions on the District's flexibility in addressing its financial problems. Mr. Ey commented that the discussion of current financial issues does not even include the infrastructure funding needs of the District, which are substantial, or the long-term debt picture.

Chairman Gidwitz and other members of the Board noted that the financial situation of the District has become so bad that more extreme interventions may be necessary. This might include a financial oversight panel and/or other actions to help the District establish a sound financial position and provide a high-quality educational program for District students.

Mrs. McConachie spoke for the Board in saying that the members are sympathetic with the plight of District officials and would very much like to help find creative ways to reverse the increasingly serious financial problems of the District. Nonetheless, the Board has an obligation to stop that downward slide and could not continue to approve plans and plan amendments that could not be realized. Round Lake officials were advised that on the following day, the Board would approve the proposed plan amendment for just two months. This would give the community time to act on an upcoming referendum and the District time to develop an alternative plan for the remainder of this year and for FY 2001 and 2002.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Mr. Ey to work with the District throughout this period, and he invited the Round Lake team to meet with the Board in April to review progress and consider future actions.

The meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4:25 p.m.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS I AND II

January 19, 2000

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Agenda
Item D.2-3. The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.2-3., Accountability Matters, Warning List 2000/Designation System Update, Accountability Plan.

Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haeffele discussed the business plan for Standards, Assessment and Accountability and then provided a lengthy commentary on issues associated with the development of a new designation system. She indicated that because of the complexity of these issues, the next steps should be to convene a task force to help sort through the options and create support for the position to eventually be presented to the Board. The Board concurred with this plan, which will engage legislators as well as other key stakeholders.

Ms. Haeffele then discussed the proposed transition plan for districts that are on the Academic Early Warning List based on IGAP performance in FY98 and 99. The Board expressed concern about the number of such schools that are classified in the transition plan as having made "adequate yearly progress" even though their first year ISAT results are very, very low. As a result of this discussion, Board members asked staff to revise the transition plan to provide greater attention to such schools.

Agenda
Item D.4. The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.4., Accountability Matters, PSAE Status Report.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the staff is continuing to work on the development of the PSAE, as well as on other issues related to high school assessment. He asked the Superintendent and staff to report on that progress.

Superintendent McGee reported on plans for this year's 10th grade ISAT administration, noting that approximately 80% of the districts have indicated that they will give this test. He also commented on discussions with federal officials about what tests Chicago could use to meet Title I requirements if it does not administer the ISAT.

The Superintendent also commented on the desire to move to annual standards-based testing.

Superintendent McGee and Ms. Haeffele discussed the exploratory work by staff to see if it would be feasible and desirable to integrate the Prairie State with the ACT. This is an idea that has considerable appeal to many groups, including high school districts and higher education officials. Preliminary discussions are very promising and that work will continue.

Agenda
Item F. The Chairman called for Agenda Item F., Special Education Rules Commentary.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that the information in the packet, which is in draft form, provides an analysis of virtually all of the commentary received on the proposed revisions to the special education regulations. He indicated that one of the primary issues discussed in the first analysis (presented to the Board in December) and this one is the issue of federal/state congruence -- that is, are the proposed state rules consistent with federal rules and/or do they exceed federal regulations. He recommended, therefore, that before the Board considers final recommendations for changes to the rules, there should be a discussion of the federal/state issue. The Board concurred with this proposal, and the discussion will be scheduled for the March meeting.

Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel and Division Administrator Jack Shook commented on the themes reflected in the comments. These included the following.

