



# Illinois State Board of Education

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

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

**SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS  
April 19-20, 2000**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**

- 1:00 p.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION 1**  
State Board Room - 4th Floor
- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - B. Round Lake Financial Plan
  - C. Special Education Rules Revision:  
Selected Issues
  - D. Standards Implementation
    - 1. Agricultural Education
    - 2. Issues and Plans
  - E. Early Learning Progress and Directions
  - F. Adjourn
- 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, APRIL 20**

- 8:00 a.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION II**  
State Board Room - 4th Floor
- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - B. Legislative Status Reports
  - C. Board Priority Reports
  - D. Learning About the Lincoln/Baldrige  
In Education Initiative
  - E. Adjourn
- 10:30 a.m.\*\* PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING**  
State Board Room - 4th Floor
- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - B. Approval of Minutes: March 15-16, 2000
  - C. Public Participation
  - D. Items for Immediate Action
    - 1. Round Lake Financial Plan
    - 2. Prairie State Achievement Exam
    - 3. Quarterly Report on Board Travel
  - E. Items for Future Action
  - F. Announcements and Reports
    - 1. Chairman
    - 2. Superintendent
    - 3. Committees
    - 4. Board Members

- G. Other Business
- H. Adjourn

**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

- A. Call to Order
- B. Teacher Quality Issues:
  - 1. Assessment for the Standard Certificate
  - 2. Recruitment to the Teaching Profession
- C. Other Business
- D. Adjourn

**MEETING MATERIALS**

\* 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**

100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

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

State Board of Education Office  
Springfield, Illinois  
April 19, 2000

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz  
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

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Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 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. Serritella joined the meeting at 4:00 p.m.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Gomez would not be in attendance at this meeting due to business commitments, and Ms. Pellegrino was also unable to attend.

Agenda  
Item B.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Round Lake Financial Plan.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that the first agenda item involved reviewing the financial status of Round Lake Area Schools -- District #116. He reported that Round Lake was certified as being in financial difficulty by the State Board in 1992 and has submitted financial plans for State Board approval since that time. He indicated that in January, it was presented that the plan was not being followed; therefore, the Board approved the fiscal year 2000 component of the amendment through April 20, 2000, pending the outcome of a March referendum.

The Chairman reported that at this meeting, the Board members would review the status of the District financial picture, so tomorrow they are able to take action on the District's amended financial plans.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey introduced Division Administrator Chuck Schmitt and Legal Advisor Gary Anderson.

Mr. Ey indicated that there was some news that the Board needed to know about. He reported that last night he received a fax from Round Lake School District, by

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

### AND CLOSED SESSION

April 19, 2000

Page 2

Board resolution (7 in favor -- unanimously), that they are petitioning for a financial oversight panel. He noted that the representatives from Round Lake would be speaking to the Board later in the meeting and that they have a letter from their bank that articulates their necessity to do this.

Mr. Ey provided a power-point presentation on Round Lake School District which included an update on the Financial Assurance and Financial Watch List, March 21 referenda results, and amended financial plans for Round Lake Area Schools (Addendum II). Mr. Schmitt gave a basic analysis of the District and reviewed the recommendations.

- Board approves FY 2000, FY 2001, and FY 2002 amended financial plans.
- Board requires District to adhere with State Board financial parameters.
- District provides quarterly reports.
- State Board provides a liaison for District to communicate with during the negotiation process.
- District submits an updated financial report fourteen days prior to the signing of any binding collective bargaining agreement.

Chairman Gidwitz asked what the cost per student is -- in high school and the elementary school and how this information compared to surrounding districts. He added that he would also like to look at the salary levels. Mr. Ey responded that the information would be provided before the meeting was adjourned.

The Chairman indicated that the other thing he would like to see is the comparison between the proposed budget and the one with the cuts in it on a line-item basis -- where the cuts came from -- essentially what Mr. Schmitt was reading from would be interesting to review, not just what was cut but what was left.

Chairman Gidwitz requested that Associate Superintendent Bill Conrad archive the kinds of reports that are presented at Board meetings. He noted that the Board members could then refer to Mr. Ey's report from two months ago.

The Chairman commended the following Round Lake representatives for their hard work.

- Dr. Mary Davis, Superintendent
- Kurt Valentin, Director of Business Affairs
- Laura McGuire, Board President

Dr. Davis made brief remarks on the issue, and Mr. Valentin commented on the letter from their bank. Mr. Ey explained the situation and responded to Board members' questions.

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

### AND CLOSED SESSION

April 19, 2000

Page 3

Ms. McGuire commented on the board's work and perspective on the issue. Superintendent McGee provided data on neighboring districts (EAV per pupil).

Mr. Ey indicated that the Board needed time to evaluate the District for an oversight panel. He noted that it is a legal process, and he commented on a handout regarding a Financial Oversight Panel and Emergency Financial Assistance.

Mr. Anderson explained the process and associated legalities and requested that the District include a request for emergency financial assistance.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that it would help to have a "pros and cons" analysis of this. She also suggested that a representative from the teachers association be invited to join the representatives from Round Lake at the table for the next discussion on this issue, and she asked Dr. Susan Shea from the IEA for assistance in this area.

The State Board was provided a copy of the Round Lake board's resolution requesting a financial oversight panel be appointed for their District.

Dr. Davis commented that the most difficult part of the situation is developing a clear response to the community. She stated that she and her colleagues would be present at the Plenary Business Meeting on Thursday.

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., Standards Implementation, Agricultural Education.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that in February, Jim Guilinger requested time on the April Board meeting agenda to share the progress that has been made with the agricultural education budget line item. He noted that Mr. Guilinger and his colleagues would be sharing this information.

Superintendent McGee reported that during the February Board meeting, Mr. Guilinger talked about the alignment of the agricultural education curriculum with the learning standards. He indicated that this is a wonderful opportunity to see how the career and technical education areas can and are addressing the Illinois Learning Standards and how career and technical education supports and provides instruction in the learning standards. He asked Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato to introduce Mr. Guilinger, because she has been working with this effort for the past several years.

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

### AND CLOSED SESSION

April 19, 2000

Page 4

Mr. Guilinger, a retired member of the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education, introduced his colleagues that work with the grant from the State Board called "Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education" (FCAE -- through Parkland College).

- Jay Runner, project coordinator for FCAE
- Joe Webel, staff to grant
- Larry Pfeiffer, also staff to grant

These individuals gave a presentation regarding agricultural education and the Illinois Learning Standards and shared the materials that have been developed to support instructors in all classrooms.

Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson identified other career and technical education areas that are focusing on the alignment of learning standards and career and technical education curriculum. The area of information technology is one.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that this effort was visionary and a good example of what could be done to support and provide instruction in the learning standards.

The FCAE staff were commended for their efforts to develop materials that were of high quality and aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards.

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., Special Education Rules Revision: Selected Issues.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that it is anticipated that in May the State Board will be acting on proposed rules that respond to the 1997 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). He reported that during this agenda item, the Board will have the opportunity to hear about and discuss some key issues in detail that are associated with this rulemaking.

Superintendent McGee noted that this effort has been intensive and has generated a large amount of feedback. He reported that since these rules have changed so greatly, specific "topics" that have received a great deal of attention throughout the review and hearing process have been identified for discussion at this meeting. He indicated that it is anticipated that additional opportunities to address other issues will be provided during the May Board meeting. He stated that the discussion topics to be addressed today include: 1) developmental delay; 2) the provision of school social work services; 3) evaluator qualifications for the

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

### AND CLOSED SESSION

April 19, 2000

Page 5

social developmental study; 4) case load for speech-language pathologists; and 5) case load/class size issues.

The meeting recessed for a ten-minute break.

Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel and Division Administrator Jack Shook provided a power-point presentation (Addendum III) entitled "Quality Learning Through Quality Education for All Students." Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Acting Legal Counsel Harry Blackburn commented on the rulemaking process that involves the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) and the monitor's right of review regarding Cory H.

Chairman Gidwitz requested that this issue be put on the Joint Education Committee's agenda. He noted that higher education may be able to help with the severe problems such as speech and language. He also requested information on schools that implement "best practices" and those that don't and inclusion of the information relating to special education rules on the website.

The Chairman requested an independent audit of those speech and language caseloads to identify reporting accuracy.

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

#### Agenda Item D.2.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.2., Standards Implementation, Issues and Plans.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that this agenda item will serve as a follow-up to the March Board meeting and questions asked by Board members relating to standards implementation. He reported that plans for assistance and materials to support standards implementation will be reviewed.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee introduced Dick Miguel, the new Division Administrator in this area.

Deputy Superintendent Lynne Haeffele provided a power-point presentation regarding the support materials that are under development to increase implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards and the related state assessment (Addendum IV).

The Superintendent provided examples.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

AND CLOSED SESSION

April 19, 2000

Page 6

Mr. Serritella requested that we continue to clarify and ground our language of explanation for those who are not close to the subject matter.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that it would be helpful to see end products.

Superintendent McGee stated that he recommends support of continued development of components related to the standards and that necessary resources and staff be devoted to this effort to ensure standards implementation.

The meeting recessed for a short five-minute break.

Agenda  
Item E.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Early Learning -- Progress and Directions.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that at this time, the Board would be addressing a new topic relating to one of its priorities -- early learning. He indicated that materials for this topic were included in the Board members' supplemental packet as well as in the regular Board packet.

Superintendent McGee requested Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato and Division Administrator Kay Henderson to provide their comments that would include a priority progress report for the early learning effort.

Dr. Broncato and Ms. Henderson provided a presentation on the program and learning standards that are available in the 0-8 age range and responded to Board members' questions (Addendum V). Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Mr. Serritella commended staff for their work.

Superintendent McGee stated that he would like the Board to endorse the dissemination of the proposed standards for discussion and field testing.

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

Closed  
Session

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

Motion

Dr. Hill 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



MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY SESSION I

AND CLOSED SESSION

April 19, 2000

Page 7

-- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

He further moved that Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee 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

Mrs. McConachie - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

The meeting recessed at 5:40 p.m. and went into closed session at 5:45 p.m. The closed session took a short break for the Board members to have dinner.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

State Board of Education Office  
Springfield, Illinois  
April 20, 2000

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz  
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

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Roll Call

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

Agenda  
Item B.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Legislative Status Reports.

Staff members Gail Lieberman and Brenda Holmes provided a legislative update on the federal and state levels.

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 reports for the areas of math; reading; academic early warning list; early learning; teacher quality; and standards, assessment and accountability were included in the Board packet this month.

Superintendent McGee explained the addition to the priority reports this month. As requested by the Board in March, the reports now include a cover page that summarizes monthly accomplishments and issues associated with each of the priorities that may impede progress, as well as a statement of Board activity on each priority.

Staff members Mike Dunn, Eunice Greer, and Sheryl Poggi highlighted their efforts.

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY

### SESSIONS II AND III

April 20, 2000

Page 2

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., Learning about the Lincoln/Baldrige in Education Initiative.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that this agenda item was planned by the Board's Strategic Planning Committee (Mrs. McConachie and Mr. Serritella). He asked Mrs. McConachie to introduce the topic.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is charged with the identification of learning opportunities for the Board members. She indicated that with the agency commitment to continuous improvement and to the use of a system like the Lincoln/Baldrige criteria for performance excellence, the Committee and agency staff has planned this next hour. She noted that this is to be a beginning orientation on the topic of continuous improvement and activities associated with the use of the Lincoln/Baldrige criteria. Mrs. McConachie commented that the Committee intends to plan additional learning opportunities and will need to know of the Board members' learning needs in this area.

Superintendent McGee indicated that he was very excited about the potential of the Lincoln/Baldrige in Education initiative and its potential for increasing the collaboration and alignment of the Board's efforts to enhance student and school performance. He noted that the State Board needs to model what it is requesting schools to do in the way of continuous improvement, and the Board needs to work with its partners to do that. He commented that the Board members will find through the presentation content that there are many partners involved in the BiE In Initiative.

Kathy Nicholson-Tosh, Executive Assistant to the State Board, introduced Marie Senioris, Acting Director of the Lincoln Foundation for Business Excellence, a partner organization in the BiE In Initiative.

Ms. Senioris explained the value of participation in the BiE In effort. She indicated that business has found this to improve their processes leading to improved performance. Examples specific to education were highlighted including Brazosport, Texas, and Pinellas County, Florida, citing that student achievement has improved since their implementation of the quality framework.

Ms. Senioris provided an overview of the Lincoln/Baldrige in Education Initiative and the relationship of the Lincoln Criteria for Performance Excellence to that of Baldrige as well as the recognition system differences. She discussed the focus on the need for alignment of systems from the classroom to the state as well as alignment of efforts across sectors. She stated that this is critically important so

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY

### SESSIONS II AND III

April 20, 2000

Page 3

this is not viewed as an "add-on." The seven components of the Lincoln/ Baldrige were highlighted with an emphasis on the fact that this is a results-driven process.

Mr. Serritella acknowledged that goals and alignment are critical, but there is a great deal more to using and modeling the Baldrige framework. He stated that the criteria reflects a true change and revolutionizes the way we will do everything.

Ms. McConachie asked that each Board member identify their views and needs for additional information. Discussion followed for clarification purposes. There were some concerns expressed regarding exactly what this would involve, i.e. staff time, and direct costs.

Questions regarding the status of this effort and our current commitment were raised by Board members. Superintendent McGee indicated that we are committed to continuous improvement. We are reviewing the way we pursue continuous improvement and would like to continue the discussion after the April 27-28 seminar on Performance Excellence.

Chairman Gidwitz reiterated the fact that we have submitted an application to the National Alliance of Business indicating that we would participate in the BiE In effort. Resources have been committed to the effort.

Ms. Senioris indicated that the questions of the Board were not at all unusual. She indicated that education and training about this framework is essential and encouraged participation in the April 27 and 28 seminar and other training to assist in the change process.

Ms. McConachie and Mr. Serritella encouraged the Board members to read the materials regarding the Lincoln/Baldrige initiative and the Criteria for Performance Excellence that was included in their packets. They also indicated that the members would be called to identify additional information and learning experiences they would need in order to understand the system criteria as well as the continuous improvement process.

The meeting recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

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

#### Agenda Item B.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B.1., Teacher Quality Issues, Assessment for the Standard Certificate.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that during the March Board meeting, the State Board discussed the issue of assessment for new teachers. He noted that this agenda

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY

### SESSIONS II AND III

April 20, 2000

Page 4

item would provide time for discussion about the standard examination -- moving from initial to standard certification.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee indicated that this is the first opportunity the Board has had to discuss the examination related to acquiring a standard certificate. He stated that this is not a conversation about another assessment but a conversation about how we can improve student learning through the improvement of teaching quality. He clarified that there is some misunderstanding of the origin of this mandate and that some believe this is a mandate of the State Board of Education. The Superintendent stated that while this is a good idea, the mandate is one of the General Assembly and that we are required to do assessment for the standard certificate. He commented that this is a highly complex issue and has critical implications for teachers after they have been employed. He noted that the need to proceed cautiously and thoughtfully cannot be stressed enough.

Staff members Frank Llano, Rob Sampson, and Pat Glenn were introduced. Frank Llano, Deputy Superintendent of Teacher Quality, provided background on this issue and highlighted the four questions that would be addressed in deliberating assessment for the standard certificate.

- 1) What is or should be the purpose of assessing a new teacher during the first few years of teaching?
- 2) What standards should be assessed and at what level?
- 3) What types of examinations are available?
- 4) What are the legal and procedural implications of assessing candidates for the Standard Certificate?

Frank Llano introduced Jean Miller, Director of the Interstate New Teachers Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC), who provided a national perspective of performance assessment (Addendum II). She discussed the INTASC portfolio assessment model and the required components of that portfolio. Ms. Miller addressed issues associated with implementing a similar system in relation to the issues raised in the Board packet paper.

Chairman Gidwitz left the meeting at 1:50 p.m., and Secretary McConachie took over as chair of the meeting.

Dr. Steiner left the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

## MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY

### SESSIONS II AND III

April 20, 2000

Page 5

Discussion followed in relation to the four identified issues. Mr. Serritella stated a desire to actually see and review an INTASC portfolio to assist in the Board deliberations.

Mrs. McConachie called attention to the four options relating to assessment for the Standard certificate presented in the Board packet (p. 4-15) and asked each Board member for additional questions. She indicated that discussion on this topic would continue during the May Board meeting.

Secretary McConachie and Superintendent McGee thanked Jean Miller for being present and for her overview.

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

#### Agenda Item B.2.

Secretary McConachie called for Agenda Item B.2., Teacher Quality Issues, Recruitment to the Teaching Profession.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that during the past several meetings, issues associated with teacher and administrator shortages in Illinois have surfaced.

Superintendent McGee reported that as illustrated in the Board packet, there are many efforts underway to address the issue of teacher and administrator recruitment. He requested Division Administrator Mike Long to join him.

The Superintendent shared information from TRS relating to teacher retirement eligibility figures and projections for retirement over the next few years (Addendum III).

Mr. Long provided an overview of considerations necessary to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing the teacher and administrator shortages. He identified that the Recruitment Advisory Panel report is due in the fall with a preliminary report coming to the Board in June.

Superintendent McGee requested Lee Patton, Deputy Superintendent of Policy and Planning, to review the plan for collecting data on teacher recruitment. Ms. Patton reviewed the three- step plan in response to the Board's request at past meetings for data improvement.

- 1) Identify the kinds of information we need to have;
- 2) Determine how we can collect the data in ways that are valid and reliable and do not place unnecessary burden on the schools to gather; and
- 3) Compiling the data in a data warehouse.

MINUTES OF WORK-STUDY

SESSIONS II AND III

April 20, 2000

Page 6

Ms. Patton provided an overview of past and future meetings to address the topic of establishing a data warehouse, indicating that next week a meeting would be convened to begin the data base discussion.

Mrs. McConachie requested information on the shortage in special education. Superintendent McGee responded that this shortage is being studied particularly in reference to the issue of caps on the enrollment of individuals in teacher preparation programs for special education.

The Superintendent stated that this is an issue that needs to be addressed across the board. Efforts to recruit students for the teaching profession at the middle and high school levels are underway. Funds for alternative certification have been budgeted. Superintendent McGee informed the Board of three grants that we are trying to coordinate: the Garrett Grant, Teacher Quality Grant, and a Technology Grant. All are focused on sending students to college.

Dr. Hill left at 2:47 p.m.

Agenda

Item C.

Secretary McConachie called for Agenda Item C., Other Business.

Mrs. McConachie announced that the May 17-18 Board meeting would be held at the Matteson Holiday Inn.

Adjournment Secretary McConachie adjourned the meeting at 2:50 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  
April 20, 2000

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz  
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

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Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 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. Gomez would not be in attendance at this meeting due to business commitments, and Ms. Pellegrino was also unable to attend.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the March 15-16, 2000, meetings of the State Board. Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion, and it passed with 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.

Steve Lu, a parent whose daughter attends Peoria Christian School (PCS), noted that his wife spoke to the Board the last two months regarding a form of discrimination. PCS does not allow women to serve on its board of education. Mr. Lu indicated that when talking with parents at PCS, it was said that the fear was that having women on the board would in some manner hurt the camaraderie that currently existed on the board. He reported that from a legal standpoint, an official board response was sent to all parents of PCS indicating that the board has not taken an official position. Mr. Lu commented that according to the charter of the school, the board is supposedly the spiritual headship of the school. He noted that therefore if there is a religious reason that women cannot be on the board, the time to bring this issue to the fore would have been when the official document was sent out.



## MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 2

Mr. Lu reported that in the constitution of the school, it is a matter of democracy (they vote). He indicated that he believes that the laws of Illinois say that racial and gender discrimination cannot exist. He expressed hope that the State Board would be able to address this issue after the Board has had time to deal with the facts.

Lonnie Johns explained how he thought the Board got into the situation it is in regarding Cory H. He commented that the Board consistently failed to defend itself and to tell the truth about Cory H. and its surrounding issues, quoting from the judge's opinion and the fact sheet on H.B.558, the Board's proposal on the special education funding formula. He indicated that many educators no longer believe much of the information they receive from the State Board, and that affects the Board in standards, testing, and all of its initiatives. Mr. Johns noted that the Board's special education department is meeting next week with the four federally-funded parent and training information centers to coordinate their efforts on the LRE policy statement which the Board still has not adopted. He commented that this presents a real problem for the State Board.

Dr. Susan Shea, representing the IEA, made the following comments.

1. Regarding special education, the IEA supports social workers doing the social developmental study. They support the reduction of the caseload of speech and language pathologists. They support the reporting of whether a student is considered to be in a self-contained or instructional classroom. They suggest that the Board report this to the federal government at 60 but that the Board keep the threshold in Illinois at 50 for the determination of a class-size setting in the classrooms. They urged the Board to adopt the developmental delay and not to be worried about the fact that it cannot mandate districts to deliver services in a developmentally delayed program, because services are not the same in every school district as it is today.
2. Regarding Round Lake, they were shocked and disturbed at the comments that were made -- "State Board provide a liaison for the district to communicate with during the negotiation process." Dr. Shea asked if this is something that will be expected in each of the negotiations across the state. She commented that in East St. Louis and Mt. Morris districts, contract negotiations went on as they should without the State Board's intervention until the very end.
3. Regarding the union of Round Lake, President Kim Kearby was an observer at the board meeting when they passed the resolution but not a participant. He would like to be at the table and a participant.
4. Regarding Eunice Greer's report, Dr. Shea volunteered to get the information out to the reading teachers.

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 3

5. Regarding the assessment for the standard teaching certificate, the IEA is very interested in that process and participating very actively in what becomes the assessment to that process.

Donna Baiocchi, Executive Director of ED-RED, reported that on April 19, the Board heard a summarization of the special education rules commentary, and she indicated that ED-RED remains concerned about the proposed special education rules. She commented that from the analysis, there is not one reference to their testimony in the summary that the Board received. Ms. Baiocchi urged the Board members that when they read the content of the staff summary to remember that large organizations like ED-RED and IAASE provided very deliberate comments reflective of a very wide membership. She suggested that the Board ask staff to provide a summary of what their organizations said. She expressed hope that a copy of ED-Red's testimony on the proposed rules, which she distributed to the Board members, would be given some consideration.

Ms. Baiocchi asked if there would be an opportunity prior to the May Board meeting to review the final recommendations that the Board would receive.

Chairman Gidwitz asked the Superintendent to comment on the issue of adequately reflecting the testimony.

Superintendent McGee acknowledged receipt of ED-RED's testimony and apologized that it was not included in the summary. He noted that he would check into that and stated that perhaps the summary could have reflected more clearly the number of organizations that weighed in.

The Chairman indicated that he would like to know if it was consistent with what is stated in the summary. Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel responded that a more detailed summary can be provided with a breakdown of each area in the document and put out to the side the various organizations that did provide comment. Chairman Gidwitz noted that it would be nice to know where the large organizations stand.

Dr. Riffel indicated that the final recommendations would be sent to the Board within two weeks, and then in the May meeting, the Board would be asked to take final action.

Bonnie Reinhart, director of Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative and also representing the Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE), indicated that she felt compelled after the April 19 excellent presentation to share with the Board some of the thoughts that were not included in the commentary, especially those regarding the social developmental study. She reported that their organization submitted one testimony, and they felt very strongly that the social developmental study can very appropriately be completed by guidance

## MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 4

counselors, psychologists, and even perhaps by nurses. She noted that the comments that were in the summary reflected the social workers; the other example is speech and language pathologists.

Ms. Reinhart reported that IAASE would like to lower caseloads; however, they cannot find pathologists at this time. She indicated that another area that concerned them is the Illinois rules exceeding the federal rules and how those pieces that exceed the federal rules will be handled. She noted that because their sample return of a survey was so small, they could not reach consensus on developmental delay, so they recommended that the State Board provide research indicating how going to other age would be of benefit. A copy of the IAASE testimony on the proposed special education rules was distributed to Board members.

### Agenda Item D.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.1., Items for Immediate Action, Round Lake Financial Plan.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that on April 19, the State Board discussed the Round Lake financial picture and the need to take action at this meeting on their financial plan as amended. He acknowledged that the representatives from Round Lake were in the audience.

Superintendent McGee noted that the request for a financial oversight panel that was received on Monday evening was appreciated, but the Board would not be acting on that request at this meeting.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the FY2000 amended plan as well as the 2001 and FY2002 amended plans with the following conditions:

- Adhere to approved financial plans;
- Provide quarterly financial reports during FY2001 and FY2002; and
- Submit an updated financial report at least fourteen days prior to the Board's approval of any proposed collective bargaining agreement. Superintendent McGee noted that he did not want to participate in collective bargaining, but the financial future of the Round Lake District educational programs and services, which impact thousands of students, will depend on the ability to fund programs and services.
- If Round Lake wishes to petition the State Board for the appointment of a financial oversight panel and emergency financial assistance, we would like to see that petition and consider that at the May Board meeting.

### Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the amended Fiscal Year 2000 financial plan and the amended Fiscal Year 2001 and Fiscal Year 2002 financial plan submitted by Round Lake Area Schools -- District 116 pursuant to Section 1A-8 of the School Code.

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 5

As part of this approval, the State Board of Education directs the Board of Education of Round Lake Area Schools -- District 116 to:

1. Strictly adhere to the approved financial plans. Neither expenditures pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement nor any other expenditures by the board of education during the years covered by the approved plans shall exceed the expenditure levels approved in these plans.
2. Provide quarterly financial reports during FY2001 and FY2002 displaying revenues and expenditures to date for each operating fund, as well as estimates of revenues and expenditures for each operating fund for the remaining period covered by the approved plan.
3. Submit an updated financial report at least fourteen days prior to the board's approval of any proposed collective bargaining agreement. The report shall indicate the estimated expenditures under the agreement and shall show how those estimated expenditures conform to the FY2001 and FY2002 financial plan approved by the State Board of Education.
4. In addition, if the board of education wishes to petition the State Board of Education for the appointment of a Financial Oversight Panel and for emergency financial assistance, and to have the petition considered at the State Board's May meeting, the board of education is directed to submit an appropriate resolution to the State Board of Education by May 1, 2000."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

Vote on  
Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Gidwitz thanked the representatives from Round Lake District for attending the meeting, and he indicated that the Board would get back to them regarding the oversight panel. He noted that he was sure that Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey would be in close contact with the District in the meantime.

Agenda  
Item D.2.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.2., Items for Immediate Action, Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE).

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last month the Board heard about the PSAE and the proposed direction for embedding national college admissions and work place skills tests in the Prairie State Achievement Exam.

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 6

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that since the last Board meeting, we have discussed this concept with a variety of groups and individuals. He indicated that he met with presidents and chancellors from universities around the state at a Board of Higher Education meeting, and he received very positive support from that organization. He recommended that the Board endorse this direction for the development of the Prairie State Achievement Exam and the allocation of resources to accomplish this task.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby endorses the concept of national college admissions and work place skills tests being embedded in the Prairie State Achievement Examination.

Furthermore, the State Board directs the Superintendent to invest the resources necessary in accomplishing this design in time for the first 2001 test administration."

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

Vote on  
Motion

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda  
Item D.3.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.3., Items for Immediate Action, Board Expenses.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Board expenses needed approval by the full Board.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the expenses of Board members presented in the April 2000 quarterly report (on file at the State Board office in Springfield)."

Mrs. Rogers 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

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Agenda  
Item E.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E., Items for Future Action. There were none.

Agenda  
Item F.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F.1., Announcements and Reports, Chairman. There was nothing to report at this time.

## MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 7

### Agenda Item F.2.

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

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that the State Board is continuing to provide a variety of safe school/violence prevention training opportunities for school personnel. He noted that this is one of the topics that the Student Advisory Council would be reporting on at the May Board meeting. He also noted that a flyer was distributed to Board members' places which describes the programs that are being offered this summer.

The Superintendent indicated that the Board's staff is working with staff from the Attorney General's office, the State Police, the Violence Prevention Authority, and others to review needs and develop recommendations for changes to the current State Board "Safe School Plan." He commented that the process will be aligned with the work of a new safe school task force created by a legislative resolution, which was also distributed to Board members.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that he has recently been promising a more user-friendly, customer-oriented State Board of Education, and he has been talking with staff about communicating that message. He recognized the special accomplishments and achievements of several staff members.

- Bonnie Douglas, Alison Harbour, Sally Tudor, Myron Mason -- for their customer service to school districts.
- Susan Weitekamp -- for not just answering questions, but asking what the State Board could do to help the school district get where they need to go.
- Shirley Ward -- for assisting ROE #13 in a friendly and courteous manner.
- Cheri Kennedy, Gail Buoy, Sharryon Dunbar, Nancy Christensen -- for their participation in various site visits.
- Randy Johnson, Eunice Greer, Mike Dunn, Kay Henderson, Pat Poole, Don Full, Stacy Maruska, May Nunn, Kim Knauer, Lynne Haeffele -- for their presentations that have been given across the state.
- Gayle Johnson and especially Charlie Williams (who was able to put the State Board over the top on the required percentage) -- for being able to find 70 percent of our sample to participate in an assessment for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The Superintendent noted that one of the first things that he did in his first month on the job was to work hard to get Illinois into NAEP.
- Al Christian, John Rogado, Lisa Maher, Jay Grimes, Mary Chlystek -- for the fine work of the Board's auditors.
- Dan Dixon -- for his work with family technology consortium.
- Cindy Zumwalt -- for being named president of the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity.

## MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 8

### Agenda Item F.3.

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

Mrs. McConachie reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has two charges at this time: one is helping the Board members learn about the Lincoln/Baldrige system and continuous improvement and the other is to devise a business plan for the Board -- to run the Board's actual work. She reviewed a model for the Board members and asked for their feedback. She noted that in May, she would like to know if there are other core functions that the Board should serve, whether those listed are well stated, or something that the Board should not be focusing on. Mrs. McConachie also called attention to the "Effectiveness Measures" and indicated that the Board would also discuss that issue further in May.

Kathy Nicholson-Tosh, the Executive Assistant to the State Board, explained a colored chart that is an example of a format that Mr. Serritella developed to be used for the Board's priority monthly reports.

Mrs. Rogers suggested that a date be included on each month's reports.

Mr. Serritella indicated that he thought it was important in the Board's plan to do this for all strategies, if not by May -- by the Annual Work Conference in June. He noted that this would allow the Board to see how many strategies it is trying to drive.

Dr. Hill asked if Mrs. McConachie had discussed the last two pages with Ms. Pellegrino as chair of the Board Operations Committee. Mrs. McConachie responded that the document was now ready for discussion and feedback.

Mrs. McConachie reported that on April 18, the Joint Education Committee met, and there were three topics of special concern to the Board. She noted that probably the biggest one is the virtual high school, which the Governor talked about in his state-of-the-state speech. She indicated that the Board of Higher Education (BHE) has taken a lot of leadership in helping put together efforts toward establishing the Illinois virtual high school.

Mrs. McConachie commented that the State Board has been very much involved in the planning, trying to figure out what a virtual high school would be. She reported that there are some really important questions to be decided about -- if there was a statewide, virtual high school that offered credit courses over the internet, who is in charge; who hires teachers; who governs the operations; who decides what counts for credit at all of the different schools and how much credit; who decides what qualifies the teachers in the courses; and who manages and administers the program. She noted that they will be controversial with educators and the public, and there is a lot of response to the consumer market.

## MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 9

Mrs. McConachie indicated that the JEC asked to have some research done about how virtual high schools are managed in other states and asked for policy proposals and options -- pros and cons -- and asked for research on the governance issue. She noted that the JEC is established by statute, but it is not a governance body in the same sense as the boards involved are. She reported that the May 15 JEC agenda includes discussion of where the responsibility should lie for the virtual high school and who has which roles and responsibilities. Mrs. McConachie asked Board members to make sure that they look at the disk that Associate Superintendent Bill Conrad provided with the analysis of what is going on with virtual high schools in other places.

Dr. Hill indicated that staff of Lakeland College was quite thrilled with the commitment of the JEC, and he was excited about moving this issue forward. He noted that he thought that was some feedback that Mrs. McConachie would want.

Mrs. McConachie commented that the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) has been very interested also, and she thought that they had not sorted out who is offering what over the virtual high school. She indicated that the JEC is very interested, and she expected that a significant amount of the authority and responsibility would come back to the State Board since it is a high school activity.

Mrs. McConachie reported that secondly, regarding the report card on higher education institutions (how are their teacher preparation programs doing), Deputy Superintendent Lee Patton provided information to the JEC that those efforts are moving forward and being synchronized better than they had been in the past.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the third piece of particular concern to the Board was subsequent action on the Prairie State. She noted that in addition to university presidents and chancellors, who the Superintendent had mentioned earlier, the State Board and staff would also be talking with people at the community college level. She indicated that she believed there was an agreement that the BHE, the ICCB, and the Workforce Investment Board will endorse the Prairie State just as the State Board did today.

Mrs. McConachie commented that there are a number of policy implications for those boards to work on that they need then to go to their constituents about. She noted that there was some question about whether the Prairie State would be ready for 2001 and that we need to make sure everyone understands that. She indicated that one of the higher education individuals said that we have to wait to see what the predictability is of the Prairie State -- is it going to predict how students do in college, and Chairman Gidwitz had pointed out that the ACT is a significant percentage of the Prairie State.

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



MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

April 20, 2000

Page 10

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

Dr. Steiner reported that she attended a conference on standards and assessment that was sponsored by the National School Conference Institute. She indicated that there were outstanding speakers, and it was a very worthwhile Conference.

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

Chairman Gidwitz announced that the May 17-18 Board meeting would be held at the Matteson Holiday Inn (located at the intersection of I-57 and Highway 30).

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman