

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
State Board of Education Office\*  
100 N. First Street  
Springfield, Illinois**

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS  
March 15-16, 2000**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**

- 1:00 p.m.**            **WORK-STUDY SESSION I**  
State Board Room - 4th Floor
- 6:00 p.m.**            **DINNER**  
Superintendent's Conference Room - 4th  
Floor (Board may discuss business during  
dinner)
- 7:00 p.m.**            **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Closed Meeting**  
Superintendent's Conference Room - 4th  
Floor

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16**

- 8:00 a.m.**            **WORK-STUDY SESSION II**  
State Board Room - 4th Floor
- 9:30 a.m.**            **PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING**  
State Board Room - 4th Floor
- Noon\*\***                **LUNCH**  
Superintendent's Conference Room - 4th  
Floor (Board may discuss business during  
lunch)
- 1:00 p.m.\*\***           **WORK-STUDY SESSION III**  
State Board Room - 4th Floor

\* All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities (see next page)

\*\* Meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session



# 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  
March 15, 2000  
1:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
- B. Certification Board/SBE Discussion
  - Cover
- C. Special Education Teacher Certification Structure
  - Cover
  - Blue Ribbon Report
- D. Teacher Assessment: Content and Pedagogy
  - Cover
- E. 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 II

State Board Room - Fourth Floor  
100 N. First Street  
Springfield, Illinois

March 16, 2000  
8:00 a.m.

### AGENDA

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
- B. Legislative Status Reports (federal and state)
- C. Board Priority Reports
- D. Staff Reports
  - Gary Ey, Finance
  - Brenda Holmes, Governmental Relations
  - Connie Wise, Research
- E. Discussion of Staff Reporting Process
- F. Strategic Planning Committee Report
- G. Recess Until 1:00 p.m.

### 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 III

State Board Room - Fourth Floor  
100 N. First Street  
Springfield, Illinois

March 16, 2000  
1:00 p.m.\*

### AGENDA

- A. Reconvene
- B. Career and Technical Education
  - o Cover
- C. PSAE Status Update
  - o Cover
- D. Other Business
- E. Adjourn

\* This session will begin at the conclusion of the Board's 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

March 16, 2000  
9:30 a.m.

### AGENDA

#### A. Call to Order/Roll Call

#### B. Approval of Minutes: February 16-17, 2000 March 6, 2000

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

#### C. Items for Immediate Action

1. Priorities for Continuing Professional Development
  - o Cover
2. Special Education Teacher Certification Structure
3. Semi-Annual Waiver Report
  - o Cover
  - o Waiver Summary
  - o Waiver Report
4. Academic Early Warning List
  - o Cover Chart
  - o Report
5. Proposed Rulemaking: Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (Part I - Emergency Amendment on Academic Early Warning List)
  - o Emergency Rules
6. Financial Assurance and Accountability System
  - o Cover
7. Proposed Rulemaking
  - a. Certification (Part 25 - Repeal of General Education Requirements)
    - Cover
    - Rules
  - b. Secular Textbook Loan Program (Part 350)
    - Cover
    - Rules
8. Resolution of Appreciation
  - o Cover

#### D. Special Report

1. Report of the Auditor General and the Internal Auditor
  - o Cover

E. Announcements and Reports

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

F. Other Business

G. Adjourn

**Illinois State Board of Education**

100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

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

State Board of Education Office  
Springfield, Illinois  
March 15, 2000

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

Glenn W. "Max" M<sup>C</sup>Gee, State Superintendent of Education

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sandra M. Pellegrino

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Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.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 3:00 p.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Gomez would be arriving late due to business commitments, and Ms. Pellegrino would not be present.

Agenda  
Item B.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Certification Board/SBE Discussion.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month, the State Board of Education and the State Teacher Certification Board agreed to meet during the March Board meeting to discuss communication and relevant certification issues. He indicated that State Board of Education members, Certification Board members and key staff would spend the next hour in discussion focused on improving communication between the two boards. On behalf of the State Board, he welcomed the members of the Teacher Certification Board that were present at the meeting.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that the State Board of Education is required by law to consult with the State Teacher Certification Board on certification issues. He noted that in addition, the State Board and the Certification Board are required to jointly develop the new certificate renewal system.

The Superintendent stated that a week after the February Board meeting, he had an opportunity to meet with the Certification Board to discuss and resolve the differences regarding the continuing professional development requirements. He

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

March 15, 2000

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indicated that the temporary restraining order had been lifted, and the rules would be published in the Register on March 24.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee introduced the members of the State Certification Board that were joining the Board for discussion of strategies for improved communication between the two Boards.

- Dr. Jerald Hunt, Director of Teacher Education, Millikin University
- Ms. Linda Tomlinson, Certification Officer/Chair Special Ed, Western Il. U.
- Dr. Roger Chamberlain, Principal, Columbia Middle School
- Ms. Camille Taylor, Teacher, Normal Unit #5 District
- Mr. Bruce Dennison, Regional Supt., Bureau/Henry/Stark Counties

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that to ensure the desired outcomes of this discussion are realized, he wanted to begin with a discussion of issues around the communication process followed by strategies that might be used to improve communication and coordination.

Dr. Hunt thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss communication and improvements in that process with the Board. He reviewed the composition of the State Teacher Certification Board and the mechanism for their appointment. He then commented on the Facilitation Committee which is composed of five members of the Board.

Dr. Hunt reviewed some of the concerns which impact communication.

- 1) There is not a clear understanding as to who from the State Board speaks for the Certification Board.
- 2) There is not mutual understanding of the role of the Certification Board.
- 3) There is not a clear communication process established for interaction of the two Boards.

Dr. Hunt then indicated that communications have, in fact, improved. He commented that agency staff has made increased effort to improve the communication which include:

- 1) Increased participation in Certification Board meetings;
- 2) Sending the State Board meeting packets to the Certification Board; and
- 3) Sending other State Board meeting publications to the Certification Board such as the Superintendent's Bulletin.

Dr. Hunt also stated that the Certification Board has made efforts including changing the Certification Board meeting date to fall between State Board meetings to allow time to review and respond to any issues pertaining to teacher certification and enhancing the quality of the minutes from each meeting.



## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

March 15, 2000

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Dr. Hunt then proceeded to recommend some strategies intended to improve the communication process. These included:

- 1) A member of the Certification Board Facilitation Committee be invited to participate with agency staff in Board meeting discussions that pertain to teacher certification;
- 2) The Facilitation Committee member report back to the Certification Board in concert with agency staff on issues addressed by the State Board; and
- 3) The State Board not act on any item relating to certification without hearing from the State Teacher Certification Board and considering its recommendation.

Other Certification Board members reinforced the comments of Dr. Hunt and stated their desire to be involved and their opinions valued.

Superintendent McGee responded stating that the efforts of the Certification Board are truly valued and commented on the issues and strategies reviewed by Dr. Hunt as comprehensive and reasonable. He indicated that the recommendations provided would be discussed and responded to prior to the April Board meeting, stating that he would be more vigilant about being available by phone for the Certification Board meetings.

Chairman Gidwitz asked for any comment on other issues relating to Certification that are under consideration by the State Board, such as the proposed special education certification structure and alternative certification.

Dr. Hunt responded that the Certification Board has taken no official stand on the proposed special education certification structure. He did state that individuals had strong views; it had been discussed and recognized the need for the Certification Board to address it.

Chairman Gidwitz thanked the Certification Board for their attendance and recommendations.

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

The meeting recessed at 2:00 p.m. and reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

### Agenda Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Special Education Teacher Certification Structure.

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

March 15, 2000

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Chairman Gidwitz indicated that in November 1999, the Board received a final combined report of two advisory panels that were created to assist the Board in developing a new special education teacher certification structure. He also indicated that the Board requested agency staff to seek additional perspectives and report back to the Board in March 2000. He reported that during the next two and one-half hours, the Board would have an opportunity to hear and discuss the outcome of this effort and the Superintendent's recommendation.

The Chairman noted that the content of this session would include:

1. Introductory comments by the Superintendent;
2. An overview by Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel;
3. An opportunity to interact with invited guests who will speak to the feasibility and implications of the recommendation; and
4. Open discussion.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that there would be an opportunity for public participation and comment during the Plenary Session on March 16. He noted that the discussion is in preparation for the Board's action during the Plenary Session on March 16 on the recommended certification structure for special education teachers.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee introduced the topic stating the overall desire is to meet the individual needs of students in the least restrictive environment. He identified the opportunities of the times for teachers and students based on available funding for special education categoricals and the desire at the federal level to fully fund IDEA. He stated that putting the children first is critical in building a system that puts the needs of students first in teaching styles and content.

The Superintendent thanked the Advisory Panel, the Blue Ribbon Committee, the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education, the Committee on Comprehensive School Reform, the ICEC, the Advisory Council for their efforts, as well as all parents and teachers who have commented on this issue.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee introduced Dr. Gordon Riffel, Deputy Superintendent for Special Education.

The Superintendent reported that following the December 1999 directive from the Board, a Blue Ribbon Task Force was convened. He indicated that after meeting this past February, recommendations were made which were included in the Board packet as Option 2. He noted that based on the large amounts of correspondence received over the past four months which reflect numerous opinions, "challenging" best describes the effort of developing a preliminary recommendation.

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

March 15, 2000

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Dr. Riffel stated that students who are receiving special education services are more alike than different from students in the general education program with many of the same desires, needs and aspirations. He stated that teachers holding current certification in special education will continue to be certified in the same way as they are now.

Dr. Riffel reviewed the changes which, if adopted, will begin in January 2003. He stated that a categorical system will be maintained in the areas of visual impairment and blind, deaf and hard of hearing, speech and language disorders and bilingual special education as well as early childhood. He then explained the Learning and Behavior Specialist I and Learning and Behavior Specialist II certificates.

Learning and Behavior Specialist I qualifies teachers to serve students with learning, behavior/emotional, cognitive disorders and/or physical disabilities, at any level of severity and in any program or service on the continuum. This certificate would be earned through a standards-based, highly-focused preparation program designed to ensure that candidates' have the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the unique needs of students with these disabilities.

Learning and Behavior Specialist II is an advanced designation for experienced LBSI teachers that would represent their enhanced knowledge and skills as instructional specialists. The advanced designation would be earned through in-depth training in instructional strategies and specialization in one of the following domains: learning, cognition, or behavior. LBSII designations would be optional for teachers, and each designation could have several endorsements.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Dr. Riffel to review the relationship and parameters of the Corey H. settlement in reference to the special education certification structure.

Dr. Riffel indicated it is now our responsibility to provide the Court with a preliminary recommendation on a changed certification system by March 17, 2000.

Superintendent McGee introduced Jerri Fredrick representing the Illinois Special Education Advisory Council for Parents with Children of Disabilities. She stated that the Council has not had an opportunity to meet and take an official position on this proposed certification structure but had polled its members to provide some comments on the proposed structure.

The Superintendent introduced the following groups of practitioners from a variety of education levels and environments. He stated that they have been invited to share their thoughts on the feasibility of implementing Option #4 at the university and classroom level.

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March 15, 2000

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1. Dr. Kathleen Shank, Chair of Special Education Department, Eastern, and Joe Glassford, retired special education director, consultant to SASSED (Special Ed Coop. Surrounding Springfield) and developer of teacher programs at Eastern
2. Dr. Paula Smith, Special Education Department, ISU, and representative of Advisory Panel 1, and Jamie Basham, doctoral student at U of I and member of Panel 1. He stated that they would comment on the feasibility of implementing Option 4.
3. Special Education Directors -- Illinois Association of Administrators of Special Education
  - Ken Randle, Niles Township SED
  - Christy Chambers, Lockport Area SED
  - John Anderson, Lake County SED
  - Sue Ireland, Eisenhower SED

The Board and invited participants discussed implementation issues relating to the proposed special education certification structure and supply and demand issues associated with special education instructors.

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

The meeting recessed at 3:55 p.m. and reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

### Agenda Item D.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Teacher Assessment: Content and Pedagogy.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month, the Board discussed the certification assessment system and the development of standards for enhanced basic skills. He indicated that at this meeting, the Board would be continuing its discussion on assessment to assist in establishing direction for the future.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee introduced Division Administrator Rob Sampson and staff Pat Glenn to provide an overview of the paper in the Board packet. Division Administrator Mike Long joined in the discussion.

The Superintendent provided a review of the discussion that occurred on this topic at the February meeting, indicating that the suggested direction is for the Board to commit to conducting a standards-based state assessment of content and pedagogy as a condition for the Initial Certificate and provide direction for the next steps. He stated this should be a shared responsibility involving the teacher preparation institutions and the state assessment.

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

Chairman Gidwitz asked for a motion for the Board to go into closed session.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers 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 McGee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed."

Dr. Hill 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
Dr. Steiner - yes	Mr. Gomez - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes		

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. and went into closed session at 5:15 p.m.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

State Board of Education Office  
Springfield, Illinois  
March 16, 2000

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

Glenn W. "Max" M<sup>C</sup>Gee, State Superintendent of Education

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sandra M. Pellegrino

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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.

Agenda  
Item B.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Legislative Status Reports (federal and state).

Staff Gail Lieberman and Brenda Holmes provided an update on legislative matters on the federal and state levels.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Ms. Lieberman to work with Susan Shea of the IEA to schedule a meeting between him and Clay Marquardt, the IEA Executive Director.

Mr. Serritella requested copies of the packets of information that were distributed during the congressional visits in Washington.

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

Agenda  
Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Board Priority Reports.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Board was provided with reports for the areas of special education; reading; math; academic early warning list; and standards, assessment and accountability.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reviewed the efforts of the agency to develop performance standards and activities associated with the development of the Prairie State

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS II AND III

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Achievement Exam. He stated that Illinois is participating in NAPE and identified some areas needing future attention.

A discussion took place regarding the timeline to revise standards. The desire to progress in revising the standards was expressed by Board members.

The Superintendent reviewed the activities in reading and activities that are underway. He also indicated that the Governor is very supportive of the reading effort. Areas needing attention included the need to develop a proposal for the Reading in Excellent Act which is due on May 15, 2000.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee indicated that we are behind in our efforts to move the math plan forward and would be addressing that.

The final priority plan the Superintendent addressed is Teacher Quality. He indicated that we have accelerated the Basic Skills. We are needing to address the area of induction and revisit the schedule related to continuing professional development rules.

Chairman Gidwitz asked that an update on the academic early warning list system of support be provided as the business community would like to help.

The Superintendent stated that Division Administrator Sheryl Poggi could provide that update at the April Board meeting. Board members commended Ms. Poggi and her staff on the detail of her division plan.

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., Staff Reports.

The following staff provided a report on their departments.

- Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey, Finance
- Associate Superintendent Brenda Holmes, Governmental Relations
- Division Administrator Connie Wise, Research

The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m. for a short break.

### Agenda Item E.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Discussion of Staff Reporting Process.

Chairman Gidwitz moved this discussion as a part of the Strategic Planning Committee Report.

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS II AND III

March 16, 2000

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### Agenda

#### Item F.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F., Strategic Planning Committee Report.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had met and recommended the following.

- The Board learn about the Lincoln/Baldrige system of improvement, and a session on this be provided during the April meeting. In addition, Mrs. McConachie mentioned other dates for learning about the Lincoln/Baldrige to which Board members are invited. Specifically, on April 27-28, 2000, a seminar will be held to acquaint interested state agency/organization teams with the Lincoln/Baldrige framework.
- The Board adopt a Business Strategic Operating Plan that aligns with the agency division plans. Mrs. McConachie stated that a draft report would be provided at the April meeting. She indicated that this would help shape the June conference activity in planning.

Mr. Serritella shared a tool that might be used to report board priorities. He indicated that the reporting process be streamlined and efforts be made in the coming year to develop a substantive plan document. Discussion regarding the level of detail and frequency of division plan reporting proceeded.

The meeting recessed at 9:40 a.m. and reconvened for Work-Study Session III at 2:00 p.m. The Superintendent, Mr. Gomez and Mrs. Rogers had left the meeting during the Plenary Business Meeting for an education summit, and Superintendent McGee and Mrs. Rogers returned at 2:35 p.m.

### WORK-STUDY SESSION III

### Agenda

#### Item B.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Career and Technical Education.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that a new topic was being introduced at this meeting that addresses the repositioning of career and technical education. He indicated that the Board's input and advice is requested as agency staff moves forward in this effort.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson has been working with the Illinois Community College Board and the Governor's Office to initiate an effort that will support high achievement for all career and technical education students while preparing them for the high-performing workforce. He indicated that following Ms. Robinson's overview, the Board's input is needed



## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS II AND III

March 16, 2000

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regarding the process, the task force composition, specific CTE issues, and desired outcomes of this effort.

Ms. Robinson provided an overview of the career and technical education proposal and the task force purpose and composition. The first meeting of the task force will be held on March 22. Ms. Robinson indicated that the plan is to complete a report with recommendations by the end of the calendar year.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Ms. Robinson if the Board has seen the career-technical educational performance management system she mentioned in her overview.

Ms. Robinson indicated that it had been shared previously but that was some time ago. She stated that there was a need to present to the Board in May or June on the federal Perkins Plan and that this would be a good time to share the performance system.

Chairman Gidwitz asked that this be on a future agenda.

Discussion regarding the proposed process and direction for repositioning career and technical education in Illinois continued.

Ms. Robinson agreed to return at a midpoint in the process of working with the Career-Technical Education Challenge Task Force to provide an update to the Board.

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

### Agenda Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., PSAE Status Update.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month, there was an overview of the activity on the development of PSAE.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee, Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haeffele and Division Administrator Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer provided an update on the status of efforts to integrate the ACT into the Illinois Prairie State Achievement Test. The Superintendent identified several issues / areas needing resolution in the alignment of assessments. He stated that special education could present the biggest problem in this.

Questions and discussion surrounding the specific logistics associated with the administration and content of the assessment followed.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSIONS II AND III

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Ms. Haeffele indicated that in keeping with the state procurement act, an RFSP would go out to identify a vendor to assist in the development of the Prairie State Achievement Exam soon.

Dr. Hill left the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Agenda  
Item D.

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

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

- Shelley Helton, Sharon Neely, Sally Vogl and Connie Wise -- for their efforts on the waiver report.
- Mike Long and Jenny Bolander -- for their extraordinary work in preparing data for a Senate Appropriations Hearing for a compelling argument to preserve some professional development money for induction.
- Sally Vogl and Lou Ann Reichle -- for their work with the IEA and the Teacher Certification Board that came to a good resolution.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

State Board of Education Office  
Springfield, Illinois  
March 16, 2000

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sandra M. Pellegrino

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Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 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 9:55 a.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Ms. Pellegrino was out of town and unable to attend this meeting.

The Chairman reported that the agenda item "Public Participation" was inadvertently left off of the agenda, and there would be public participation following the approval of the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the February 16-17 and March 6, 2000, meetings of the State Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McConachie, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

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

Gary Callahan, a parent of children who would be attending Oak Lawn School District, indicated that the Superintendent had explained a little more to him regarding the tuition waiver and that it was sent back to the School District and would not be going to the General Assembly. He noted that he had not been clear about the entire process.

John Lang, Regional Superintendent for Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties, indicated that he was seeking the Board's approval on a modification of

## MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

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the present waiver of the 5-clock hour day for the Safe Schools Program for the sixteen school districts he serves. He reported that the program has proven to be very successful for the school districts in helping to provide an educational alternative to disruptive students, and the reason for the request is to allow them to handle up to 90 students over the three counties that they serve. Mr. Lang noted that they have every intention of keeping the actual time of instruction at three and one-half hours. He commented that while in the classroom, the atmosphere is very controlled, and these students cannot handle it for more than three and one-half hours.

Mr. Lang indicated that the recent action in the General Assembly on SB1446 shows that the General Assembly supports the idea that students in the Safe Schools program do not have to attend school for five hours to receive a full day of State Aid. He noted that when he was advised about a week and half ago that the State Board was going to recommend denial of the waiver request, he asked for a copy of Sheila Radford-Hill's opinion so he could better respond. He reported that he was told that it was an internal document and a copy could not be provided, so he commented that his response may not be on target.

Superintendent M<sup>c</sup>Gee indicated that he would personally look into why Mr. Lang did not get the requested information.

The Superintendent explained that the reason he recommended denial of this waiver was because the State Board is promoting two pieces of legislation and seeking a legislative remedy. He noted that Mr. Lang has a high-quality program and suggested that Mr. Lang resubmit the waiver request should the legislation fail.

Mr. Lang noted that the next individual listed to speak to the Board, Bill Wright, Principal of Savanna High School District #300, was to comment on the same issue. In the interest of time, Mr. Wright did not speak.

Sandra Holman, the IEA Associate General Counsel, commented on the Rossville-Alvin Community Unit School District #7 waiver request that seeks a statutory modification to allow for fingerprinting of applicants for employment as part of the hiring process. She reported that the School District seeks to modify the "Criminal Background Investigations" section to allow it to submit to the State Police fingerprint cards for all "applicants" (not employees). She urged the State Board not to approve this waiver request for several reasons.

1. Rossville-Alvin CUSD 7 did not comply with the notice and hearing requirements.
2. Rossville-Alvin CUSD 7 request for statutory modification does not state that the modification is necessary to more effectively, efficiently or economically

## MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

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- carry out the criminal background check mandate or that the request has improved student performance as a primary goal.
3. The fingerprint requirement was specifically considered and rejected by General Assembly.
  4. The proposed approval is contrary to State Police rules and district agreements.

General Counsel Michael Hernandez clarified that the issue is a modification that was submitted by the School District. He indicated that under the law, modifications, unless they are acted on by the Superintendent, go into effect within 45 days. He noted that the modification is before the Board as an informational item as a part of the report to be submitted to the General Assembly, and the waiver has already been granted.

Chairman Gidwitz asked what would happen if there is a defect. Mr. Hernandez responded that if there is a defect, we would have to notify the District that the waiver is not effective, and they would have to cure that defect.

Ms. Holman noted that this is a situation where employees or individuals must submit to fingerprinting which is somewhat intrusive to personal privacy.

The Chairman asked if the Superintendent has the authority to rescind a modification that was previously approved. Mr. Hernandez responded that it would be his position that any modification that is based on faulty information we received from a district could be revoked by the Superintendent.

Ms. Holmon indicated that the procedural deficiency is after the public hearing when the documentation is submitted to the State Board. Chairman Gidwitz responded that there are two issues here -- one is the procedural issue and the other is the specifics of this particular case. He suggested that if she wanted to pursue this particular case, she should contact Mr. Hernandez.

Ms. Holmon asked the Superintendent to reconsider his recommendation now that he has additional information.

Laura Arterburn, representing the IFT and a member of the Blue Ribbon Panel, expressed appreciation for the effort put forth in dealing with special education certification. She reported that they do have some problems and concerns with each of the proposals including Option #4 and that she has received a variety of comments from teachers. Ms. Arterburn indicated that they do applaud the support for the automatic grandfathering of the current special education teachers. She indicated that they also support maintaining the provisional (PZZ) waivers since they are still dealing in an area of great shortage in this state.

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Ms. Arterburn noted that they have been aware of the concern that the change in the certification for teachers would automatically lead to a change in the classroom. She asked the State Board to be very careful in the process of implementing this change. Ms. Arterburn encouraged the Board to continue to work with them on this, making this an effort that first of all helps all of the students of Illinois and, secondly, supports the teachers who are in there working on the issue.

Michelle Moses, a parent from Oak Lawn District #229, indicated that she sent a videotape of a board meeting, along with a letter, to the State Board members and had met with Chairman Gidwitz some time ago. She reported that the situation in the School District has gotten worse and commented on some examples. She noted that the School Code calls for board meetings to be at a time and place that is convenient to the public, and that is not being done. Ms. Moses expressed concern for her childrens' safety and education. She indicated the following:

- There needs to be a change in legislation;
- They need board member accountability;
- The schools are to be about children and not politics;
- They need the School Code firmed up in areas where it is not clear; and
- They need the State Board to support the Regional Office of Education in removing these board members that are not doing their jobs.

Lynn Craig, also from Oak Lawn, indicated that she had spoken with many of the Board members and Legal Counsel Michael Hernandez regarding their District and board. She commented on some of the students' community activities and conveyed the students' disappointment about what is happening in the District. She reported that they were told that S.B.1888 may be the solution to their problem -- an Educational Attorney General to review these types of instances, but she was disappointed when she read the legislation. Ms. Craig indicated that the only reason board members cannot be removed for willful failure to perform duties is because this is not defined by law. She commented that they need the State Board to define this. She noted that the answer to their problem lies in the basic rule of education -- ALL children come first.

Mr. Serritella asked for Mr. Hernandez to comment on the Board's role vis-a-vis that part of the School Code and the performance therein. Mr. Hernandez indicated that they are correct in that the School Code is not clearly defined as to what "willful failure" is. He noted that we have had experience in attempting to remove school board members, but because it is a "local control" issue, the courts require a very high degree of failure of a public official of that type not to do his/her duty. He commented on the things they have tried to do to help this District.

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Deb Kunz, the Executive Director of Family T.I.E.S., indicated her support for the Superintendent's recommendation (option 4) to change special education teacher certification, and she thanked Dr. Riffel and staff for their monumental efforts. She reported that the members of her organization attend many IEP meetings across the state, and what they have seen and what the children have experienced is a categorical teacher certification system that seems inherently biased towards teaching labels and categories, not students and their needs. She reported that children live up to or down to the expectations set for them, and we have experienced a system that has low expectations for children with very severe disabilities. She encouraged the Board to support option 4.

Monica Lu, a parent whose daughter attends Peoria Christian School, noted that she spoke to the Board last month regarding a form of discrimination -- that the Peoria Christian School does not allow women to serve on its board of education. She thanked the Board, Legal Counsel Michael Hernandez and staff for their efforts in this matter and indicated that she gave Mr. Hernandez additional information from a 1983 Supreme Court ruling against Bob Jones University. She reported that throughout the 8-1 ruling, the emphasis is placed on how private educational institutions must meet discrimination policies of the nation.

Steve Balen, Superintendent of Granite City School District #9, spoke to the Board regarding a waiver allowing the School District to make up five snow days by lengthening the school day; thus at the end of the school term, the students receive exactly the same number of instructional minutes as any other school district in the state. He noted that this allows the District to provide instruction sometime from September until the end of May by eliminating those periods of instruction that students receive in late August and June when the weather is warm.

Mr. Balen explained that another waiver regards students who are tardy to school and students who are excluded either for health examination reasons (failure to receive a health examination that is a state mandate) or for head lice. He noted that in cases where students have been excluded, the entire cost for that student has to be born by the local taxpayer -- State Aid is lost. He reported that the purpose of these waivers is simply to say "let the school district and the State Board continue to be fiscal partners in providing for the educational cost of educating students regardless of whether or not they are excluded for physical examinations or head lice."

Mr. Hernandez (Legal Counsel) commented that regarding the state aid waivers, the School Code speaks to a minimum standard of 300 minutes a day. He stated that the waiver law requires the waiver request to either demonstrate it will be innovative for education to students or that there is a more efficient way of fulfilling the responsibility. He reported that the agency is obligated to recommend to the General Assembly where it meets the criteria and where it does not and, if it does

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not, then to recommend denial. Mr. Hernandez indicated that unfortunately, in both of these instances those requirements have not been met. He noted that the general state aid issue is problematic. He reported that the law is strict, and unless the intent of the waiver law is very clearly met, we simply cannot send it over and not recommend denial.

Susan Shea, representing the IEA, commented on issues raised on March 15 regarding special education, and she indicated that individuals can be prepared to serve the LD, BD, and EMH in four years. She noted that the content and structure of the courses are going to be changing, and more separate activities and training will be put into a smaller amount of time. She indicated that option 4 is new, and that no one had the opportunity to react to it or discuss it.

Dr. Shea asked why anyone should become a Learning and Behavior Specialist II, and she commented that there is no difference between the LBS I and II designations. She indicated that the legislation very clearly says that those individuals who have the certificates they have will continue to have them. She noted that the issue is seeing that we prepare our new teachers to teach in the field and that we also support those who are currently there. Dr. Shea urged the Board not to support option #4.

Jim Guilinger, representing the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE), declined to speak in the essence of time. He indicated that he had written a letter to Deputy Superintendent Lee Patton about making a presentation at the April Board meeting.

Sandra Ellis, Superintendent of Gillespie Community Unit School District #7, commented on the waiver request to modify the elementary physical education program, which has tentatively been denied by ISBE. She indicated that she believed the District did not provide enough information and asked for a review of the request. She reported that the existing elementary school structure is unsafe and hazard for use, and with the recent passage of a bond referendum, in conjunction with a school construction grant, it is not cost effective or efficient to renovate the existing structure. Dr. Ellis noted that an additional teacher, certified in this area of endorsement, was hired who is currently providing a modified P.E. program on a daily basis. She indicated that the District is in the final design stage of developing schematic plans for the new elementary school, and construction is scheduled to begin this summer immediately following the end of the school year. Based on the additional information provided, she asked the Board to support and recommend immediate approval of the waiver request.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee indicated that we would discuss this issue during the waiver report, because this was the first time he had seen the information presented.



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Mr. Hernandez clarified that this is a waiver of law, not a modification, and the General Assembly must act on this issue. He noted that the State Board does not have the authority to approve waivers of law, and the issue before the Board would be whether or not it would modify the recommendation of denial. He indicated that staff has been looking at the information presented, and there would be a recommendation within the next couple of minutes. A brief discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Bev Johns, representing the Illinois Special Education Coalition, indicated that she remembered when the State Board would invite people to make presentations who represented all major viewpoints on issues. She noted that on March 15, a series of individuals presented their views. She indicated these individuals were selected because they support a complex and highly controversial proposal the Board is ready to adopt regarding special education certification. She commented that if not for two members of the Teacher Certification Board, the State Board would have heard nothing but praise. Ms. Johns quoted from an e-mail she sent the Board members, and she reported that the Board was not provided with data, research or written documentation from the presenters on March 15. She indicated that she had provided the Board with well-documented information, showing there are problems in other states with cross categorical models and also an alternative related to option 3 in the Board packet. She commented on option 3 and urged the Board to consider it.

Superintendent McGee thanked Ms. Johns for her articulate presentation and letters. He indicated that he understood her frustration and noted that many e-mails from others who have opposing points of view have been received. He commented that we are all in this for the best interest of children, and he understood that her interpretation is maybe different than the recommendation he would be making. The Superintendent reported that on March 15, the Board heard from the some of the university people who indicated that there is a research base that does support this and certainly does not support the continuation of the existing system.

Kurt Valentin, Director of Business Affairs for Round Lake Area Schools, provided background for the waiver request, and he indicated that with the successful passage next week of both the building bond and rate increase referendums, their available bonding capacity would be totally exhausted. He noted that the District is looking at over 800 new students in the next four to five years. He reported that with the growth and the current building referendum, they will match out their classroom capacity in two to three years, and they will not have enough available bonding capacity to build another elementary building which will be severely needed.

A brief discussion followed for clarification purposes with Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey responding to the issue. Chairman Gidwitz commented that the

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availability of the School District plan that is going to assure financial successful or solvency is the issue. He noted that this District is not the only one that has this problem, and he indicated that there are a variety of districts who are suffering from the exact same problems. He reported that he would not suggest that the Board change the recommendation this month, but let's see what happens to the bond issue next month.

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

### Agenda Item C.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.1., Items for Immediate Action, Priorities for Continuing Professional Development.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month, the Board discussed and deferred action on the addition of mathematics as a priority for certificate-renewal-related continuing professional development. He indicated that at the Board's request, criteria for selection of continuing professional development priority areas would be reviewed as well as a recommendation made to add mathematics and special education to the list of priorities.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee called the Board members' attention to page 3-39 of the Board packet and provided an overview of the issue. He commented that because these become the Board's priorities for teachers continuing professional development, teachers would seek out courses, workshops, and additional training in these areas.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board adopt the proposed criteria for continuing professional development priorities related to certificate renewal. He indicated that he also recommended that the proposed list of five priorities (reading, standards and assessment, integrating technology into teaching and learning, special education and mathematics) be adopted for continuing professional development related to certificate renewal.

### Amended Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved to amend the motion with the following.

"The State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed criteria and the proposed list of five priorities for continuing professional development priorities related to certificate renewal as follows.

Priority areas selected by the State Board of Education shall apply to teachers at all levels, Pre-K through 12, and reflect one or more of the following:

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- Student learning needs identified by performance on the state assessment;
- Teacher knowledge and skills that are critical to improving student performance but were not a significant part of the preparation programs of current teachers (e.g., technology); and
- An instructional need created by an identified shortage of teachers.

Priorities for continuing professional development related to certificate renewal shall include:

1. Reading;
2. Math;
3. Standards and Assessment;
4. Integrating Technology into Teaching and Learning; and
5. Special Education."

Dr. Steiner seconded the amended motion. Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

### Vote on Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### Agenda Item C.2.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.2., Items for Immediate Action, Special Education Teacher Certification Structure.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that on March 15, the Board had an exceptional overview of the proposed special education certification structure, and earlier in the meeting, some individuals spoke to this issue. He noted that this meeting is the Board's opportunity to take action on the Superintendent's recommendation relating to this structure.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee indicated that he was making a recommendation for a comprehensive special education certification structure which is designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities and that contains the following components.

- Certificate: **Learning and Behavior Specialist I** to include teachers qualified to serve students with learning, behavior/emotional, cognitive disorders and/or physical disabilities, at any level of severity and in any program or service on the continuum.
- Certificate: **Learning and Behavior Specialist II** to provide an advanced designation for experienced LBSI teachers that would represent their enhanced knowledge and skills as instructional specialists.
- Separate designations would be maintained for teachers of visually impaired and blind, teachers of students who are deaf and hard of hearing, teachers of students with speech and language disorders as well as bilingual special

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education as an area of emphasis and early childhood special education as a specific designation.

The Superintendent recommended that this plan be a preliminary recommendation to the Cory H. monitor and submitted to the monitor on March 17, 2000. He thanked the presenters of public participation for their input, and he noted that whenever we think of these decisions, we think of how it does impact children.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes. Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel explained the incentive for a teacher to become a Learning and Behavior Specialist II.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she was not comfortable with the lack of clarity and specificity in the descriptions of the two certificates, and she thought that it would help to have some of the positives stated within the definition.

Mrs. McConachie commented that as we tender this to the judge as a preliminary report, we would have to be very clear to him that there is not yet a consensus in the field and there may never be a consensus. She indicated that we have a lot of educational work to do and need some time in which to do it or we will not be able to implement the new system effectively. She noted that secondly, she would need more specificity in the language to make clear the level of rigor and what the depth is.

At the Board's request from March 15, Dr. Riffel shared with the Board some of the shortage needs and salaries of special education teachers across the state.

The Board tabled this agenda item until later in the meeting to provide time for the motion to be rewritten.

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

### Agenda Item C.3.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.3., Items for Immediate Action, Semi-Annual Waiver Report.

Superintendent McGee commented on the revised waiver report (as of March 15) that was distributed to the Board members' places.

Legal Counsel Michael Hernandez indicated that this was the semi-annual report, and the only remaining issue that was addressed is the material that was submitted by the Gillespie Superintendent. He reported that they supplied various architectural information regarding the Code issue and their waiver, and in light of that documentation, he recommended that the Board submit this report to the

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General Assembly without a denial recommendation. He noted that if the Board accepts that recommendation, the motion would be amended accordingly.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the Spring 2000 Waiver Report as presented, with authorization to forward it to the General Assembly by May 1.

The State Board also approves the proposed recommendation to the General Assembly to deny the requests submitted by:

- Application WM100-1428 submitted by Round Lake Area SD #116 (Lake);
- Application WM100-1422 submitted by Granite City Community Unit School District #9 (Madison);
- Application WM100-1423 submitted by Granite City Community Unit School District #9 (Madison);
- Application WM100-1421 (renewal) submitted by Granite City Community Unit School District #9 (Madison);
- Application WM100-1384 submitted by Huntley Consolidated School District #158 (McHenry);
- Application WM100-1449 submitted by Norridge School District #80 (Cook); and
- Application WM100-1440 submitted by the Regional Office of Education #8 in Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties."

Dr. Steiner seconded the motion. Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Vote on Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item C.2.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.2., Items for Immediate Action, Special Education Teacher Certification Structure.

This agenda item was tabled from earlier in the meeting.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following framework for a Comprehensive Special Education Certification Structure.

- Type 10 Standard Special Certificate Designations:
  - Teacher of Students who are Visually Impaired and Blind
  - Teacher of Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  - Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disorders

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Learning and Behavior Specialist I

Learning and Behavior Specialist II

- Bilingual Special Education as an area of emphasis under each of the special education designations on the Standard Special Certificate.

- Type 04 Early Childhood Certificate Designations:

Early Childhood General Education

Early Childhood Special Education

The State Board of Education recommends the new special education certification system to the Cory H. Monitor as a preliminary recommendation on March 17, 2000. LBSI and LBSII need to be defined more specifically in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, the Illinois State Advisory Council on Education of Children with Disabilities, parents, educators, legislators, and other interested parties as the rulemaking process is undertaken."

Mr. Gomez 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

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gomez - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mrs. McConachie - yes

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

Agenda

Item C.4,& 5.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C. 4. & 5., Items for Immediate Action, Academic Early Warning List and Proposed Rulemaking: Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (Part 1 - Emergency Amendment on Academic Early Warning List).

Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haeffele provided an overview of this issue. She emphasized that we want to approach this entire process as a support system even though we know that sanctions kick in at various points in time and at various levels. She noted that we are working with all of these school districts in support and collaboration mode and, in general, hope to see some good progress.

Division Administrator Sheryl Poggi responded to Board members' questions.

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Ms. Haeffele pointed out that there is only one change in the emergency rules and that is to capture the Board's motion from last month which is not to put any new schools on the Academic Early Warning List for the fall of 2000 and instead wait for 2001.

## Motion

Dr. Steiner moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the emergency rulemaking for Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (23 Ill. Administrative Code 1).

Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education 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 with a unanimous voice vote.

## Motion

Dr. Steiner moved that "the State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (23 Ill. Administrative Code 1)."

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

## 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 C.6.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.6., Items for Immediate Action, Financial Assurance and Accountability System.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey and newly appointed Division Administrator, Chuck Schmitt, provided an overview (Addendum II). Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

(The Superintendent, Mr. Gomez and Mrs. Rogers left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.)

## Motion

Dr. Steiner moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the 2000 Financial Watch List, Financially Certified School District List and the Financial Oversight Panel List."

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

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## Vote on Motion

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Gidwitz requested that this information be put on the website, and Mr. Ey responded that he would take care of that request.

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

## Agenda Item C.7.a.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.7.a., Items for Immediate Action, Proposed Rulemaking: Certification (Part 25 - Repeal of General Education Requirements).

During the November Board meeting, amendments to the certification rules were presented for the Board's initial review. These rules delete the general education requirements for the elementary, high school, special and early childhood certificates as well as the specific professional education requirements for the first two of those certificates.

General Counsel Michael Hernandez reported that the rules have gone through the public comment period, and no changes have been made as a result of this process.

Division Administrator Mike Long commented on how these rules align with the NCATE standards that the Board adopted.

## Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the emergency rulemaking for Certification (23 Ill. Administrative Code 25).

Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education 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."

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

## Vote on Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## Agenda Item C.7.b.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.7.b., Items for Immediate Action, Proposed Rulemaking: Secular Textbook Loan Program (Part 350).

Chairman Gidwitz reported that this change is being proposed to clarify the way in which the textbook loan program operates. He indicated that specifically, it



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eliminates the use of the previous year's fall enrollment and housing report and changes the enrollment determination date to the last day in September of the current school year for determination of the funding available. He noted that the changes have been published with limited comments from the public.

Deputy Superintendent David Wood commented on the process.

## Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the emergency rulemaking for the Secular Textbook Loan Program (23 Ill. Administrative Code 350).

Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education 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 C.8.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.8., Items for Immediate Action, Resolution of Appreciation.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that Legal Counsel Michael Hernandez will be leaving the State Board and entering the private sector and be able to spend more time with his family. He noted that the Board wishes him well.

## Motion

Mr. Serritella moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the Resolution of Appreciation for the services of Michael Hernandez.

Whereas, Michael Hernandez has been the General Counsel for the Illinois State Board of Education since January 1, 1996; and

Whereas, during his tenure, Michael has transformed the role of the General Counsel,

Becoming an integral and invaluable partner in the development of policy and programs, and

Providing uniquely strong and proactive guidance to the Board and the State Superintendent; and

Whereas, the legacy of Michael's leadership will be seen in years to come in the Codes of Conduct for Board members and agency staff, the contract review

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process and a host of other procedures designed to assure the integrity of Board and agency operations; and

Whereas, Michael has gone to exceptional lengths to provide a variety of legal information to the Board and the Superintendent, initiating in-depth legal briefings at each Board meeting and providing them with frequent legal memoranda; and

Whereas, Michael's performance as General Counsel has been characterized by his exhaustive knowledge of the law and his ability to provide the Board with the relevant legal background and implications of an issue; and

Whereas, Michael will be remembered for his thoroughness in fulfilling his responsibilities, his irreplaceable humor, the distinctive courage and firmness with which he expressed his advice, and his fiery passion and compassion; and

Whereas, Michael will also be remembered as a lawyer whose professional expertise was matched by the size of his heart; and

Whereas, when Michael looks back on his time at the State Board, we trust that he will feel justifiable pride in the differences for children he has been able to make as General Counsel;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Illinois State Board of Education expresses its deep appreciation to Michael Hernandez for his exemplary service and wishes him well in all future endeavors. He will be missed."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

### Vote on Motion

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Gidwitz commented that Mr. Hernandez has been a terrific supporter and has always been there. He noted that when Mr. Hernandez has not known the answer to a question, he has gotten it quickly, but more importantly, he has been fair and impartial. He expressed the Board's appreciation for his work and indicated that, after his time period has expired, he looked forward to working with him again.

### Agenda Item D.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Special Report: Report of the Auditor General and the Internal Auditor.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Board had received the audit report from the Auditor General for the period of July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999.

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Internal Auditor Tammy Rust reviewed the report for the Board members. She commented that everyone worked very hard, and there were many factors that went into creating the improvement that is in the report.

A brief discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Agenda  
Item E.1. The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.1., Announcements and Reports, Chairman. There was no report at this time.

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

In the Superintendent's absence, Chairman Gidwitz reported that we have the revised timelines for certificate renewal-related continuing professional development as well as a list of the forums/hearings that will be held on the rules (Addendum III).

The Chairman indicated that he was pleased to inform the Board that the State Board received a federal contract this past fall entitled "Building Linkages in the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Industry Sector." He reported that the intent of this effort is to develop a curriculum framework for students to enhance and apply their math and science skills in the context of this very important industry sector. He noted that there are five linkages projects in the nation in five different industry sectors, and these projects are being announced today by Secretary Riley in Washington, D.C. A press release was distributed to the Board members.

Kathy Nicholson-Tosh, the newly appointed Executive Assistant to the State Board, commented that it is a very exciting project, and Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson's center is nurturing it. She indicated that the linkages projects were developed to integrate occupational skills standards and academic standards or learning standards. She reported that Illinois would be a leadership state for about 13 other states in developing curriculum associated with that. Ms. Nicholson-Tosh noted that the Board would be getting a little over \$1.3 million for this project over approximately 31 months.

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

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she and Mrs. Rogers attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference and meetings in Washington last week. She provided the following report.

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- They did several days of "hill visits" and lobbying and had some very excellent sessions on understanding federal legislation, budgeting and other issues related to State Board work.
- Mrs. Rogers chairs the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee and reportedly is doing an excellent job.
- Mrs. McConachie chaired a study group on "Alternatives to Social Promotion and Retention" with representatives from 22 states. That has been very interesting, particularly with reference to the Board's at-risk item and the low-performing schools work. It has been very beneficial, and Mrs. McConachie was bringing materials back to staff related to what she was learning.

Mrs. McConachie reported that on March 6, she and Chairman Gidwitz attended the Joint Education Committee meeting. She indicated that four major issues were on the agenda, and compared to last month's meeting, there was an excellent rapport around those issues and some real progress. She noted that Illinois' P-16 partnership is beginning to look more and more like a national model, and it is going to be very challenging to keep all of the things moving forward.

Mrs. McConachie commented that specifically at this meeting, the Committee was not able to adopt operating protocols, because two of the boards were not represented. She reported that the State Board is particularly enthusiastic about this partnership, and the Board of Higher Education (BHE) usually manages to get people there. She noted that the Committee is composed of board members, so it is very important that the other boards attend. Mrs. McConachie reported that those members present talked about needing to get their colleagues all there so that the board members are pushing the envelope on this partnership, providing leadership and stimulating more activity than might happen in the normal course of relationships. She indicated that it is anticipated that at the next meeting, which will be some time in April, all boards members will be present and really be in operation as a committee of board members.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the development of the comprehensive Prairie State Achievement Exam received very strong support from the BHE and the Community College Board (CCB), and they really understood the implications of moving to a dependable and comprehensive Prairie State exam. She noted that the question to them was "what could we do to make sure that this makes a difference at the higher education level -- that stakes for students are built into the Prairie State?" She indicated that the Committee came up with 11 next steps, most of which require some aggressive action on the part of BHE and CCB. Those included the following.

- Establishing an inter-agency team that would conduct forums with all the interested stakeholders around the state, including the business community, to gather support and move the Prairie State forward. As we see some pushing

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back on tests in the legislature and in the field, we are going to have to be very persuasive about the power and utility of the Prairie State.

- Working with NCAA -- the Superintendent has addressed that in the memo that the Board saw.
- The BHE and CCB will discuss the Prairie State at their next meetings, so their board members will understand what the assessment is and start thinking about policy issues for them related to the Prairie State. Superintendent McGee was invited to speak to the university provost, the chief academic officer, in each of the universities at their next meeting which is in April to talk with them about the Prairie State and about the policy implications for them in their individual institutions. Keith Sanders will be presenting to the university presidents and chancellors at their next meeting, and we hope from there it rolls forth to admissions and places like that. The idea is being introduced everywhere. The Superintendent will also be meeting with community college presidents and trustees at their next meeting. The Workforce Investment Board will have this on their next agenda.
- The final one was a very tough question that the CCB and BHE were feeling uncomfortable about and that is "what happens to course and seat time requirements for college admission." If this is a standards-based system and the Prairie State says how students are doing against standards, then why do you have to take "X" number of courses with certain titles for admission. They suggested that we need to give this some time to see how much the Prairie State predicted performance – which was a good point. That will also be true with placement. But that would be one of those very sticky policy issues, both for higher education and the legislature.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the CCB and BHE are hoping to act as co-sponsors with the State Board of the Prairie State exam. She noted that this is a P-16 partnership activity, and that's a shift in responsibility. She indicated that the State Board will still set the cut scores and develop the exam, but the sponsorship should make a difference.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the second substantive item was the basic skills assessment, and the Superintendent reviewed the provisions of that on March 15. She indicated that the CCB, the Governor's office, and BHE were very pleased with the collaboration and with the agreement. She commented that all of that is moving forward with the responsibility for the basic skills assessment at the State Board.

Mrs. McConachie noted that the third item is the institutional report cards. She commented that this is a tough issue focused on reporting on the quality of teacher preparation programs at every institution across the state, and it is just as tough in

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Illinois as any place else. She indicated that complete agreement on how to move forward had not been reached and that at least two of the partners in the P-16 partnership are very invested in what they are doing around higher education accountability for teacher preparation. She stated that they will continue to discuss this as well as legislative activity where generally there is good agreement

Mrs. McConachie commented that the JEC was starting to get into some of the more difficult and substantive issues. She indicated that she was pleased with the quality of collaboration, and she thought it was a very positive meeting.

Chairman Gidwitz expressed his disappointment that more board members from the other boards were not present, but he noted that they were working on that matter.

### Agenda Item E.4.

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

Dr. Hill reported on the NCREL meeting that he attended last week. He indicated that one piece of information called "Good Information - Better Decisions" was quite helpful in getting to some of the problems we are having regarding the supply and demand of teachers throughout the NCREL states (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin). He noted that unfortunately, he was gone on Friday when the team planning was done, but several staff and Hazel Loucks, Deputy Governor, were involved with that. Division Administrator Mike Long had reported to him that it was a very good session.

Dr. Hill reported that they heard and discussed break-the-mold strategies to address supply and demand, alternative routes to teacher-administrator preparation, achieving retention through induction and alternative compensation strategies -- state and local examples. He indicated that in a sort of table talk, several people were discussing loan forgiveness as one type of recruitment of college students into the teaching field. He noted that it was a very informative and interesting meeting, and he hoped that the Board would continue as an agency to work with NCREL on the issues of teacher quality and supply and demand.

Chairman Gidwitz commented that it showed that they have identified in Illinois four areas of where we have shortages of teachers -- special education, bilingual, technology/computer education and music. He noted that if that is correct, we still have a variety of structural shortages around the state. He asked Dr. Hill if that was discussed? Dr. Hill responded that it was not discussed in any detail but could have been discussed in the team planning meetings when he was not present. The Chairman specifically asked about science teachers.

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After a brief discussion, it was suggested that an update on teacher supply and demand be provided next month.

Dr. Hill commented that a NCREL representative would probably be pleased to speak to this issue in a Work-Study Session. Chairman Gidwitz responded that was a good suggestion, and we would talk to the Superintendent about it. He noted that since we do have to report the condition of the teacher supply and demand to the legislature, the Board should review what we are reporting.

Dr. Hill pointed out that the collection of information about demand is very spotty and sketchy in each of the seven states.

Chairman Gidwitz called Division Administrator Mike Long's attention to a table that shows a number of shortages across the area and then asked him if it is realistic--should the Board be comfortable with the fact that we are not in a shortage condition on a statewide basis. Mr. Long responded that he did not believe the Board should be comfortable with that. He indicated that from the standpoint of his division, we would prefer to think that we are more intent on focusing on not only the number of teachers but the qualifications of those teachers and those numbers matched against vacancies. He commented on the data collection.

The Chairman noted that he would like to know what we are going to do to insure the quality of data on this issue that will be submitted to the legislature and hoped it would be of a higher caliber than what we gave them this past year. Mr. Long responded that he would be happy to provide that information.

Mrs. McConachie commented that it was her recollection that we have a line item in the budget or higher education does to support data collection -- that it is a joint project and it will include collecting better data on this topic as well as others. She noted that it is called a "data warehouse."

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that we need to look at that and asked Ms. Nicholson-Tosh to make a note of that for the Superintendent.

Mr. Long reported that we have had some discussions quite recently with the Governor's Council on Teacher Quality that includes representatives of the business community, as well as all of the education agencies, etc., and they agree with the data needs in those areas. He indicated that at the NCREL conference, he had a long discussion with the Deputy Governor. He noted that she also endorsed the need for additional and more specific data so that it can guide the decision-making.

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Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman