



Illinois State Board of Education

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

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Renaissance Hotel
701 East Adams
Springfield, Illinois***

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
February 15-17, 2000**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6:30 p.m. LEGISLATIVE DINNER
Lincoln Room - Maldaner's Restaurant
622 S. 6th Street

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Closed Session
Executive Board Room - Second Floor
Renaissance Hotel
701 E. Adams

5:30 p.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Closed Session and Dinner
Governor's Cabinet Room - Second Floor
Renaissance Hotel
701 E. Adams

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8:00 a.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION I
State Board Room - Fourth Floor
100 N. First Street

10:30 a.m. PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
State Board Room - Fourth Floor
100 N. First Street

Noon LUNCH
(Board may discuss business during lunch)
Superintendent's Conference Room
Fourth Floor
100 N. First Street

1:00 p.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION II**
State Board Room - Fourth Floor
100 N. First Street

INFORMATION ITEM

Meetings will be held at locations specified on the schedule. All locations are accessible to persons with disabilities.

** Meeting will begin at the conclusion of the Board lunch break.

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

State Board Room - Fourth Floor
100 N. First Street
Springfield, Illinois
February 17, 2000
8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
- B. Special Education Rules - Federal/State Congruence
 - Cover
 - Chart 1
 - Chart 2
- C. Proposed Rulemaking for Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Development
 - Cover
 - Rules
 - Overview
 - Task Force Final Report
 - Cert. Board Recommended Rules
 - Hearing Schedule
- D. Other Business
- E. Recess

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 II

State Board Room - Fourth Floor
100 N. First Street
Springfield, Illinois
February 17, 2000
1:00 p.m.*

AGENDA

A. Reconvene Meeting

B. Teacher Assessment

- Cover
- Model for Comprehensive Assessment System

C. Teacher Content Standards

- Cover
- Content Standards Power Point
- Teacher Content Standards (on separate CD)

D. Prairie State Achievement Test/ACT Integration

- Cover

E. Special Reports

1. Legislative Update
2. Priority Plan Reports
3. Center and Unit Reports

F. Other Business

G. Adjourn

* Meeting will begin at the conclusion of the Board lunch break.

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

State Board Room - Fourth Floor
100 N. First Street
Springfield, Illinois
February 17, 2000
10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

B. Minutes of January 19-20

- MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION
- MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION
- MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
- MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

C. Public Participation

D. Items for Immediate Action

1. Least Restrictive Environment Policy

- Cover
- LRE Policy

2. Academic Early Warning List

- Cover

3. Priorities for Continuing Professional Development

- Cover

4. Proposed Rulemaking

a. Part 451 - Private Business and Vocational Schools

- Cover
- Rules

b. Part 220 - Scientific Literacy

- Cover
- Rules

E. Items for Future Action

1. Proposed Rulemaking

a. Part 25 - Certification (Certificate Renewal) *(See materials in Work Session I)*

F. Announcements and Reports

1. Chairman
2. Superintendent
3. Committees
4. Board Members

G. Other Business

H. Adjourn

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

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

Renaissance Hotel
Springfield, Illinois
February 16, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Marilyn McConachie
Sandra M. Pellegrino

Vincent J. Serritella
Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Connie Rogers

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:58 a.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 M^CGee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed."

Dr. Steiner 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	Ms. Pellegrino - yes
Dr. Steiner - yes	Mr. Gomez - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes		

The meeting went into closed session at approximately 9:01 a.m.

MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION

February 16, 2000

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Chairman Gidwitz and Superintendent M^CGee left the meeting from 12:40 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and again from 3:50 p.m. to 5:17 p.m.

Vice Chair Pellegrino recessed the closed session at 5:15 p.m., and Mr. Serritella left the meeting at this time.

Chairman Gidwitz reconvened the closed session at 6:25 p.m.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Sandra M. Pellegrino, Vice Chair

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

State Board of Education Office
Springfield, Illinois
February 17, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
David P. Gomez

William E. Hill
Marilyn McConachie

Sandra M. Pellegrino
Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Connie Rogers, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Serritella was in attendance for the closed session on February 16; however, he had business obligations for February 17 and could not be present. The Chairman reported that Mrs. Rogers was absent due to illness.

Agenda
Item B.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Special Education Rules - Federal/State Congruence.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that next month, the State Board would receive the Superintendent's final recommendations for changes to the special education rules, Part 226. He indicated that as a background for consideration of those recommendations, we would spend the first hour of the session discussing the issue of how and why the proposed rules may exceed the federal regulations.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the State Board is required to change its rules for special education to correspond to changes in federal law, specifically IDEA 97, and the associated federal regulations. He indicated that staff began meeting with people from the field about the possible changes more than two years ago. He noted that after a long wait for the federal regulations, the process moved into high gear with preliminary discussions with the State Board last June. The Superintendent reported that since then we have talked with and/or heard from literally thousands of people about the changes in the rules and how

we can use this process to improve the education of students with disabilities in Illinois. He noted that in a few minutes, Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel would describe what that process has involved just since the last Board meeting.

Superintendent McGee reported that we have received more than 800 formal comments to the rules, many of which spoke to several different parts of the rules. He indicated that analyzing these comments has been an enormous task, and he wanted to give credit to staff members. He commented that they have worked long and hard to sort through the comments and make sure that each one is given respectful attention.

The Superintendent reported that the comments covered many different issues, but the largest emphasis was on the issue of state/federal rule congruence. He indicated that there is a strong sentiment in Illinois that the state rules should not exceed federal regulations, and this has been a drum beat in the testimony and in the meetings. He noted that this is not a simple matter, so time was devoted to exploring whether the draft rules exceed the federal rules, as alleged by many of the respondents, and if so, why.

Superintendent McGee commented that the rules are long and complex, so it has been a challenge to find a way to organize this discussion. He noted that the approach was to focus on the "decision rules" staff had used in developing the draft rules. He referenced the public comment chart that was in the Board packet and a new copy at the member's places that was coded to reflect the decision rules used.

Superintendent McGee reviewed the rules.

"OK" indicates that we believe the proposed rules either match federal language or are congruent with it.

"SL" indicates that current state law, or state case law, exceeds federal law. In those cases, the draft rules reflect the state laws and therefore do exceed federal regulations. Superintendent McGee stated that Division Administration Jack Shook would give the Board members some examples; however, the important thing for the Board to consider is that if only the federal language is used, we will have to seek changes to state law in these areas.

"FX" stands for "flexibility." Superintendent McGee explained that many of the federal regulations either implicitly or explicitly give the state flexibility in further defining certain issues. In drafting the proposed state rules, staff included statements that are intended to

provide a common standard -- for example, "within ten school days" rather than the federal "as soon as possible" or "within a reasonable time."

Other statements within the proposed rules go beyond the federal regulations to give guidance to school districts in carrying out their responsibilities under IDEA 97. In all of these instances, the best interests of the student and the knowledge we have about best practice have been incorporated into the proposed rules.

This may be the most difficult decision rule to apply, since it does impinge on local flexibility and results in rules that go beyond the federal regulations. We clearly have the authority to do so, but should we? And if so, in what circumstances?

The final decision rule is indicated by "SY" which stands for syntax - - the issues coded with this notation are those in which we have not been faithful to federal language, because either the original syntax was bad or we are required by the Administrative Procedures Act and JCAR to present Illinois rules in a certain way.

The Superintendent commented that we want to talk about specific instances that reflect these decision rules and hear about the Board's concerns. He indicated that the goal is to get the Board's concurrence on the use of these decision rules during the next month as we develop the final recommendations. He noted that we also want any specific cautions the Board may want to offer within the context of those decision rules.

Dr. Riffel and Jack Shook outlined the key areas in which differences between federal law and our proposed rules exist.

The Board members expressed their desire to keep the new rules congruent with federal regulations and agreed with the need to clarify instances in which the federal statute was vague.

The Chart of Comments is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

The meeting recessed at 8:50 a.m. and reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda
Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Proposed Rulemaking for Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Development.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the second topic on the agenda is a discussion of the proposed rules for certificate renewal and continuing professional development.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that Tuesday, February 15, was a big day in Illinois -- the day on which the Board's new three-tiered certification system went into effect. He indicated that one aspect of that new system requires that teachers who receive standard or master teaching certificates will now need to prepare plans and complete a certain amount of professional development in order to have those certificates renewed. He commented that the rules for the certificate renewal process are long and complicated, and in summary, they cover several important aspects of this system:

A framework for the requirements, which mainly repeats some of the statutory provisions to provide a context for the rest of the rules;

The basic responsibilities of districts, local committees and regional superintendents;

Many procedural steps, both for approval of plans and for renewal of certificates;

Definitions of the activities that teachers can complete to meet the requirements, and explanations of how those will be counted; and

Material related to approval of the providers of professional development activities.

The Superintendent reported that the development of these rules has been done on a tight timeline, because we need to have them in effect as close as possible to July 1. He noted that July 1 is when certificate exchange for current teachers will begin and the five- or ten-year "renewal clock" will begin ticking for those teachers whose certificates expire this year. He indicated that those teachers need to know what they are required to do, so they can begin developing their plans.

Superintendent M^CGee noted that at Board members' places is a timeline showing the specifics of the schedule from now until July -- there is no room for deviation if we are to be true to the Board's responsibility to those teachers. He reported that these are high-stakes rules, because they affect teachers' eligibility for continued licensure and, ultimately, the continuing improvement of the teacher education work force. He indicated that as a result, these rules have generated intense interest, and we have been particularly careful to give attention to many points of view.

The Superintendent reported that the rule development process has been a highly collaborative one, involving the participation of the teachers' organizations, the Teacher Certification Board, the business community, school district representatives and community groups. He indicated that he was extremely pleased that we have been able to achieve a very high level of consensus on what these rules should include. He noted that there is probably a 98-99% congruence between the recommendations of the State Teacher Certification Board and the recommendations forwarded to the Board. Superintendent McGee commented that however, whenever there are this many parties with a strong interest in the subject, we can not expect to reach perfect consensus. He indicated that in a very few, but very critical areas, we continue to disagree about what these rules should say. He noted that those were highlighted for the Board in the packet for discussion.

The Superintendent asked Division Administrator Dennis Williams to review the process used to reach this point.

Mr. Williams summarized the history, timelines and process use for the completion of rulemaking.

Superintendent McGee reported that this process has been intense but very thoughtful, and the parties have devoted incredible amounts of time to discussing every detail. He indicated that this has resulted in an extraordinary amount of agreement on issue after issue.

The Superintendent noted that even in the area of credit awarded to teachers for specific professional development activities, a very high level of agreement has been achieved. He called the Board members' attention to a chart that was at their places which shows the recommendations of the statutory continuing professional development activity task force, the recommendations of the State Teacher Certification Board, and the recommendations that were forwarded to the State Board.

Superintendent McGee reviewed the chart, highlighting areas of agreement and noting differences. He stated that where disagreement exists, in all but one or two instances, the recommendations of the IEA/IFT/ISBE Task Force were used.

Superintendent McGee reported that in summary, the differences between the recommendations of the task force, the Certification Board and the rules before the Board boil down to the following four issues:

The credit value for (1) supervision of student teaching, (2) teaching college courses, (3) active vs. passive participation in workshops, seminars, etc., and (4) writing articles and books;

The cap on the use of travel for meeting the total 120 unit requirement;

The use of funds at the local level; and

Who is responsible for maintenance of the files for the continuing professional development plans.

The Superintendent indicated that he would have preferred to say to the Board at this point that 100% agreement on all issues has been reached; however, he could not in good conscience recommend point values that he believed to be too generous. He noted that he does not believe it appropriate to give 25 CPDUs for supervising a pre-clinical experience teacher candidate, or 50 units for supervising a student teacher. He stated that he also believed we have to differentiate between the credit earned by sitting passively in a lecture-type seminar and credit earned through participation and interaction. Superintendent McGee reported that he believed we have to make sure that the point values emphasize what works and assure our teachers learn and grow as a result of their participation in these activities. He indicated that he could not in good conscience recommend that the state tell local districts how to use the funding that will be provided for the administration of this process. He noted that he believed the use of the funds should be worked out by local people in each district throughout the state.

The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to staff who had worked so long and hard on this set of rules. He thanked everyone else who has participated in the process so far; it has been carried out with the highest of professionalism, even when there have been disagreements. He expressed hope that the spirit of collaboration would continue throughout this final phase of the rule-development process.

Superintendent McGee introduced Dr. Jerald Hunt (Millikin University) and Dr. Linda Tomlinson (Western Illinois University), two members of the State Teacher Certification Board, and asked them to join staff for the rest of this discussion.

The Superintendent indicated that as the Board considers the proposed rules, we have to acknowledge the crux of this new statute and the message it carries. He reported that Illinois schools need high-quality, well-prepared teachers whose knowledge and skills continue to improve

throughout their career. He noted that this means that the system we put in place must be one that makes that happen. Superintendent McGee commented that because of the need to complete this process by July, he hoped that the Board would be willing to approve the proposed rules for distribution and public comment. He indicated that we can and will continue to discuss issues throughout this 45-day period, but we cannot afford to de-rail the process.

The following three (3) documents and an audio tape of the meeting are available through the State Board Office in Springfield (217) 782-9560.

History of Certificate Renewal Rules Process

Timeline for Completion of Rulemaking on Continuing Professional Development for Renewal of Certificates

Continuing Professional Development Activities Credit Recommendations

Agenda

Item D.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Other Business.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the following public participation comments will become a part of the Plenary Session Minutes."

Ms. Pellegrino seconded the motion

Vote on

Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

(The three individuals' comments were moved to the Plenary Business meeting minutes.)

Agenda

Item B.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. and called for Agenda Item B., Teacher Assessment.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month the Board discussed it's responsibility for developing a new certification assessment system and a proposal to improve the basic skills assessment as soon as possible. He indicated that at this meeting the Board would revisit the assessment issue in light of a number of discussions that have taken place since last month.

Superintendent M^CGee reviewed the activity of the last month on the issue of developing a new basic skills assessment. He stated that following the January Board meeting where the Board authorized staff to proceed with the issuance of a Request for Proposal for the new test, the Joint

Education Committee responded to this decision. He indicated that JEC partner organizations (IBHE, ICCB, and the Governor's office) were interested in participating in the process and had concerns about the specifics of the Board's direction.

The Superintendent stated that in response, a subcommittee was formed to work with the State Board in reviewing plans for the RFP and addressing concerns being raised by the education community and others. He reported that the subcommittee was later expanded to include representatives from the Governor's Task Force on Teacher Quality that provided for a voice from business and corporate communities.

The Superintendent explained that the Board was requested to endorse the development of standards for enhanced basic skills, and react to the idea of an enhanced basic skills test administered as a condition for admission to teacher preparation programs. He indicated that a specific proposal on the timing issue would be presented at the March meeting.

Staff member Pat Glenn presented an overview of the proposed direction. (See attachment.)

Deputy Superintendent Frank Llano and Division Administrator Rob Sampson relayed the proposed short - term plan. These steps include: 1) communicate with the colleges of education and other stakeholders; 2) talk with the Certification Board at their March 3 meeting; 3) talk with the Joint Education Committee on March 6; 4) talk with the Governor's Task Force on March 8; and 5) convene a meeting to work on standards for an enhanced basic skills test with a timeline to enable the pilot testing of items to occur in October, 2000.

Dr. Jerald Hunt, Millikin University and Dr. Linda Tomlinson, Western Illinois University, both members of the Certification Board provided comments pertaining to the basic skills assessment.

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

Mr. Gomez and Ms. Pellegrino left the meeting at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Agenda
Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Teacher Content Standards.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that we are about to take another major step in our efforts to enhance teacher quality in Illinois, and that step is the

distribution of teacher content area standards for public review before adoption later this spring. He indicated that a brief discussion of the process for development of the teacher content area standards is planned.. He noted that next month a more indepth discussion about the standards themselves will take place..

Superintendent MCGee requested Board direction regarding additional next steps prior to the public forums planned between March and mid-April. He explained it is the intent of these forums to give citizens throughout the state a chance to learn about, discuss and react to the proposed standards..

Division Administrator Mike Long provided an overview of the structure and focus of the proposed teacher content standards, identifying the key questions that have been addressed in preparation of the standards. (See attachment.)

Chairman Gidwitz requested a list of the public meeting dates and locations be provided to the Board.

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

Agenda
Item D.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Prairie State Achievement Test/ACT Integration.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that some very important exploratory discussions have been taking place regarding the possible integration of the ACT and the PSAE. He noted that the Superintendent would bring the Board up to date on those discussions and the issues that remain.

Superintendent MCGee requested the Board's input regarding the incorporation of the ACT into the PSAE. He indicated that several meetings between staff and ACT have occurred and have resulted in the presentation of nine critical elements to ISBE by ACT.

Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haeffele provided an overview of the pros and cons of this model and answered questions raised by the Board.

The Superintendent reviewed his recommendations.

Acceptance of conditions one through six as proposed by ACT.
Negotiate the testing date to the mutual satisfaction of both the State Board and ACT.

Obtain further information on conditions seven, eight and nine and report to the ISBE in March.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS I and II

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Convene a series of stake holder meetings and legislative workshops to discuss the proposed collaboration between ACT and PSAE.

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., Special Reports, Legislative Update.

Senior staff Gail Lieberman and Brenda Holmes provided federal and state legislative updates.

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

Agenda
Item E.2. The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.2, Special Reports, Priority Plan Reports.

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

Agenda
Item E.3. The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.3., Special Reports, Center and Unit Reports.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey demonstrated the new financial information website that compares school districts. Board members thought the system was excellent. Mr Ey indicated that they are aiming for it to become available on the website during the coming summer.

Dr. Steiner left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Brenda Heffner, senior staff, provided a report on her unit - Regional Offices of Education.

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 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

**MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
and CLOSED SESSION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

State Board of Education Office
Springfield, Illinois
February 17, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
David P. Gomez

William E. Hill
Marilyn McConachie

Sandra M. Pellegrino
Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Connie Rogers, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 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 10:40 a.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Serritella was in attendance for the closed session on February 16; however, he had business obligations for February 17 and could not be present. The Chairman reported that Mrs. Rogers was absent due to illness.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pellegrino moved that the minutes of the January 19-20, 2000, meetings of the State Board be approved. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McConachie. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Public Participation. He reviewed the rules for public participation. The following individuals spoke to the Board.

Gretchen McDowell, a former State Board member, and representing the Illinois PTA, commented that they thought it was very important for teachers to continue to develop professionally, just as they think it is important to continue to make sure that they are well- paid. She noted that those are two pieces of their legislative platform which was formally adopted by the PTA. She urged the State Board to make this program of professional development as strong as it can. Ms. McDowell indicated that keeping the rigor in the program is important both for the students and to acknowledge the public and legislative desire that we are making changes that will improve education.

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

and CLOSED SESSION

February 17, 2000

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Chairman Gidwitz pointed out that the Board has an additional increment in its budget this year for professional development, and he indicated that if the PTA could support that element of the Board's budget, he thought we would stand a much better chance of seeing passage of that element. Ms. McDowell assured the Chairman that the budget issue is on their PTA agenda.

Donna Baiocchi, Executive Director of ED-RED, commented that she was part of the original negotiations on the re-certification legislation when it was being formulated. She stated that it was important the Board continue to recognize that it is the responsibility of the local professional development committee to make some of the decisions. She indicated that in relation to the \$1,000 pittance, she can say with confidence that it was the intent of the legislation and of the sponsor for that amount to go toward administrative costs, and she urged the Board to maintain that.

Ms. Baiocchi indicated that specifically, she supports the teaching of the college courses under subsection J at 20 CDPUs -- the recommendation to have one hour CPDU for participatory activity in order to improve the effectiveness of all staff development activities, and the limitation of 50% of the total requirement being met through professional development and traveling. She noted that regarding supervising student teachers, it is very important for the Board to provide an incentive for schools to participate. She commented that she thought it was an excellent point of the Certification Board to raise the issue to differentiate between clinical and pre-clinical -- the pre-student teaching activities. Ms. Baiocchi suggested that the Board look at the range between 25 and 12 CDPUs for what it is recommending. She asked the Board to consider setting a minimum of time -- to set a base line just as one is being set for travel, etc. as to what is going to count. She indicated that this is an evolving process, and the Board may want to consider a three-tier system in the future -- with the pre-clinical, the full day student teaching supervision on a semester basis and the internship supervision organizing the point value set.

Steven Riley, chairman of the board for Omnibus Educational Management, previously retired from the Chicago Public Schools, and currently a substitute teacher for District #186, commended the Board and the Superintendent for the change, structure, ambience, sophistication and forms of inspiration in the proceedings of the professional development of teachers. He read a poem and distributed posters for the Board members' review. He invited the Board members and meeting attendees to an educational display and seminar (roundtable discussion) next Friday at the State House concerning improving the nation's schools.

Monica Lu, a parent whose daughter attends Peoria Christian School, expressed concern that Peoria Christian School does not allow women to serve on its board

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

and CLOSED SESSION

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of education. She indicated that it was her understanding that in order to become a state-recognized school, the school must comply with federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination. Ms. Lu stated that she is aware that the General Counsel for ISBE is researching this matter and thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of this issue and the need to implement ISBE's policies uniformly. She asked for the Board's assistance in moving the private schools above any form of discrimination.

Lonnie Johns expressed concern about the State Board direction, citing two examples, special education certification and school accountability. He commented that his major concern is the limited use of data and research on which to base actions and the appearance that the Board spends time trying to deal with a multitude of new ideas rather than engaging in the very difficult work of improving current systems and providing the needed missing parts.

Bill Lemon and Jim Guilinger, representing the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE), shared the progress and successes resulting from the agricultural education budget line item. Mr. Lemon asked the State Board to consider increasing the agricultural education line item, indicating that they can pursue more improvement efforts with additional funding. Mr. Lemon and Mr. Guilinger indicated that the addition of this line item has totally revitalized agricultural education in the State of Illinois. They reported that all curriculum now being taught in agricultural education programs is cross-referenced to the Illinois Learning Standards and is available on a CD-ROM. Mr. Guilinger commented that Illinois is serving as a model for other states and noted that agricultural education covers a broad range of occupations, not merely those in production.

Dr. Hill asked for additional information on the number of agriculture-related occupations that have something to do with technology. Superintendent McGee responded that he would ask staff to locate this information and provide it to Dr. Hill.

Susan Shea, on behalf of the IEA, urged the State Board to adopt the set of rules for teacher re-certification specific to continuing professional development as amended by the State Teacher Certification Board. She indicated that the School Code is very clear that the State Teacher Certification Board and the Illinois State Board of Education shall jointly develop the teacher re-certification program. Dr. Shea commented that non-acceptance of the State Certification Board recommendations, reflected in a letter from the State Superintendent to the members of the Certification Board, would violate the intent of the law and send a message that its input was disregarded.

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

and CLOSED SESSION

February 17, 2000

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Dr. Shea expressed concern regarding the addition of math as a priority for continuing professional development at the exclusion of other areas. She indicated that at a time when the State Board is promoting a noncategorical, special education certification in this state, there are 80,000 special education teachers who are going to need to be retooled and retrained in methods of teaching students with disabilities. She commented that the Board needs to add special education as one of its priorities as well.

Bill Kienzle, Associate Director for Family T.I.E.S. Network, commended the State Board and Dr. McGee for the progress that has been made in re-enfranchising parents, people with disabilities, professionals, and administrators, who are dedicated to educating children with disabilities. He also commended Dr. Gordon Riffel and his staff for their efforts. He indicated that the Board has received numerous comments about the state's special education rules and regulations lately and the need for the state rules not to exceed the federal rules and regulations. Mr. Kienzle commented that Illinois' rules and regulations must be able to clarify and put into operation the federal rules and regulations. He noted that he and the Executive Director, Deb Kunz, served on a Special Education Rules External Input committee recently, and the positive collaboration between administrators, parents, professionals, and parent organizations was truly refreshing and invigorating.

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

Agenda Item D.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.1., Items for **Future** (not Immediate) Action, Least Restrictive Environment Policy.

Chairman Gidwitz asked that the Board consider this as an item for future action. He reported that the court monitor on the Cory H. case in Chicago had concerns about the proposed policy in the Board packet, so program staff and the Board attorneys have made revisions for the Board's consideration. He indicated that the new draft, which was distributed to the Board members, had been discussed with the judge by phone. The Chairman noted that the Superintendent would like to present this draft policy as an item for future action, get the Board's agreement that it is comfortable with the draft policy and present it to the court monitor for final sign-off. He reported that the Board would take final action on this important matter in March.

Superintendent McGee expressed his appreciation to Dr. Gordon Riffel, Deputy Superintendent, for the efforts put forth in revising the proposed Least Restrictive Environment Policy. He indicated that it was imperative to have this policy in place to give direction to local school administrators and others who provide services to students with disabilities.

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Dr. Riffel gave a brief overview of the revisions. Chairman Gidwitz asked that in the future, changes in the text be identified or highlighted.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed Least Restrictive Environment Policy and directs the State Superintendent to move forward with its implementation. The Board also requests that the Superintendent report annually on the implementation of this Policy (Addendum II)."

Ms. Pellegrino seconded the motion.

Agenda
Item D.2.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.2., Items for Immediate Action, Academic Early Warning List (AEWL).

Superintendent M^cGee indicated that the Board has been discussing this topic, along with the proposed new school and district designation system, since last fall. He stated that the Board will continue to discuss it each month for at least the rest of this year. The Superintendent reported that the Board needs to take action to extend the timeline for placing new schools or districts on the Academic Early Warning List until 2001. He noted that if the Board concurs, emergency rules would be presented to codify this decision and communicate any necessary provisions for the transition period.

Superintendent M^cGee reported that, as the Board members requested, the staff is looking carefully at all of the schools on the current AEWL and will be meeting with Chicago and East St. Louis officials. He indicated that we will return to the Board next month with a plan that addresses questions and issues that were raised, particularly about schools that technically had demonstrated "adequate yearly progress" on the IGAP but whose first year ISAT scores were very low.

The Superintendent commented that we would also report to the Board next month on the progress made in setting up a designation task force as requested by the Board in January 2000. He reported that Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haeffele provided him with some recommendations for membership, and we are currently working on a process and timelines. Superintendent M^cGee noted that there has been high interest in the process of the task force as evidenced by the numerous inquiries through the new e-mail communication system with local superintendents. He indicated that we want to establish the task force in a way that will allow maximum involvement.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she thought it was important that we understand and not lose sight of what happens to schools that would have been on the Watch List—such as knowing those schools that are on the cusp, marginal, or declining.

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She commented that when the Board says it is not going to add new schools to the AEWL for another year, there was a public supposition that the Board is not doing anything.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that it might be useful to describe the support available to both those schools that would be on the list as well as those schools that are already getting support.

Superintendent McGee clarified the support provided to those schools in danger of being on the AEWL list. He indicated that we are currently trying to support the schools by giving them a format and formula for a school improvement planning process. He commented that the website (which will be available late spring/early summer) gives schools their own student data and comparative data, allows schools to dialogue with others doing better than they are and use this information to develop their school improvement plan.

The Superintendent reported that for those schools where 60 to 80 percent of the students are not meeting state standards, we can still offer support without a new warning list by talking to the school administrators, visiting the schools and helping with their school improvement planning.

Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haeffele commented on those schools that are already receiving support. She noted that there are gradations of intervention and support. Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Superintendent McGee restated that in January 2000, the Board directed him to appoint a School Designation Task Force to provide recommendations on the broader designation system redesign no later than August 2000. He indicated that he has compiled a list of nominees from the following constituencies.

- Legislators
- Educators (including a designated representative of Chicago #299)
- Parents
- Civic Leaders
- Business Leaders

The Superintendent will make the appointments, establish the group's charge and arrange staffing for the Task Force within the next three weeks. He noted that the group may be small in number but will be big and inclusive in gathering input and ideas from across the state. He indicated that he hoped that next month he could bring the names of the Task Force to the Board, a schedule of the forums and where they will be held and provide a report to the Board in August.

Superintendent McGee commented that the Board members would be invited to attend any or all of the meetings as their schedules allow.

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Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Education that no new schools be placed on the Academic Early Warning List until the fall of 2001.

The State Board requests that the State Superintendent bring forth at the State Board's March meeting emergency rules to address this issue and any other issues, as needed, related to the transition period in moving to a new designation system."

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

Dr. Steiner asked if the new designation system described at the December Board meeting is what would be used. Ms. Haeffele responded that the seven designations and five proposed district designations would be the starting place for discussion.

Vote on
Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Agenda
Item D.3.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.3., Items for Immediate Action, Priorities for Continuing Professional Development.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last year, the State Board adopted three priorities for continued professional development which is needed to meet the certificate renewal requirements. Those priorities were:

1. Reading;
2. Standards and Assessment; and
3. Integrating Technology into Teaching and Learning.

The Chairman indicated that now the Superintendent has recommended that the Board add a fourth priority -- mathematics.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that when the results of the ISAT test were released, people expressed shock at the fact that nearly 60 percent of the students in Illinois did not meet state mathematics standards. He noted that to not make math one of the top priorities would be a disservice to students and teachers throughout the state.

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Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the addition of mathematics to the list of state priorities for certificate-renewal-related continuing professional development."

Mr. Gomez seconded the motion.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she strongly supports the addition of mathematics, but she wanted to know why this issue was presented for immediate action. She noted that it has not been the Board's practice to take immediate action except in an emergency situation. The Superintendent responded that delaying this issue would not have any great impact. He commented that the Board is discussing certificate renewal rules, and they are going out for public comment.

Ms. Pellegrino called the Board's attention to page 2-71 of the Board packet regarding the dilution issue -- "i.e., fewer teachers may focus on reading because they could also choose mathematics." She noted that the recommendation suggests that this is an acceptable trade-off, and she strongly disagreed. She commented that she did not think there was an acceptable trade-off to decreasing the critical emphasis on reading -- if you can't read, you can't do anything. Ms. Pellegrino indicated that the teaching of reading was no easy task, and in the past, we have not always given the teachers the preparation and the continuing education they need to teach reading effectively. She commented that she would not be present at the March Board meeting, but she would vote against this.

Discussion followed regarding other issues associated with continuing professional development priorities, including the need to revisit the criteria for their selection and early childhood.

After discussion and with Legal Counsel Michael Hernandez's input, Chairman Gidwitz deferred final action on this issue until the March Board meeting. He suggested that a notice be included in the circulation of the teacher certification rules that math is likely to be added as one of the top priorities next month -- before the end of the public comment period.

Agenda

Item D.4.a.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.4.a., Items for Immediate Action, Proposed Rulemaking: Part 451 - Private Business and Vocational Schools.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that these rules were presented to this Board earlier in the year and then sent out for public comment. He stated that the Board was now ready to take final action.

Superintendent M^cGee indicated that the changes were made to provide for the use and delivery of distance learning methods.

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Superintendent McGee explained that P.A. 90-649, effective July 24, 1998, affected several sections of the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act (105 ILCS 425). In particular, the law authorized the delivery of courses of instruction through distance education methods and established a new category of courses called "short courses." The Superintendent indicated that the proposed rule amendments include new Sections 451.55 and 451.285 to address these areas. In addition, numerous other changes were being made to specifically reference requirements for schools that choose to offer courses of instruction through distance education methods.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for Private Business and Vocational Schools (23 Ill. Adm. Code 451). Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent to make such technical or nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

Vote on
Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda
Item D.4.b.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.4.b., Items for Immediate Action, Proposed Rulemaking: Part 220 - Scientific Literacy.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the rules for scientific literacy were ready for final action after a period of public comment.

Superintendent McGee indicated that the rules for the scientific literacy grant were changed to give the Board more flexibility in RFP activities -- tying grant applications directly to standards, making sure that there is a strong evaluation component, and requiring that districts demonstrate they are able to sustain the programs with local funds over time.

Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato commented that the science advisory committee, which is very broad-based, was convened. She reported that the lack of comments on the rules reflected consensus of the committee on the changes. She indicated that this effort primarily resulted in the removal of the language from the rules that limited flexibility, citing the RFP as the future source of grant direction/guidelines. Dr. Broncato noted that the State Board would have the choice of identifying the priorities from year to year, and this year the priority is implementation of the Learning Standards. She reported that in addition to establishing a stronger evaluation piece, there is a dissemination component that

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will allow the Board to identify successful practices, archive and disseminate them so the entire system can benefit from individual and collective experiences.

Motion

"Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for Scientific Literacy (23 Ill. Adm. Code 220). Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent to make such technical or nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

Vote on

Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda

Item E.1.a.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.1.a., Items for Future Action, Proposed Rulemaking: Part 25 - Certification (Certificate Renewal).

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Board has spent a great deal of time on this issue during the Work-Study Session, and he asked the Superintendent to summarize the Board status on certification renewal rules.

Superintendent McGee reported that there was a highly collaborative process implemented, and there were many areas of agreement and few areas of disagreement. He indicated that the point (made during public comment) about working jointly with the Certification Board is important, and he looked forward to hearing more on this issue in future meetings. He asked that the State Board adopt the proposed motion so the rules can be put out for the required public comment period.

The Chairman suggested that the following items be added to the Board's website, along with the rules for public comment: the history of certificate renewal that the Board was provided, the timeline for completion of rulemaking, and a document entitled "Continuing Professional Development Activities Credit Recommendations" (grid). He also suggested that subject to the Superintendent's agreement, perhaps the Superintendent's earlier remarks on this issue might serve as a cover memo on the website.

The Superintendent suggested that this information be sent on the Board's e-mail network for superintendents to get the message out immediately.

Legal Counsel Michael Hernandez commented that the Illinois Register, a department of the Secretary of State, does notify the public of the time frames for rulemaking. Following this, the rules go to JCAR.

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Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking for Certification (23 Ill. Adm. Code 25). Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent to make such technical or nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Mr. Gomez seconded the motion. There will be opportunities to make changes before final action, which is expected in May.

Agenda
Item F.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F.1., Announcements and Reports, Chairman

Chairman Gidwitz reported that Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. McConachie would be attending the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in early March.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she did not know of any other Board members interested in attending the Conference, but she is encouraging the Chairman to attend. She noted that the Conference is extremely valuable, interesting and a good opportunity to talk with legislators.

The Chairman reported that Dr. Steiner would be attending the Fourth Annual Conference on Standards and Assessment in April that will be held in Nevada.

Agenda
Item F.2.

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

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

- Technology Outreach Division -- for their finalist award in the Telly Awards Competition for the production of a video on gang activity.
- Sharon Full -- for her work in the Community and Family Partnership Department.
- Brenda Heffner and Sally Julian -- for their fine work with the Regional Superintendents.
- Jane Blanton -- for her accomplishments and help to Morrisonville High School.
- Glenda Bequette -- for work with a technology program in Waukegan.

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- Marcia Sailsbury -- for her work with a local school district and the Alliance of Administrators of Special Education.
- Bill Conrad -- for his presentation at Ridgeland Public Schools in Oak Lawn.
- Cindy Terry -- for her work with the Department of Human Services.
- Mike Long and Nancy Patton -- for their work with NCATE.

Superintendent M^cGee indicated that he also received a letter commending Mrs. McConachie's presentation at the University of Chicago at the Harris School of Public Policy.

Agenda Item F.3.

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

Dr. Hill, Chair of the Legislative Committee, distributed the Legislative Principles (October 1997) to the Board members, and he reported that in the self-evaluation of the Board on February 16, the members discussed getting more involved with legislative issues. He commented that he thought there were still things that could be done to assist the Chairman and the Superintendent to move the Board's legislative agenda forward. Dr. Hill also distributed a chart on the Board's legislative activities and expectations that was adopted in March 1999.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Legislative Committee thought that greater participation on the part of the Board to assist the Superintendent and the legislative staff was really appropriate. He noted that the Superintendent would appreciate it. He thanked Dr. Hill for bringing this material to the Board members.

Agenda Item F.4.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F.4., Announcements and Reports, Board Members.

Dr. Hill reported that he would be attending a conference on teacher recruitment on March 9-11, sponsored by NCREL, and he would report back at the March Board meeting some of the outcomes of that conference. He noted that he thought it was very important in the Board's professional development and certification process and in encouraging new teachers to enter the field.

Superintendent M^cGee introduced Kathy Nicholson-Tosh who he has appointed as the Executive Assistant to the State Board of Education to further the assistance and support for the Board and to be an advocate for the Board and represent the Board on various committees. He commented that Kathy would put

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her expertise in staff development to work with the Board members and also help the agency to work on the Baldrige criteria and framework for continuous improvement. He noted that she would be working with Lee Patton who will be, as always, intimately involved with policy and planning.

Agenda

Item G.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item G., Other Business.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie 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.

She further moved that Superintendent M^cGee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed."

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

Mrs. McConachie - yes

Mr. Gomez - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Ms. Pellegrino - yes

The meeting recessed at 12 noon and went into closed session at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Adjournment Chairman Gidwitz adjourned the closed session and the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman