

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sheraton Hotel and Towers*

301 E. North Water Street

Chicago, Illinois

and

Chicago Thompson Center*

100 West Randolph

Chicago, Illinois

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA

November 15-16, 2000

WEDNESDAY, November 15

12:30 p.m.

LUNCH

Colorado Room – Level 2
Sheraton Hotel and Towers

2:00 p.m.

WORK-STUDY SESSION I

Superior Room – Level 2
Sheraton Hotel and Towers

- A. [Technology Plan Update](#)
- B. [1996 K-12 Information Technology Plan
\(PowerPoint Presentation\)](#)
- C. Virtual High School Update
 - 1. [Cover](#)
 - 2. [Virtual High School](#)
- D. Board Priority Reports (under separate cover)

5:30 p.m.

DINNER

Missouri Room – Level 2
Sheraton Hotel and Towers

7:00 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closed Meeting

V-tel Conference Room – 14th Floor
Chicago Thompson Center

THURSDAY, November 16

7:30 a.m. BREAKFAST
Colorado Room - Level 2
Sheraton Hotel and Towers

9:00 a.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION II
V-tel Conference Room – 14th Floor
Chicago Thompson Center

- A. [Special Education Due Process](#)
- B. Teacher Assessment
 - 1. [Cover](#)
 - 2. [Teacher Assessment](#)
- C. FY 2002 Budget and Legislative Initiatives
 - 1. [Cover](#)
 - 2. [Alternative Learning Opportunities Legislation Overview](#)

12:00 p.m. LUNCH

2:00 p.m. PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
V-tel Conference Room – 14th Floor

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes: October 18-19, 2000

[MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSIONS I and II and CLOSED MEETING \(October 18\)](#)

[MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION III \(October 19\)](#)

[MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING \(October 19\)](#)

- C. Public Participation
- D. Items for Future Action
 - 1. FY 2002 Budget and Legislative Initiatives

[Cover](#)

[Alternative Learning Opportunities Legislation Overview](#)

E. Information Items

1. Federal Relations Report

[Cover](#)

[Federal Relations Report](#)

2. Schoolhouse Visit Summary Report
(under separate cover)

F. Announcements and Reports

1. Chairman

2. Superintendent

- Lincoln/Baldrige Update
- ILSI Website Demonstration

3. Committees

4. Board Members

G. Adjourn

INFORMATION ITEM

* All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities

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

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

Sheraton Hotel and Towers and
James. R. Thompson Center
Chicago, Illinois
November 15-16, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz*
Marjorie B. Branch

William E. Hill
Marilyn McConachie

Connie Rogers
Vincent J. Serritella

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino, Janet Steiner

Roll Call

In the absence of Chairman Gidwitz and Vice Chair Pellegrino, the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the Secretary, Mrs. McConachie, 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 and Superintendent McGee were connected to the meeting by phone.)

Mrs. McConachie asked Mrs. Rogers to act as Secretary pro tem for the meeting.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that Chairman Gidwitz and the State Superintendent were in Springfield, so they could be available during the Veto Session. She noted that they would be joining the meeting by phone. She reported that on November 16, they would be joining the rest of the Board members in Chicago over video-conference from the Thompson Center, and Dr. Steiner would be in Springfield.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that Ms. Pellegrino, and Mr. Gomez were not present due to business conflicts. She noted that Dr. Steiner also had a conflict on November 15 but would be joining the Board meeting on November 16.

Technology
Plan

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item A., Technology Plan Update.

Mrs. McConachie reported that during the next hour or so the Board would be discussing the status of the State Technology Plan that is under revision for implementation in 2001. She noted that this update was requested by the Board during the September meeting.

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Mrs. McConachie introduced Vicki DeWitt and Kathy Bjelland, Directors of Area 4 and 5 Learning Technology Hubs.

(Chairman Gidwitz and Superintendent M^CGee joined the meeting by phone at 2:10 p.m.)

Ms. DeWitt and Ms. Bjelland provided a status report on the Illinois Technology Plan – where they are in development and the methods and scope used for gathering input, as well as a preview of the issues that will be addressed.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and input from Board members.

The Superintendent reported that we are planning to discuss the draft plan during the December Board meeting and, following the final round of input and reaction from Technology Coalition members, take final action on the Plan in February.

Mrs. McConachie introduced Carmen Chapman-Pfeiffer, the newly appointed Deputy Superintendent for Standards, Assessment, and Accountability.

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

Virtual High
School

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item B., Virtual High School Update.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that at this time, the Board would spend a few minutes obtaining an update on the Illinois Virtual High School activities, an initiative proposed by Governor Ryan last January.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that during the August Board meeting, a policy framework for planning the Illinois Virtual High School was adopted by the Board. He indicated that at that time, the Board requested updates as activities progressed.

Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato and Division Administrator Brad Woodruff provided an update regarding related activities.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

The Superintendent noted that we plan to return in December or January to provide an in-depth session on this initiative.

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

Priority
Reports

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item C., Board Priority Reports.

Superintendent M^CGee reviewed the progress related to the following priority areas.

- Math/Reading
- Standards, Assessment, and Accountability
- Quality Educators
- Early Learning
- AEWL/System of Support

There was a brief discussion with staff representing the different areas.

The meeting recessed at 4:00 p.m. and reconvened at 4:10 p.m. (Chairman Gidwitz left the meeting at this time.)

The Superintendent indicated that we plan to have a complete report on the System of Support in December.

Mr. Serritella requested that at a future meeting, the Board have a report on THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES for all-day kindergarten .

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

Mrs. McConachie asked for a motion for the Board to go into closed session.

Closed
Session

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

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

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

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Vote on
Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes
Dr. Hill - yes

Mrs. McConachie - yes
Mrs. Rogers - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

The meeting recessed at 4:35 p.m. and reconvened in closed session at 6:40 p.m. at the James R. Thompson Center. The closed session recessed at 9:30 p.m. and reconvened on November 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment Mrs. McConachie adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rogers, Secretary pro tem

Marilyn McConachie, Chair pro tem

MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSION II
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
State Board Offices (through video-conference)
Chicago and Springfield, Illinois
November 16, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marilyn McConachie
Marjorie B. Branch

William E. Hill
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella
Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz, David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

Roll Call

In the absence of Chairman Gidwitz and Vice Chair Pellegrino, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Secretary, Mrs. McConachie, 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.
(Dr. Steiner joined the meeting at 9:13 a.m.)

Mrs. McConachie asked Mrs. Rogers to act as Secretary pro tem for the meeting.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that Mr. Gidwitz, Ms. Pellegrino, and Mr. Gomez were not present due to business conflicts. She noted that Dr. Steiner would be joining the meeting in Springfield over V-tel.

Spec. Ed.

Due Process Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item A., Special Education Due Process.

Superintendent McGee reported that the intent of this next item is simply to share a special education cooperative and local district perspective on their experience in implementing and applying impartial due process related to a special education hearing. He indicated that this experience came to his attention this fall and stimulated the question – “Do we need to review the Board’s procedures for impartial due process?”

David Peterson, Superintendent of the Northern Suburban Special Education District, and Mark Van Clay, Superintendent of Lake Bluff District #65, shared their perspective on this issue.

Gordon Riffel, Deputy Superintendent for Special Education, shared some data regarding the implementation of impartial due process statewide to assist the Board in answering that question.

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Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

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

Teacher

Assessment Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item B., Teacher Assessment.

Mrs. McConachie reported that during the October Board meeting, the Board requested staff to review existing teacher assessments that relate to Illinois standards and that might have applicability to a more rigorous basic skills test for all future teachers.

Superintendent M^CGee shared a strategy for completing this review.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

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

The meeting recessed at 9:55 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Mrs. McConachie announced that the Board would adjust the afternoon schedule and begin taking individuals who would like to speak during Public Participation at 1:30 p.m.

Budget/ Legislative

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item C., FY 2002 Budget and Legislative Initiatives.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that in preparation for Board action in December on its FY 2002 budget and priority legislative initiatives, the Board would spend the next two hours reviewing and discussing these items.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that during the October Board meeting, the Board briefly discussed the proposed legislative initiatives of induction and mentoring, the School Designation System, health/life safety, the reading block grant, and alternative learning opportunities. He recommended that the Board begin with a review of the following three of the five priorities. He noted that we plan to discuss the other two priorities in-depth in December.

- Alternative learning opportunities
- Reading
- Health/life safety

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David Wood, Assistant Chief Deputy Superintendent, reviewed the proposed budget, and various staff provided specific information.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

Richard Fairgrievies, Regional Superintendent for Boone and Winnebago Counties, shared the perspective on budget issues and/or concerns from the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (see Addendum II).

Board members would provide Mr. Wood with their comments on the draft budget book.

Superintendent M^CGee summarized the item by indicating that we would continue to move forward with each legislative priority reviewed at this meeting.

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

Adjournment Mrs. McConachie adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rogers, Secretary pro tem

Marilyn McConachie, Chair pro tem

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
State Board Offices (through video-conference)
Chicago and Springfield, Illinois
November 16, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marilyn McConachie
Marjorie B. Branch

William E. Hill
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella
Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz, David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

Mrs. McConachie convened the afternoon session at 1:30 p.m., and she indicated that the Plenary Session would officially begin at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

In the absence of Chairman Gidwitz and Vice Chair Pellegrino, the Secretary, Mrs. McConachie, asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (Ms. Branch joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.)

Mrs. McConachie asked Mrs. Rogers to act as Secretary pro tem for the meeting.

Public Participation

Mrs. McConachie indicated that during the Plenary Session later that day, the Board would hear from members of the public who wish to speak to the Board. She indicated that there was an individual who was willing to speak to the Board at that time, and his testimony would be recorded and entered into the minutes.

David Jordan, Superintendent of Bethel School District #82 in Mt. Vernon, commented that the purpose of his presentation is to ask the State Board to reconsider a residency issue that has been imposed upon the District. He gave the background of the issue. He indicated that the Bethel School District is asking the State Board to reconsider the payback in general state aid, and he offered a few points for the Board's consideration.

1. Completely forgive the entire amount and reinstate money that has already been withheld. This should be strongly considered if other districts are not going to be audited for the same practice of allowing non-resident students. **ALL DISTRICTS SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY.**
2. The District has already had \$43,043.82 withheld from state aid payments. We are suggesting that repayment be continued until the last payment in December. After that time, full state aid would be reinstated. This would

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amount to \$71,739.80 reduction in general state aid, which would still be a very stiff penalty.

3. Apply the payback only to the 1998-99 school year. This is the largest year of the audit with an adjustment of \$250,158; it is also the year in which accusations have been made about recruiting students to get over the 200 enrollment figure to be eligible for a construction grant.
4. If no reconsideration can be given, at least allow the payback period to be extended beyond the established three years.

Mrs. McConachie responded that the Board would consider Mr. Jordan's statements; however, the State Board would like to express that it is the Board's responsibility as state officials to enforce the law. She indicated that the Board is charged with ensuring compliance with the Illinois School Code, which provides for the eligibility and disbursements of school funds. She commented that the State Board takes its responsibilities very seriously, and it has the obligation to collect all funds that any school district receives in violation of the Illinois School Code.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that the State Board cannot take Mr. Jordan's request lightly. She noted that in addition to the Board's statutory responsibilities, it must also deal fairly with other school districts that receive school funds in compliance with the School Code.

Mr. Jordan commented that he was not questioning the State Board's responsibility to the Code. He reiterated that if the Board required every district in the state to go through that same time period with a residency audit, there would be many more districts found in the same situation as Bethel School District.

Mrs. McConachie thanked Mr. Jordan for participating in the meeting and indicated that the Board would get back to him on this issue.

Federal Relations

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item E., Information Items, Federal Relations Report.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that in keeping with the Board request at the October meeting, Gail Lieberman, Director of the Federal Relations Office, has prepared a more extensive report on the federal activity this month.

Ms. Lieberman provided an update of current events relating to Congress and the federal government and shared a summary report on federal funding (see Addendum II). She reported that five bids were received in response to an RFSP concerning contracting with a Washington-based firm for the Illinois education boards, and interviews will be conducted. She indicated that at the December Board meeting, the Board would need to take action regarding the 2001-2002 contract for a firm. There was a brief discussion during the presentation for clarification purposes.

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Superintendent M^CGee commended Ms. Lieberman for her efforts. He commented that we pride ourselves on customer service, and the feedback that he received from the Chief State School Officers and the Congressional delegation was very positive. Mrs. McConachie and Dr. Hill also commended Ms. Lieberman for her excellent work.

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

Plenary Session

Mrs. McConachie officially convened the Plenary Business Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that Mr. Gidwitz, Ms. Pellegrino, and Mr. Gomez were not present due to business conflicts.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the October 18-19, 2000, meetings of the State Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item C., Public Participation. The following individual spoke to the Board.

Heidi Biederman, representing the Large Unit District Association (LUDA), presented the Board members with the LUDA Education and Finance Plan which was developed over several months with a task force headed by Dr. Robert Nielsen, Superintendent of Bloomington School District #87 and a member of the Education Funding Advisory Board. She indicated that they believe that this Plan will serve any and every child regardless of where they happen to live in the state, and it is a long-term, comprehensive funding plan clearly aligned with the Illinois Standards. She commented that she hoped the Board would take this Plan into consideration.

Ms. Biederman also presented the Board with a copy of LUDA's "Profiles In Excellence," a booklet that provides one page for each of the 54 LUDA districts and their outstanding accomplishments. She noted that they do this to provide a balance to the all-too-frequent negative commentary regarding public education and public schools.

Ms. Biederman indicated that she thought the State Board, LUDA, and the entire education community were working more collaboratively than they ever have before and then commented on some of the activities.

Mrs. McConachie noted that since Ms. Biederman has been a leader at LUDA and especially in the last five years or so, it has been highly beneficial for the State

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Board to collaborate with LUDA, and she thought the leadership has been exceptional. She thanked Ms. Biederman and her organization for the quality of work that they are doing and the work they are doing with the State Board.

Ms. Biederman commented that she believed it was the shared commitment of all of those involved in education that will get us beyond our issues and differences and make compromises and come to decisions that are in the best interest of the children and public education in Illinois.

Budget/

Legislative Initiatives

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item D., Items for Future Action, FY 2002 Budget, Legislative Initiatives.

Mrs. McConachie reported that earlier that day the Board discussed the FY 2002 budget and the legislative initiatives for action during the spring. She indicated that a motion would be presented for action at the December Board meeting, and the Board would be reviewing additional materials between now and then.

ICN Network Rep.

Mrs. McConachie called for the General Consent Agenda, ICN Network Policy Committee (not on published agenda).

Mrs. McConachie reported that the Superintendent has recommended that Deputy Superintendent Lugene Finley be appointed as the representative to the ICN Network Policy Committee and that David Wood, Assistant Chief Deputy Superintendent, be appointed as backup. Hearing no objections, she indicated that these appointments were approved.

Information Items

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item E., Information Items, Schoolhouse Visit Summary Report.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that he had the privilege to attend 28 Schoolhouse Meetings, and although he was the featured speaker, the real important people were the supporting staff. He indicated that a PTA representative spoke at each Meeting about the importance of the Standards for parents and why parents should think about these seriously and get to know them well. He noted that at most Meetings, someone talked about the Learning Standards, teaching a little lesson and giving an example of a test.

Kim Knauer, Director of the Communications Office, highlighted the common themes of the Schoolhouse Meetings Summary report.

- School Finance
- Standards, Assessment and Accountability
- Quality Educators
- Special Education

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- Student Concerns
- Other Issues

Ms. Knauer reported that there are 17 additional Schoolhouse Meetings planned for the spring. She indicated that the Meetings have been valuable to staff in terms of the issues and perspectives that they have brought from local citizens, parents, and students. She noted that the Meetings have also been extremely effective in taking the message of the State Board into the communities, showing people that we are really a group of passionate, caring individuals who want to help the schools and children.

The Superintendent reported on the follow-up for each of the common themes.

- School Finance -- The testimony and information on funding was basically given to the Funding Advisory Board. The conversation that the Board had earlier in the day, especially the general state aid, would not have happened if we had not received the input from our constituents.
- Standards, Assessment and Accountability -- We responded immediately with the mailing to superintendents across the state about dealing with the mechanics of giving the Prairie State Achievement Exam.
- Quality Educators -- There is an increase in money in the Board's budget for national board professional certified teachers. There will be legislation for mentoring and induction. At the TRS level, a subcommittee was convened to see what can be done to keep people in the profession who want to stay in the profession a little bit longer rather than giving incentives to drive them out.
- Special Education -- There needs to be more face-to-face training.
- Student Concerns -- There were students who testified from agricultural education, and we will see how that has impacted our line items directly in December. We also heard from students from the workforce programs. They will be pleased with some of the recommendations that we are making as well. We were able to take the information and use it.

Superintendent M^CGee and Ms. Knauer briefly commented on a few of the Meetings.

Mrs. McConachie asked when the Board would have the report from the School Ambassador Program. The Superintendent responded that the Program concludes on November 18, and he commended staff for the terrific job they had done. He indicated that there would be a wrap-up report in December or January.

Mrs. McConachie suggested that we might consider these efforts as part of the Board's Annual Report. She noted that she could not think of another state agency that is doing the extraordinary amount of customer contact work that the

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State Board is. She commented that if the Board would like to be an exemplary agency for the state, there is a model activity in both of these efforts.

Mrs. McConachie thanked Ms. Knauer and her staff for the extraordinary amount of effort they put into the Schoolhouse Meetings.

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

Chairman Report

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item F.1., Announcements and Reports, Chairman. There was nothing to report.

Supt. Report

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item F.2., Announcements and Reports, Superintendent: Lincoln/Baldrige Update, ILSI Website Demonstration.

Superintendent M^CGee noted that the ILSI Website demonstration would follow this Plenary Business Meeting.

The Superintendent reported that in early November, staff members Mike Dunn, Mary Jayne Broncato, Marilyn Holt, Ray Schaljo, and Kathy Nicholson-Tosh attended a training session on Lincoln/Baldrige at Motorola. He indicated that there was some terrific feedback, and they developed an agency timeline from January through August 2001 for engaging staff.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the Employee Summit groups have been working on agenda items that were raised at the Summit related to continuous improvement -- internal communications, customer service, marketing, tearing down silos, and resource equity. He indicated that those teams are being run by staff members, and on December 4, they will be reporting to him on the business plans which they developed. He noted that the other internal part has been that we have each of the departments now, in addition to looking at an agency report card, talking about what they can do to get feedback on the service that they provide as a department.

The Superintendent commented that we were able to provide some insight from other states on that, and the staff who went to Baldrige training had some ideas for that as well. He reviewed the step-by-step calendar. He indicated that he thought most importantly, that the values and structure is becoming part of daily business, talking about the importance of customer service to all; making sure that leadership is a piece of each agenda; and that the strategy plan focus is a piece of each of the agenda meetings -- whatever level it is.

Superintendent M^CGee noted that continuous improvement strategies are gaining momentum, and he thought we have passed the point of -- "this is just another

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idea and this too shall pass." He reported that his sense is that people are committed to this; certainly the School Ambassador Program has been a great example of showing continuous improvement initiatives in action. He commented that he was excited about where we are going with the agency, and he reiterated that what really counts is the Lincoln/Baldrige values and framework and not necessarily the award process.

The Superintendent reported that as far as supporting state activities, we are developing a consortium of school improvement networks, using LAQA and our Illinois Learning Partnership. He indicated that at the Triple I Conference on Saturday (11/18), we have a presentation by our partners, and we have committed \$125,000 to Lincoln Foundation for coordinating the statewide BiE-IN effort and related training.

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

- Glenda Bequette -- for an informative talk about learning technology, the importance of standards and curriculum integration and using technology to make that happen, as well as an electronic portfolio assessment
- Russ Williams and Beth Hanselman -- for providing expedient information on special education certification
- Linda Lafferty -- for exceptional work in the skills standards area
- Bobbie Reguly -- for help and support regarding special education due process hearings
- Barry Weiss -- for his great teaching efforts on his Schoolhouse visit
- Frank Llano -- for his work on the certificate manual
- Dennis Williams, Denise Weitekamp, and Lee Bartolini -- for being always responsive and extremely helpful concerning the Administrator Academy

Committee Reports

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item F.3., Announcements and Reports, Committees.

Mrs. Rogers, Chair of the Board Operations Committee, reported that the Burroughs Award would be presented on November 19 at the Triple I Conference to an outstanding local board president. She indicated that she, Dr. Steiner, Mr. Serritella, and Susie Burroughs (sister of the late Thomas Lay Burroughs) had the privilege of reading the materials of the outstanding nominations. She noted that they were excited and learned a lot about the good things that are going on in Illinois just from the documents they read.

Mrs. Rogers reported that on November 17, she, Dr. Hill, and Mrs. McConachie would be hosting meetings with constituency groups, including local board members. She noted that they would be talking about the standards, quality educators, early childhood program, and reading and asking the groups if they

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understand these issues -- what their boards are doing about these agenda items and how the State Board can help in facilitating them.

Mrs. Rogers also reported that on November 17, the Board Operations Committee would be meeting to plan for the December Board meeting. Mrs. McConachie thanked the Committee for its efforts to overcome the logistical challenges of the November Board meeting.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the Joint Education Committee (JEC) which is the P-16 effort with the Board of Higher Education (BHE) and Community College Board (CCB) continues to meet at least once a month and sometimes more. She indicated that in the most recent meeting, they came very close to agreement on a legislative package for the coming legislative session, and these are items that they are going to ratify or fine-tune at the next meeting on November 27. She noted that some of them are extraordinary, and she needed some feedback from the Board members on the issues that are on the table.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the first one is a public awareness campaign about educational needs in the state, but it is focused on economic realities -- the fact that the current economy requires all students to not just be capable of leaving school to get a job but also be capable of going to college. She noted that that is all students fully capable of choosing continuing education or the workplace, recognizing that they will be doing both during their lives. She indicated that we are talking about a comprehensive, educational campaign to be done in partnership with other entities throughout the state.

Mrs. McConachie reported that secondly, they would be working on coordinated programs to insure that all students stay in school. She noted that earlier that day, the Board talked about an at-risk program that is really directed at middle school and high school students, but in fact, there are many students who drop out of college and/or eventually do not finish that post-secondary education. She indicated that there are equal, at-risk issues -- similar at-risk issues, especially at the community college level but also at the university level, so they will be looking at more comprehensive and integrated approaches to at-risk programs that stretch across the continuum and into higher education.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the third item and the one that is likely to get plenty of attention has to be with eliminating barriers as students pass from one part of the educational continuum to another, moving smoothly from high school to careers or to college. She commented that the interesting factor here is that they all agreed that in order for students to meet math standards, they need to complete algebra by eighth grade. She indicated that the JEC will take that position and push that legislatively and in other ways to insure that students start in kindergarten in such a way that they can complete algebra by eighth grade -- just as students do in high-performing countries. Mrs. McConachie noted that this

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would require curriculum changes across the state. She indicated that this would mean rethinking the way math is taught and what is taught in every school district in the state, because there are very few school districts, if any, where all students have had the opportunity and the capacity to pass algebra in eighth grade. She commented that there are all kinds of tracking issues related to this, and it will be a very interesting prospect.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the fourth issue is building a P-16 database to use for making educational decisions. She indicated that the JEC has commissioned an educational research arm that is located at SIU-E, and their first topics will actually be related to teacher shortages -- to the pool of teachers, where are they geographically, what subject areas they are in, and the factors related to that. She noted that this will be a budget item for all agencies.

Mrs. McConachie reported that the fifth issue would be a system that recruits, develops, and retains teachers and administrators -- another teacher shortage-related area. She indicated that this would be a comprehensive effort, and it will include alternative certification programs that go far beyond the programs that we have seen up to this point. She noted that it would be targeted on the kinds of teacher shortage and teacher quality issues that we have talked about before. Mrs. McConachie commented that this would be a challenging issue, and BHE is as committed to it as we are.

Mrs. McConachie reported that finally, as the Superintendent mentioned earlier, there will be integrated agency and organizational efforts to come up with an induction and mentoring program that we can agree on, so we can move a package through the legislature together. She indicated that this is a key piece of having both quality teachers and retaining them. She commented that there were some very important statements made by the education board members present at that meeting about the historic opportunity for all of us to collaborate as we go to the legislature and present together a coordinated, systemic approach to education issues. Mrs. McConachie noted that there was a sense of optimism about what was possible.

Mrs. Rogers commented that she thought they were creating a model program for other states.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that he was particularly impressed to see the engagement of the other board members.

Board
Members

Mrs. McConachie called for Agenda Item F.4., Announcements and Reports, Board Members.

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Dr. Hill reported that on November 20, he would be speaking to the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education. He noted that perhaps he could give the Board a report at the December meeting.

Dr. Steiner reported that she had been attending meetings in the East St. Louis area about the resolution that was passed by the legislature, and they were studying the educational needs -- past the regular education levels that they have. She indicated that they have already changed some things as far as leadership, etc. She noted that the next meeting is scheduled during the first week of December.

Mrs. McConachie thanked the staff for their efforts in making this meeting work for the Board, and a lot was accomplished.

Mrs. McConachie introduced Jeff Mays and Richard Laine from the Illinois Business Roundtable who joined the meeting for the ILSI Website demonstration.

Adjournment Mrs. McConachie adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rogers, Secretary pro tem

Marilyn McConachie, Chair pro tem