1. Concern about whether the proposed rule exceeds, contradicts, or fails to reflect the related provisions of federal law and regulations. As individual comments are reviewed, it is evident that for some respondents, the emphasis on the federal regulations is a desire for flexibility. Others want to use the federal requirements as a restriction on perceived flexibility. Because of the pervasive yet variable nature of this concern, staff believes it would be worthwhile for the Board to focus exclusively on the state/federal congruence issue during the February meeting.
2. Timelines are a major issue, with comments asking for tighter timelines and less stringent timelines, more precise timelines and less precise timelines. Issues associated with when the process begins (e.g., the date of referral) seem to be of particular concern.
3. The definitions, particularly the definitions of disabilities, elicited many comments asking for greater precision. This appears to reflect concern about over-identification of students who may not truly need special education or, conversely, under-identification of students for whom it is needed. Respondents apparently want very specific language that describes disabling conditions and clearly requires a link between a disability and its impact on the students access to or ability to benefit from "regular education."
4. Procedures for case study, IEP formulation, discipline of students with disabilities, and due process also elicited many comments, with most wanting even more specific language than is provided. Although many respondents want flexibility overall, this need for specificity appears to reflect the need to know exactly what is required so that conflicts and appeals can be minimized.

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5. Issues related to special education for bilingual students with disabilities also elicited a number of comments. Some of these comments are included in this report. The remainder will be summarized for the Board as Part III (along with a few other comments that could not be completed for this meeting) and sent to the Board within the next two weeks.
6. The comments of the court monitor focus primarily on class size proposals and the potential impact on placements in the least restrictive environment.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

**MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSION III
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

DoubleTree Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
January 20, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie
Sandra M. Pellegrino

Connie Rogers

Glenn W. "Max" M^CGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David P. Gomez, Vincent J. Serritella, Janet Steiner

Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Connie Rogers to call the roll. Mrs. Rogers called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that he had asked Mrs. Rogers to represent him at the Joint Education Committee on January 24, and she had agreed to do that.

Agenda
Item B.1-2. The Chairman called for Agenda Item B.1. & 2., Teacher Quality Issues Seminar: Teacher Preparation Program Report Cards/Accountability, Teacher Assessment.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that during the next several months, the Board will be spending a great deal of time looking at specific issues associated with the Board's quality educators priority. He indicated that today's topics are teacher preparation program accountability, with specific reference to teacher report cards, and teacher assessment. He noted that the Board was very pleased to have Jan Somerville as the guest for this discussion. Ms. Somerville, Senior Associate with the University System of Maryland and the National Association of college and university Systems Heads (NASH), currently serves as the Director of the NASH network of state university and K-12 leaders from 21 states (including Illinois) that are working on coordinated education improvement. She met with the Board, along with Kati Haycock, in June 1998 as the State Board was considering its commitment to the P-16 initiative.

Jan Somerville gave background on the issue, emphasizing the critical need for teachers to have a strong foundation of content knowledge in the areas they are teaching.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION III

January 20, 2000

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Deputy Superintendent Frank Llano and Division Administrators Rob Sampson and Mike Long provided the Board with background information about teacher assessment and the work of the assessment advisory panel. The Board endorsed the general framework for assessments recommended by that panel (i.e., testing of basic skills, pedagogy and content for the Initial Certificate and performance assessment for the Master Certificate) but agreed to defer action on other recommendations pending more detailed discussion.

In response to the Board's request for a recommendation for improving the rigor of the basic skills assessment as quickly as possible, staff provided three options. The Superintendent and staff recommended Board concurrence with the recommendation to develop a new basic skills assessment for implementation by October 2000 (the first test administration for the 2000-2001 year). Because of time limitations, discussion was brief. However, the Board did agree with the direction recommended by staff.

The Superintendent provided the following schedule for additional discussions about teacher assessment: pedagogy assessment issues in February; content assessment issues in March, and performance assessment in April.

Frank Llano, Mike Long and Division Administrator Connie Wise commented on the teacher preparation report card requirements, which were discussed in detail in the packet. Again, discussion was limited but the Board did concur with the proposed actions in the paper, namely that the State Superintendent, working with the Board of Higher Education, Community College Board and the Governor, develop strategies, timelines and procedures for the following:

- Policy decisions about the report card and teacher-education program accountability, including development of a comprehensive and integrated accountability system for teacher preparation institutions;
- Consultation with the business and civic sector;
- Engagement of the presidents, administrators and faculty of higher education institutions that prepare teachers;
- Expansion of the planning committee, formalization of its responsibilities and procedures for completion of its work; and
- Resolution of the issues identified in the paper.

Ms. Pellegrino left the meeting at 12:55 p.m. and Dr. Hill left at 1:50 p.m.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION III

January 20, 2000

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Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

**MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

DoubleTree Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
January 19, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
David P. Gomez
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie
Sandra M. Pellegrino

Connie Rogers
Vincent J. Serritella

Glenn W. "Max" McGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janet Steiner

Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Marilyn McConachie to call the roll. Mrs. McConachie called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Motion Mr. Serritella moved that "the State Board of Education go into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:

- Section 2 (c) (1) for the purpose of discussing information regarding appointment, employment or dismissal of an employee and
- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

He further moved that Superintendent McGee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

Dr. Hill - yes	Mr. Gomez - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Ms. Pellegrino - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes		

The meeting went into closed session at approximately 7:07 p.m.

MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION

January 19, 2000

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Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

**MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

DoubleTree Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
January 20, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
David P. Gomez
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie
Sandra M. Pellegrino

Connie Rogers
Vincent J. Serritella

Glenn W. "Max" McGee, State Superintendent of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janet Steiner

Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (Mr. Gomez joined the meeting at 8:10 a.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that with the Board's agreement, the agenda will be changed to move the quarterly Board expenses report from the General Consent agenda to the regular agenda. He reported that the Board has been advised by Counsel that a roll call vote is required, because this action directly authorizes the expenditure of funds.

Board Member Expenses Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the expenses of Board members presented in the January 2000 quarterly report (on file at the State Board office in Springfield)."

Ms. Pellegrino seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

Dr. Hill - yes	Mr. Gidwitz - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Ms. Pellegrino - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes

Approval of Minutes Mrs. Rogers moved that the minutes of the December 15-16, 1999, meetings of the State Board be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hill. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda The Chairman called for Agenda Item G.4., Special Information Reports,

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

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Item G.4. Center and Unit Plans.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Deputy Superintendent David Wood had a personal emergency and needed to leave the meeting as soon as possible. He asked the Board to allow Mr. Wood to give his report at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Wood provided information on the Operations Center. Discussion followed for clarification purposes. The Board suggested that the agency should evaluate all activities to see if any can be eliminated, restructured or contracted out. The Chairman noted that we need to be flexible and open to look at how we can improve what we are doing every day and how we can be better managers.

Mr. Serritella indicated that given some of the discussion that the Board has had with the Superintendent on embracing the Baldrige and Lincoln models, Mr. Wood's area particularly would be great grounds for experimentation in trying out some of the things. He pledged his individual support to help source some either low-cost or no-cost help.

Chairman Gidwitz commented on the need to control the number of agency staff and to assure that all staff are working in support of the Board's missions and goals.

Agenda Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Public Participation. He reviewed the rules for public participation.

The individuals listed below spoke to the Board regarding the proposed transfer of adult education governance from the State Board to the Community College Board and urged Board members to vote against the transfer. These individuals made the following comments.

- Even if funds continue to flow to community-based organizations, there is no comparable internal and organizational structure at the Community College Board for support and staff development, etc. to ensure the ongoing high quality of adult education programs that the State Board has been able to provide.
- It is a question of which administrative environment will best ensure that all adult education programs succeed and flourish.
- ISBE has been fair in providing funds through a set of strict outcome-based performance measures.
- Why risk disruption and incur extra costs to fix a system that works very well, and ISBE has a proven track record of excellence of ensuring diversity and access.
- Why fix something that isn't broken?

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- Many fear that the parents with the lowest levels of literacy will be forgotten if adult education is separate from child and family education.
- There are serious concerns about access to ESL and adult education programs and also the provision of necessary services to make participation in those programs successful.
- The transfer of power and money from one board to another will cost initially millions of dollars to accomplish.
- The priority is quality staff -- the State Board staff that is second to none in the country.
- The transfer of governance will lead to a decline in the educational services offered to children.
- What are the benefits to the change in governance?

The following individuals spoke to the adult education issue.

Tim Amstutz, the Midwest area director for World Relief in Chicago

Oscar Benitez, Jr., adult education program director at West Chicago

Community High School

Anna Henderson, representing Chicago Commons ETC

Joanna Bordwiel, director of education and employment services at Polish

American Association in Chicago

Kimberlie Richter, a teacher and also a host for refugee family from Naperville

Andrea Fiebig, YWCA of Elgin

Kevin Weslock, Exodus World Services in Itasca

Bill Van Wyngaarden, Chicagoland Deacon Conference, Oak Lawn

Sue Barauski, Adult Learning Resource Center in Des Plaines

Pamela Meadows, World Relief DuPage, Wheaton

Richard Chierico, people who support the Interagency Agreement that took place in Governor Edgar's office in 1996 (& the passage of P.A. 89524)

Marilyn Sweeny, World Relief DuPage, Wheaton

Joyce Fritsch, director of adult education at DeWitt-Livingston-McLean

Regional Office of Education, Normal

John Muirhead, president of the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators

Association and Urbana School District #116

Duane Rankin, director of Southern Illinois Professional Development Center,

Edwardsville

Will Leinicke, director of Illinois Professional Development Partnership Center,

Bloomington

The following two individuals spoke to the Board on different issues.

Judi Sloan, the 1993 Illinois Teacher of the Year and representing the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD), commented on one of the recommendations in the waiver report for changing the physical education requirement because some school districts have requested

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

January 20, 2000

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waivers. She indicated that high quality, standard-based physical education programs do exist in Illinois, and she reported on how hard the state organization is working to make sure that quality programs are a norm rather than an exception. Ms. Sloan commented on the Blue Ribbon Physical Education Programs and indicated that they could serve as a model for districts.

Lonnie Johns expressed concern about whether the business community and other members of the public can support standards, assessment and accountability – particularly in the General Assembly – when the Board makes changes or takes actions which appear counterproductive. He provided a handout which illustrated his concerns and advised the Board to do a better job of “picking its battles.” Mr. Johns also commented on the proposed LRE policy, pointing out that it still did not include all of the provisions that were required by federal law and regulations.

An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

Agenda Item E.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.1., Items for Immediate Action, Least Restrictive Alternative Policy.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the Least Restrictive Alternative (LRE) Policy is one of the more important policies that the State Board will pass, and it needs great care and attention. He noted that it has been subject to all kinds of scrutiny and rewriting, and another version was distributed to the Board members' places. He emphasized that local districts need to have this clarification, and the policy needs to be clear and support IDEA.

Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel commented on the latest version of the Least Restrictive Alternative Policy. He noted that the revised draft policy had been reviewed by the court monitor and that the last sentence in the proposal had been added at the monitor's request. This sentence emphasizes that the State Board will take leadership in assuring that districts act in conformance with the LRE provisions in law and regulation.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes, and Board members expressed their concerns with the latest version. In response to these concerns, and with the concurrence of the Superintendent, Dr. Riffel withdrew the proposed Policy and offered to make the necessary changes to reflect the Board members' concerns. The revised Policy would be brought back to the Board at the February meeting.

The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

Agenda

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.2., Items for Immediate Action,

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

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Item E.2. Cumulative Waiver Report.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the annual cumulative waiver report to the General Assembly was discussed by the Board last month and was now ready for final action.

Superintendent M^CGee commended Ms. Sloan for her work with the physical education standards and encouraged her to continue that effort.

Mrs. McConachie called the Board's attention to page 4-50 of the Board packet (second to last paragraph....."Moreover, as pressures for students to achieve standards in other academic areas mount, many school districts find that the only way to provide more time for study in these areas is to take it away from physical education.") She indicated that many districts find other ways to organize their time so that they can help students meet the physical education standards. She noted that she thought this sentence provides an excuse, and she hoped that something that is a little more neutral and that encourages some better management practices would go into the final report.

The Superintendent responded that the sentence could be changed or deleted. He indicated that he would like to encourage local districts to expand the length of their school day or to look at their entire curriculum and replace maybe some of the items that are not related to standards. He noted that these are hard decisions.

The Chairman suggested that staff take a look at those schools that are asking for waivers -- what is the length of their school day. He indicated that if we find that a predominate number of schools that are asking for waivers fall in the area of fewer minutes per day, we might suggest a different course of action. The Superintendent responded that we could do that as they apply in the future.

Chairman Gidwitz commented that he thought Mrs. McConachie was right that the Board should not sanction that which the Board does not approve of.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that the Board should not deny the waivers, but she thought that more flexibility and imagination is needed.

Dr. Hill expressed concern that lengthening the school day could cause a tremendous amount of grief for school districts with regard to their collective bargaining agreements. He asked that that be taken into consideration before the Board embarks on something that may cause some problems.

The Chairman indicated that the Board needs to be sensitive to that, but at this point, all he is suggesting is staff collects the relevant data.

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Mrs. Rogers noted that she was glad that the Board was now trying to ask that other children be able to benefit from the waivers. This comment was in reference to pending legislation that would allow special education cooperatives and laboratory schools to apply for waivers.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby authorizes submission of the cumulative waiver report to the General Assembly, along with recommendations for legislative changes regarding the daily physical education requirements, legal school holidays, and eligible applicants for waivers."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

Vote on
Motion

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda
Item E.3.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.3., Items for Immediate Action, Early Learning Position Statement.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that on January 19, the Board had the pleasure of discussing early learning research and issues with an outstanding panel of guests, including Dr. Barbara Bowman of the Erickson Institute. He noted that that discussion was intended to provide the background for the final action on the proposed position statement.

Superintendent M^CGee commented on the issue and recommended that the Board adopt the Early Learning Position Statement that was included in the Board packet.

Motion

Ms. Pellegrino moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed position statement on early learning and directs staff to move forward immediately with its implementation (Addendum II)."

Mr. Serritella seconded the motion.

Vote on
Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda
Item E.4.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.4., Items for Immediate Action, Round Lake Financial Plan Amendment.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that on January 19, the Board had a lengthy discussion on this issue.

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Superintendent M^CGee reported that based on the discussion yesterday, he thought it would be in the best interest of the students in the school district to have the Board approve their plan only through April and have district officials return to the Board in April, following their referendum. He noted that in April, the Board would have to make another decision about whether to extend the approval of their plan for this year, to approve the official plans, to put a Financial Oversight Panel or take other action as necessary. He commented that he felt strongly that this course of action was best for the local board and for the students.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves through April 20, 2000, the fiscal year 2000 component of the financial plan amendment submitted by Round Lake area schools -- District #116 for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, pursuant to Section 1 A-8 of the School Code, with quarterly expenditure reporting to assure compliance. The components of the financial plan amendment submitted for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 are denied, and the original plan approval given May 20, 1999, for plan components for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 is hereby rescinded.

The State Board of Education further directs the board of education of Round Lake area schools - District #116 to submit, by March 2000, a revised budget for fiscal year 2000 and a revised financial plan for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 which is, at a minimum, balanced with respect to revenue versus expenditures, by year, in the combined operating funds."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion. Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Vote on Motion

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item E.5.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.5., Items for Immediate Action, Adult Education.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the next action item is a recommendation that adult education governance be transferred from the State Board to the Community College Board.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that he sincerely appreciated the comments during public participation about the Board's record of excellence in support for keeping adult education at the State Board of Education, the support for the community-based organizations, the quality of service that they provided and the commendations for the quality staff work. He indicated, however, that he still believed that the State Board of Education should do fewer things and do them

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better, and that the Board's primary mission is working with children (K-12, soon to be 0 to 12) and the teachers of those children. He recommended that the Board approve the following motion to transfer adult education to the Community College Board with the following caveats.

- The Superintendent assured the audience that he would do everything to insist that the high quality of programs and services be maintained.
- The transition period for the State Board staff will be appropriate and enables the Board to find a place for them -- whether it is with the Community College Board or in our organization through the processes that we have in place.
- The State Board should retain responsibility for family literacy, even though there is some overlap with adult education. The Superintendent indicated that he has received some verbal assurances that this condition would be built into the planning process.

Superintendent McGee noted that this transfer of governance would need to be voted on by the General Assembly.

Motion

Mr. Serritella moved that "the Illinois State Board of Education recommends to the Governor and General Assembly that, following an appropriate transition period to ensure continuity of high quality programs and services, the administration of adult education be transferred from the Illinois State Board of Education to the Illinois Community College Board. The Illinois State Board of Education further recommends that program elements related to family literacy should remain with the State Board of Education."

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

Mr. Serritella asked if there has been any discussion in support of the transition period for a transition plan -- a memorandum of understanding about what the Board is transferring. The Superintendent responded that there has not been anything in writing, but he thought the intent was to probably move it July 1, 2001. Mr. Serritella indicated that he was not asking for a time frame but for the content of a memorandum stipulating what we were transferring, what accountabilities we were looking for. The Chairman responded that that information has been requested.

Mrs. Rogers asked that the following statement be included in the record.

"I fail to see any benefits to change adult education governance. I believe that the best way to ensure our comprehensive and inclusive delivery system is to maintain adult education governance in ISBE.

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1. ISBE has a proven national track record of excellence.
2. ISBE has developed a good understanding of multicultural and multiethnic communities of Illinois and of their needs and problems.
3. ISBE has made program funding based on program quality.
4. Family literacy and adult education programs are strongly linked.

So I will be voting against it."

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she would also be voting against the motion for lack of a comprehensive analysis and benefits to the consumers of adult education. She noted that she would support the Board's action, whatever it is, and she will not comment any further on this issue in public or in private. She praised the work of the State Board staff for the following.

- There are certain values and principles inherent in the way they have managed this program that should be governing principles into the future.
- They have provided highly accessible services everywhere in the state.
- They have sustained a diverse base of providers so that the customers have choices about where they get their adult education and workforce.
- They have protected customer input. They have had a very strong adult education advisory council and collaborative approach to developing policy.
- They have done hard work trying to get adequate funding for this program, which was always difficult.
- They paid very close attention to standards for credentialing and standards for programs. They have an exceptionally strong commitment to the Illinois Learning Standards which she had not uniformly detected elsewhere.
- They have an accountability system which should be continued into the future, because it looks at quality of programs and it demands quality outputs -- those outcome performance measures are a national model. The performance measures should be applied by an independent, centralized agency so that individual programs or institutions do not evaluate themselves and make decisions about their work. Outside accountability has been very important to the quality of agency work.

Mrs. McConachie particularly praised Division Administrator Dan Miller for his work as a national leader. Those national leadership activities are part of Illinois being second to none. She also recognized Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson for her leadership.

Mrs. McConachie's greatest concern for the future is how to encourage and protect adult basic education, basic literacy and ESL. Those programs are on soft money. Mrs. McConachie noted that there had been a couple of examples in public testimony that morning indicating that people could not get into programs because there is very limited grant money. She stated that the State Board staff

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has worked very hard, especially with community-based organizations to be sure that there were places for people who needed them. She reiterated that there has been support and accountability and assistance from the Board staff, so they deserve great praise. Mrs. McConachie indicated that she hoped the focus that the staff had provided would be continued wherever adult education governance is located in the future.

Ms. Pellegrino indicated that although she supported both of her colleagues' statements, she would be voting in favor of the motion. She commented that she has been a member of this Board since 1995, and this was the toughest vote she has ever had to make.

Vote on
Motion

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with the following votes recorded.

Dr. Hill - yes

Mr. Gomez - yes

Mrs. Rogers - no

Mrs. McConachie - no

Ms. Pellegrino - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Chairman Gidwitz thanked the Board members for the very difficult decision they had made, and he thanked the Superintendent and particularly the staff for the work that was done in preparing this issue. He thanked the people who have time and time again come to share their thoughts with the Board -- both pro and con. He commented that as evidenced by his vote, he believes that for the long-term, this program is better suited to be administered by the Illinois Community College Board. The Chairman indicated that they have a program and we have a program; taxpayers do not need to pay for two programs and two program administrations. He noted that he thought there were some economies associated with that.

Chairman Gidwitz also noted that the Board has heard from many individuals about the wonderful programs that they are engaged in and support, and the Board is very appreciative of that. He indicated that he and the Board and the Superintendent would work with Dr. Cipfl and others on his staff and in the field to ensure that there are continued, consistent and high-quality programs in Illinois. He also emphasized that the Superintendent and the Board are committed to see that when and if the transfer takes place, those agencies that are doing a good job will continue to get funding and will not be subsumed and pushed out by the existing community colleges and their programs.

Mrs. Rogers asked if the funding would go right to the community college or to higher education and then to community college. The Chairman responded that higher education is the beneficiary of all of Community College Board's money.

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Agenda
Item E.6.a. The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.6.a., Items for Immediate Action, Proposed Rulemaking: Part 130 - Reimbursement for Special Education.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that these rules have elicited a lot of public comment, much of it from special education administrators who urged that the proposed definition of program be rescinded in favor of the definition in the current rules. He indicated that the proposed change was originally suggested and supported by local administrators, but after their change of heart, he and staff had concluded that it would be appropriate to leave that portion of the rules as they originally were.

Motion Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed amendments to the rules for determining the special education per capita tuition charge (Part 130). The State Superintendent is authorized to make whatever technical or non-substantive changes are required by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Ms. Pellegrino seconded the motion.

Vote on
Motion The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda
Item E.6.b. The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.6.b., Items for Immediate Action, Proposed Rulemaking: Part 151 - School Maintenance Grants.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Board is ready to take final action on the proposed rules for the very popular school maintenance grants.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that there were no public comments on these rules, so they remain as originally presented to the Board. He noted that the rules describe criteria and procedures for implementation of the maintenance grant program.

Motion Ms. Pellegrino moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed amendments to the rules for school construction programs (Part 151). The State Superintendent is authorized to make whatever technical or non-substantive changes are required by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

Vote on
Motion The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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Agenda
Item G.1. The Chairman called for Agenda Item G.1., Special Information Reports, Legislative Update.

Superintendent M^CGee gave a brief legislative update.

Agenda
Item G.2. The Chairman called for Agenda Item G.2., Special Information Reports, Summer Bridges Program.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that Division Administrator Sheryl Poggi did an outstanding job of working with the Governor's Office putting together the Summer Bridges program last year. He indicated that staff had collected and analyzed data to determine the effectiveness of the program and help shape plans for this summer's programs. Ms. Poggi indicated that the preliminary data shows that the Summer Bridges program had remarkable results.

Ms. Poggi reminded the Board that staff and school districts had just six weeks to get the program up and running. This year, planning has begun early, even though implementation will depend on the level of funding from the General Assembly. Ms. Poggi reported that staff had already met with the thirty-eight districts that will participate in the second year of the Program, and these schools are already in the planning process and beginning to identify assessments and training pieces. She also indicated that, consistent with the proposed increase in Summer Bridges funds, sixty-four additional districts have been identified and invited to an orientation session. Ms. Poggi indicated that the sixty-four districts know that the appropriation of this is pending, so they will be operating on good faith just like the districts did last year. She also commented on the program evaluation and how it will be different this year.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes. Board members commended Ms. Poggi and her staff, as well as the Summer Bridges schools, on the excellent results of the first year of the program. Mrs. Rogers emphasized the need to identify what elements made the difference and consider how those elements could be incorporated into programs provided during the regular school year.

Agenda
Item G.3. The Chairman called for Agenda Item G.3., Special Information Reports, Board Priorities.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that a format for reporting on the four Board priorities has been developed, and in the future, the Board would be provided with this information in writing. He noted that the staff leaders for these priority initiatives are now meeting as a group to review their progress and align efforts, and he noted that this should help assure that things do not fall between the cracks. He briefly updated the Board on specific issues in relation to the priority areas.

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An audio tape of the meeting is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

Agenda Item G.4.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item G.4., Special Information Reports, Center and Unit Plans.

Internal Auditor Tammy Rust; Doris Langon, Office Manager for the Chicago office; and Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel for Special Education provided reports on their center and/or unit plans.

Agenda Item H.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item H.1., Announcements and Reports, Board Chair.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that Mrs. McConachie and Mrs. Rogers would be attending the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) committee meetings in Washington that weekend. He indicated that as announced earlier, Mrs. McConachie is chairing a study group, and he was pleased to announce that Mrs. Rogers would be serving as chair of the Governmental Relations Committee. He noted that the Board expects to see some very fine work coming out of both groups.

Agenda Item H.2.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item H.2., Announcements and Reports, State Superintendent.

Superintendent McGee reported that the school maintenance grant program has been extraordinarily successful, and there is not enough money to fund even one grant per school district. He noted that 870 out of 900 school districts applied, and a supplemental appropriation will be sought in order to fund all of the districts.

The Superintendent also reported that staff is seeking the transfer of some unexpended funds for various purposes to support regional alternative education safe school programs. These schools, which serve students who are subject to expulsion and which have been so visible throughout the Decatur school district situation, will shortly have to turn students away because they do not have the room or the staff. Superintendent McGee indicated that staff is also seeking to transfer some funding to the Cook County ROE so that they can complete their compliance monitoring.

The Superintendent recognized the special accomplishments and achievements of several staff members.

- Leah Covey -- for her outreach and work with districts in Title I.

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- Megan Forness, Susan Sawers and Victoria Hammer -- for ISAT presentations that have made around the state.
- Charlie Pinto -- for leadership during a QA visit in Waukegan High School.
- Amy Fifer -- for her help in assisting with the ISBE site visit by Achieve.
- Gwen Pollock -- for her presentation at Edwardsville High School and for her work with them on the mathematics grant.
- Eunice Greer -- for her excellent presentation at the Harcourt Symposium.
- Marilyn Holt -- for her exceptional work at Grand Prairie Grade School and for attending a conference in Arkansas on the Superintendent's behalf.
- Gail Buoy -- for her efforts at Harrison School.

Superintendent M^cGee noted that he received an award from Operation PUSH at the tenth annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Breakfast for his work with Decatur and East St. Louis. He indicated that he was humbled and honored by this recognition.

Agenda Item H.3.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item H.3., Announcements and Reports, Committees.

Ms. Pellegrino, Chair of the Board Operations Committee, gave the following report from the Committee meeting held on January 18-19.

- The Committee approved the Sunshine Fund, which is created through \$25 per Board member (voluntarily). This fund is used for flowers and other remembrances in the event of illness or deaths of Board members, their families, or others as appropriate.
- The Superintendent's travel was not ready for review, so Mrs. Rogers will make that report in February.
- The Committee approved the Board development activities and evaluation for Wednesday, February 16. Between this meeting and the February meeting, the Board members will receive an instrument related to Board self-evaluation; this will include a timeline and instructions for completing and returning the instrument.
- The Superintendent's evaluation instrument will be sent to the Board members by February 7 to be completed and returned to Ms. Pellegrino by e-mail or fax by February 10. She will then collate the responses for analysis and interpretation by the Board at the February Board meeting.

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Agenda The Chairman called for Agenda Item H.4., Announcements and Reports,
Item H.4. Board Members. There were none.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman