



Illinois State Board of Education

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

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sheraton Hotel and Towers*
301 E. North Water Street
Chicago, Illinois

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA

December 13-14, 2000

WEDNESDAY, December 13

10:00 WORK-STUDY SESSION I

a.m. Superior Room - Level 2

A. Education Funding Advisory Board

Cover

B. FY 2002 Budget and Legislative Initiatives

Cover

Noon

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Colorado Room - Level 2

12:45 WORK-STUDY SESSION II

p.m. Superior Room - Level 2

A. Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE)

- Cover

B. Alternate Assessment

- Cover
- 34 CFR 300.137-139 (IDEA '97 requirements)
- Office of Special Education Programs Questions and Answers
- Recommended Guidelines and Criteria for Determining Participation in an Alternate Assessment
- ISBE Timelines of Alternate Assessment Activities
- Status of Alternate Assessment Development: A State by State Comparison

C. Teacher Preparation Report Card (Title II)

- Cover
- NCATE 2000 Unit Standards
- Illinois Institutional and Program Review Process (PowerPoint Presentation)
- The Illinois Plan for Preparing State and Institutional Reports on the Quality of Teacher Preparation (PDF)
[Title II - 1998 Higher Education Act]

5:00 p.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closed Meeting

Colorado Room - Level 2

7:00 p.m. DINNER

THURSDAY, December 14

7:30 a.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closed Meeting and Breakfast
Columbus Room - Level 2

9:00 a.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION I

Superior Room - Level 2

A. Board Priority Reports/System of Support

- Cover
- December 2000 Board Priority Accomplishments

B. Middle-Level Education: Draft Standards and Structural Recommendations

- Cover
- Middle-Level Education Content-Area Standards Draft Report
- Middle-Level Education Content-Area Standards

10:30 a.m. PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

Superior Room – Level 2

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

B. Approval of Minutes: November 15-16, 2000

- MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION I and CLOSED MEETING (November 15-16)
- MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION II (November 16)
- MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING (November 16)

C. Public Participation

D. Immediate Action Items

1. Annual Reports

- ISBE Annual Report
 - Cover
- Charter School Annual Report
 - Cover
 - Report (Draft)
- Educator Supply and Demand Report (Draft)
- Certification System Annual Report (Draft)

2. FY 2002 Budget Refer to Work Study Session I)

3. D.C. Based Contract

- Cover

4. Qualified Zone Academy Bond Credit

- Cover

5. Rules and Regulations: Truants' Alternative Optional Education Rule Amendments

- Cover
- Part 205-Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Programs Rules

6. Teacher Preparation Report Card (Title II) (Refer to Work Study Session II)

7. Resolutions for Retiring Board Members

Information Items

South Suburban Cook Consortium

E. Reports and Announcements

1. Chairman
2. Superintendent
 - School Designation System
 - Virtual High School
 - Employee Summit Plans
3. Committees
4. Members

Noon ADJOURN

Noon LUNCH
Colorado Room - Level 2

INFORMATION ITEM

* All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

**MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSIONS I and II
and CLOSED MEETING
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois
December 13-14, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz*
Marjorie B. Branch
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

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by the Chairman pro tem, Dr. Hill, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was not present.

(*Chairman Gidwitz was connected by phone to the Closed Meeting on December 13, and he was present for the meetings on December 14. Mrs. McConachie was connected to the Work-Study Session I and Closed Meeting by phone on both days. Mr. Serritella was present on December 14.)

Dr. Hill indicated that Chairman Gidwitz, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Pellegrino, and Mr. Serritella were unable to be present because of business conflicts. Chairman Gidwitz and Mr. Serritella would be joining the meeting on December 14. Mrs. McConachie would not be joining the meeting in person due to business conflicts but would be connected by phone for certain components of the two-day meeting.

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

Education
Funding

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item A., Education Funding Advisory Board.

Dr. Hill indicated that during the next 30 minutes, Bob Leininger, Chair of the Education Funding Advisory Board, and Advisory Board members Marleis Trover and Burt Doctor would share the progress to date and preliminary recommendations of the Education Funding Advisory Board. He noted that Dr. Leininger and Dr. Trover were at the October Board meeting and would be sharing their

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recommendations concerning general state aid foundation levels and poverty grant amounts with the General Assembly in January.

Discussion followed the presentation for clarification purposes.

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

The meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

Budget/
Legislation

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item B., FY 2002 Budget and Legislative Initiatives.

Dr. Hill reported that in November, staff shared information on the budget book with the Board and discussed general budget issues. He indicated that in addition, three legislative initiatives were highlighted -- reading improvement, health/life safety, and alternative learning opportunities. He noted that at this meeting, the Board would discuss the budget, the budget book and annual report, as well as any outstanding issues associated with legislation, giving specific attention to the Alternative Learning Opportunities Act and responding to the questions Board members had last month.

Assistant Chief Deputy David Wood and Peter Leonis, Director of the State Relations Office, made the presentation. Dr. Hill, Mrs. Rogers, and Dr. Steiner reported on the budget hearings that they attended.

Other staff provided detailed information. 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 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Dr. Hill indicated that the discussion of the IMAGE assessment, alternate assessment, and Title II teacher preparation report card would occur, and if there are no objections, we would like to add an overview of the Educator Supply and Demand Report during this Work-Study Session. He noted that as indicated on the Plenary Session agenda, the Board would be taking action on this item on December 14; however, time for a more detailed overview was requested at this meeting. He reported that following that issue, the Board would take a short break and then have a reception for its Chicago staff as it had done in Springfield and Mt. Vernon. Then the Board would move into closed session.

IMAGE The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item A., Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE).

Dr. Hill reported that the Board would be discussing the IMAGE test for students with limited English proficiency who do not take the "regular" state assessments.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that the IMAGE reading and math tests have been administered for three years by the State Board, and this is gaining visibility across the state and nation. He noted that due to increasing requests for data on IMAGE student performance and the agency's commitment to the U.S. Department of Education to report IMAGE scores in report cards, this has become a very important information item for the Board.

Deputy Superintendents Mary Jayne Broncato and Carmen Chapman-Pfeiffer and Division Administrator Xavier Botana shared an overview of the IMAGE assessment for students with limited English proficiency (see Addendum II).

The Superintendent commented that future discussions related to this assessment would include the report card design, student performance, and a progress report on the development of the math assessment.

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

Alternate Assessment The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item B., Alternate Assessment.

Dr. Hill reported that the Board would have an overview of progress to date on the alternate assessment. He indicated that this assessment is designed for students with disabilities and individualized education programs for which "regular" state and district-assessments, with or without accommodations, are not appropriate.

Superintendent M^CGee noted that as stated in the Board packet materials, questions had been raised about the alternate assessment. He commented that in keeping with the federal legislation, IDEA '97, we are developing an assessment system in which **all students** can participate. He indicated that it is the intent to provide an overview at this meeting of activities to date and efforts to obtain input from the field and return in January with a draft policy for Board discussion and action on the alternate assessment.

Assistant Deputy Chief Michael Dunn, Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel, Division Administrator Kathy Cox, staff member Sue Easton, and Ed Roeber from Measured Progress (the ISBE contractor) provided an overview of the progress to

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date in the development and implementation of the alternate assessment (see Addendum III).

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

Teacher
Preparation

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item C., Teacher Preparation Report Card (Title II).

Dr. Hill indicated that the Board would be discussing the Illinois Teacher Preparation Report Card and proposed policies related to the report card.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the use of a report card process for continuous improvement of teacher preparation institutions, as a way to address the reporting requirements of Title II of the 1998 amendments to the Higher Education Act, has been a collaborative effort of the Governor's Office, the Board of Higher Education, and the Community College Board. He commented that strategies for implementing this process have required a great deal of discussion. He noted that this is an action item on the Plenary Business Meeting agenda for December 14.

Deputy Superintendent Frank Llano, Division Administrator Mike Long, and staff member Pat Glenn provided an overview of the issues and policies related to report card implementation.

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

Supply &
Demand

The Chairman pro tem called for Agenda Item D., Educator Supply and Demand Report (Discussion of this item was moved from the Plenary Business Meeting).

Dr. Hill reported that the Educator Supply and Demand Report is required to be submitted in January to the Governor, General Assembly, and institutions of higher learning.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that this is the second annual Supply and Demand Report that was prepared pursuant to this School Code requirement. He noted that it is still considered a draft document, so additional data that will not arrive in our office until later this month can be incorporated. He commented that on December 14, he would be asking the Board to endorse this report with two others for transmission to the Governor and General Assembly.

The Superintendent indicated that we felt it was important to provide a more detailed overview of this report and share some findings due to its implications for so many of the Board's efforts.

Division Administrator Connie Wise and staff members Jim Sweeney and Richard Yong provided the overview (see Addendum IV).

Superintendent McGee gave closing remarks.

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

The meeting recessed at 3:40 p.m. and reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

Closed Meeting

The Chairman pro tem called 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 on December 13 at 5:00 p.m. and on December 14 at 7:30 a.m. and immediately following the Plenary 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;
- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation; and
- Section 2 (c) (21) for the purpose of reviewing executive session minutes.

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."

Ms. Branch seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes*

Dr. Hill - yes
Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

The meeting went into closed session at 5:48 p.m. and recessed for the day at 7:00 p.m.

On December 14, the closed session reconvened at 7:30 a.m. with Chairman Gidwitz and Mr. Serritella in attendance, as well as the other Board members who were in attendance on the preceding day.

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The closed session recessed at 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rogers, Secretary pro tem

William E. Hill, Chairman pro tem

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois
December 14, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
Marjorie B. Branch

William E. Hill
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella
Janet Steiner

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David P. Gomez, Marilyn McConachie, Sandra M. Pellegrino

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.

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

The Chairman indicated that Mr. Gomez, Mrs. McConachie, and Ms. Pellegrino were unable to be present because of business conflicts. He noted that Mrs. McConachie would be joining the Board by phone for the Plenary Business Meeting.

Board
Priority
Reports

The Chairman called for Agenda Item A., Board Priority Reports/System of Support.

Superintendent M^cGee indicated that the Board Priority Report for schools in academic difficulty does address several activities/efforts that assist the AEWL schools. He noted that beyond that, there are many additional areas/divisions of the agency that support low-performing schools.

Assistant Chief Deputy Michael Dunn and Division Administrators Xavier Botana, Sheryl Poggi, Don Full, and Eunice Greer gave a presentation on all the efforts in the agency that address the needs of these schools. They shared the value of addressing this issue from a broader perspective (see Addendum II).

The Superintendent reviewed the other Board Priority area accomplishments -- math, reading, quality educators, early learning, etc.

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

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Middle-
Level
Education

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Middle-Level Education: Draft Standards and Structural Recommendations.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that several of the Board members had asked about the status of the middle-level education teacher standards and the recommendations of the Middle-Grade Advisory Panel.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that at this meeting, the Board members would have their first discussion regarding the recommendations of the Middle-Grade Advisory Panel.

Deb Curtis, chair of the Panel, and Division Administrator Mike Long provided an overview of the recommendations as they now stand. Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

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

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rogers, Secretary pro tem

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois
December 14, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
Marjorie B. Branch
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

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 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. (*Mrs. McConachie was briefly connected to the meeting by phone.)

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

The Chairman indicated that Mr. Gomez and Ms. Pellegrino were unable to be present because of business conflicts.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the November 15-16, 2000, meetings of the State Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Public Participation. The following individuals spoke to the Board.

Stephen Riley, representing OmniBus Educational Management, charged the American community to engage in the following question from December 14 through February -- "How to define the concept of greatness." He completed his remarks by reading a letter he had sent to Mayor Daley in 1991, offering himself as a viable candidate for the position of Deputy Mayor of Education.

Chris Wasik, the statewide training coordinator with Family Ties, voiced support for the Illinois Alternative Assessment System. She thanked the many people who had been involved in this monumental effort to make changes that will increase the quality of education for the children with disabilities and help them to achieve the high standards that Illinois tries to create for all children. She noted that parents feel it is critically important for the schools to prepare all students to meet those

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high standards, and inclusion of all children in statewide and district-wide assessment will provide significant information for improving that instruction.

Ms. Wasik commented that participation of students with disabilities in the assessments should lead to improved teaching, learning, and providing access to the general curriculum. She indicated that the portfolio-based assessment has been recognized as an effective and functional tool to better understand what students are learning and how those students learn best. She noted that they believe in research in our experiences demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by having higher expectations and ensuring their access in the general curriculum to the maximum extent possible. Ms. Wasik said that in this new century, parents have high expectations for their children's programs with increased accountability for results -- opportunities to access the curriculum that is offered to students with disabilities, and they know that the Illinois Alternative Assessment System will help their children to see these outcomes. She commented that they have a goal of becoming "second to none" in the Board's programs and to benefit all students, including the students with disabilities. She indicated that Family Ties believes that the State Board's support for the Alternative Assessment System is a step towards meeting that goal, and she encouraged the Board to support this System.

Superintendent M^CGee requested a copy of Ms. Wasik's remarks. She indicated that she would provide him with that.

Sharon Clousing, representing the Illinois State Advisory Council, indicated that hopefully the Board members received the letters from its chair. She commented that the Council is also in favor of the Alternative Assessment System. She noted that she is a private practitioner and an administrator for a private school for special education students (some of the most unique and complex), and they too appreciate the format of alternative assessment.

Deborah Kasak, the executive director of the Association of Illinois Middle Level Schools, voiced its support for the preparation of middle-level teachers, and she noted that she was very encouraged to hear the comments from the Board members. She commented that this has been an issue that they have pursued for a long time -- talking about the need to have well-prepared teachers at the middle level. She indicated that she thought the Board would see from the recommendations that they are trying to do three fundamental things in the middle-level schools. They want:

1. High academic achievement in all the schools;
2. The schools to be developmentally responsive, based upon the needs of the young adolescents and the way that happens; and
3. Every student in the building to have a fair shot.

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Ms. Kasak thanked staff of the State Board for the support they have received for middle-grades education like never before. She gave examples of the good direction she thinks they are going. She commented that they look forward to a lot of continued support and collaboration, because they want not only Illinois to be "second to none" in middle-grades education but the students to achieve well.

In response to Mr. Serritella's inquiry about how many middle schools there are in the State of Illinois, Ms. Kasak responded that when they do mailings, they look at whatever schools have grades 5 through 8 in them, which is about 1500 to 2000 schools. She noted that pure middle school/junior highs is around 600.

Cynthia Woods, representing the IASB, thanked the State Board for hosting the focus groups that were held at the Triple I Conference on November 17 at which Dr. Hill, Mrs. McConachie, and Mrs. Rogers were the facilitators. She indicated that it was a huge success, and they looked forward to a collaborative working environment with the Board and their association. She commended Kathy Nicholson-Tosh, Director of the Board Services Office, for her efforts in putting this event together.

Chairman Gidwitz expressed his appreciation for the individuals who thanked the Board and staff. He indicated that this was also the budget preparation season, and if individuals feel that what the State Board is doing is useful, worthwhile, and helpful, he urged them to tell their legislators and committee chairmen.

Bernard Lacour, the policy director of Designs for Change, spoke in favor of, and with appreciation to, the initiative already undertaken by staff regarding alternate assessment -- to see a system implemented throughout the state where every student gets measured and assessed. He indicated that they expect, as a parent training and information center along with the other three partners in Illinois, to bring the subject to parents as a new expectation that they shall have for the education of their children in the public schools. He noted that they expect to train and educate parents to make a continuing demand. Mr. Lacour especially expressed appreciation that the initiative is being taken by the State Board to give some concrete form to something that parents in general would want and expect -- that their children be regarded for the positive abilities that they have rather than being diagnosed and treated for something like diseases. He commented that they hope in their critical, as well as supportive way, to help to see this done.

Lonnie Johns indicated that regarding the Corey H. rules that have been in effect since October 27, there is not gradual acceptance of this seven-category LBS I special education teacher certification system; instead, opposition is growing dramatically. He commented on materials on this issue that he distributed to the Board members.

Mr. Johns noted that this was Dr. Hill's last meeting and in absentia to Ms. Pellegrino also. He expressed his personal thanks to them for the

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time and commitment they had given to serve as a member of the State Board.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that he did not think he would comment on the substance of Mr. Johns' remarks, because they do disagree. He reported that we have worked very hard to keep the administrators, teachers, and members of the General Assembly in Illinois informed, and another meeting with members of the General Assembly is scheduled in January to present the facts. He noted that we are also working very hard to look at research in other states. The Superintendent reported that we have found that other states (approximately 41) do have cross-categorical certificates, and most of those can be achieved within a four-year period. He indicated that we are gathering some significant research. He commented that we appreciate the passion on both sides of this issue, but we really need to look at research and practices from other states and go forward in what is in the best interest of children. Mr. Johns commented that they would agree with that.

Else Hamayan, the chair of the Illinois Advisory Council for Bilingual Education, reported that they strongly support the proposed legislative initiative regarding requirements for Type 29 teachers -- bilingual teachers who are hired under a provisional certificate. She indicated that while they are cognizant of the dire shortage of bilingual teachers in Illinois, they are acutely aware of the need to not sacrifice the quality of teachers and the pursuit of professional development and certification requirements. She noted that they were receiving some valuable comments and suggestions.

Ms. Hamayan thanked the Superintendent and staff for their support. She indicated that she committed to the State Board their support and help, along with others, in pushing this initiative through the General Assembly.

Chairman Gidwitz encouraged her to effectively and aggressively communicate directly with legislators. Ms. Hamayan responded that they have already started.

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

Annual Reports

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.1., Items for Immediate Action, Annual Reports (Charter School Annual Report, Educator Supply and Demand Report, and Certification System Annual Report). The ISBE Annual Report will be covered later in the meeting.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that there were three reports that will be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly in January. He noted that on December 13, the Board had discussed the Educator Supply and Demand Report. He asked staff to make brief comments on the other two reports -- Charter School and the Certification System.

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Division Administrator Sharon Roberts and staff member Janet Allison made brief comments on the Charter School Report. They have observed three issues that mirror what is happening nationally: funding, facilities, and special education.

Lee Patton, Director of the Policy Development Office, shared comments on the Certification System Report. This is primarily a compliance report to show that we have in fact implemented the requirements of the 1997 legislation.

Discussion followed each presenter for clarification purposes and Board members' input.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that there is work to be done on the Annual Report and the budget, and this issue would be covered later in the meeting. He noted that he was going to recommend that the Board have a separate meeting for budget approval and also to do the Annual Report at that time.

The Superintendent asked the Board to endorse these three reports and authorize their refinement for submission to the General Assembly and Governor in January.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby endorses the annual reports of the Charter Schools, Certification System, and Educator Supply and Demand and authorizes staff to refine the draft documents for submission to the Governor and General Assembly."

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.

Ms. Branch - yes

Dr. Hill - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

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

D.C.-Based Contract

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.3., Items for Immediate Action, D.C.-Based Contract.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that it is nice to share results of the success of the Washington-based contract, and the Board had heard monthly reports from Gail Lieberman, Director of the Federal Relations Office. He noted that he believed that Illinois is "second to only one" at this point in the growth in federal funding returned to Illinois, and the other was due to a rather sweeping tax overhaul. He reported that the proposed contract for assistance with legislative and administrative issues at the federal level is in need of action.

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Chairman Gidwitz asked Gail Lieberman, Director of the Federal Relations Office, to report to the Board as to where Illinois will end up the year from a federal fundraising standpoint. She provided a federal legislative update. Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Mrs. Rogers commended Ms. Lieberman for her excellent work.

Dr. Hill indicated that the State Board is in partnership with the Board of Higher Education and the Community College Board in this endeavor. Ms. Lieberman commented on the collaborative work between the agencies. She noted that the State Board pays two-thirds of the dollar amount listed, and this is less than last year.

The Superintendent indicated that he was requesting approval of a contract with Barbour, Griffith & Rogers, Inc. for the amount of \$852,000 to cover the two-year period -- January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2002.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board hereby approves the contract with Barbour, Griffith & Rogers, Inc. for an amount of \$852,000 for the period of January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2002."

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.

Ms. Branch - yes

Dr. Hill - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Chairman Gidwitz asked Ms. Lieberman to communicate the Board's appreciation to Mr. Barbour and others for their work. He indicated that it would be useful to be able to tell the Governor's Office how much money in total the three agencies together were able to ascertain.

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

Qualified Zone Academy Bonds

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.4., Items for Immediate Action, Qualified Zone Academy Bond Credit Allocations.

The Superintendent reported that three school districts (Chicago District #299, Paris-Union District #95, and Shawnee Community Unit District #84) have requested approval under the Qualified Zone Academy Bond Credit Program. He noted that this would allow these districts to borrow funds from certain financial

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institutions at little or no interest cost by issuing qualified zone academy bonds. He recommended that the Board approve these application requests.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey provided some brief background on this issue.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board hereby approves the following applications for Qualified Zone Academy Board Credit for the calendar year of 2000.

Board of Education of the City of Chicago - \$13,391,000
Board of Education of Shawnee Community Unit District #84 - \$60,000
Board of Education of Paris-Union School District #95 - \$900,000"

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. Mr. Ey and Division Administrator Nona Myers responded to Board members' questions.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes

Dr. Hill - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Ey called the Board members' attention to the school construction update. He commended Ms. Myers and her staff for their outstanding work.

Truant's Alternative Rule Amendment

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.5., Items for Immediate Action, Rules and Regulations: Truants' Alternative Optional Education Rule Amendments.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the rule amendments for Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Programs were published to elicit public comment. He indicated that hearing no public comment, he recommended the adoption of these amendments as presented for transmittal to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Division Administrator Sheila Radford-Hill indicated that on behalf of Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson and also the ad hoc Advisory Council for the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program, she wanted to provide some information in addition to the materials that were in the Board packet. She reported that essentially, the changes that have been made to the rules reflect current practice in the field. She indicated that they better align this Program with the Board priorities, and we feel they will improve student outcomes after a rigorous analysis of data provided by the Research Division.

Ms. Radford-Hill reported that we have been able to ascertain that the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program serves approximately one in ten dropouts and one in five chronic truants. She indicated that we feel that the rule

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change will allow the State Board to serve more students who are chronic truants and retrieve more dropouts. She noted that we also believe that current research shows that truancy is a gateway to a lot of unfortunate activities, particularly involvement in the juvenile justice system, so if we expand our involvement and serve more truants and chronic truants as opposed to simply potential dropouts, we think the Program will be more successful.

Ms. Radford-Hill reported that in addition, in terms of the current practice, we feel that a better planned program in a community-wide planning basis for making decisions about how the services will be provided is extremely important, so that is part of the requirements for the grant program. She commented that in essence, the reason for this rule change is to serve more students who we feel the legislation was intended to serve and to have better outcomes.

Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board hereby adopts the proposed amendments to the rules and regulations for the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program authorized under Section 2-3.66 of the School Code. Furthermore, the State Board authorizes the submission of the amendments to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Ms. Branch seconded the motion.

Chairman Gidwitz asked if the results of this Program are listed in the Annual Report. He indicated that we need to be able to demonstrate to the legislature that we have in fact a successful program, and we need to underscore the positive results. He commented that it ought to be at least on the budget request, so when we have the discussion with the legislature, it is clear.

The Superintendent asked how many children are served by this Program. Ms. Radford-Hill responded that in the Truants Alternative Program, we are serving 28,000 plus.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes	Dr. Hill - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes

Teacher Preparation Report Card

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.6., Items for Immediate Action, Teacher Preparation Report Card (Title II).

Superintendent M^CGee reported that on December 13, the Board discussed the Teacher Preparation Report Card and recommendations associated with policies to implement this strategy. He recommended that the Board approve the

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elements of the proposal presented and direct continued collaboration with state partners and stakeholders to assure a high quality report on Teacher Preparation in Illinois.

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board hereby endorses the recommendations for implementation of the Illinois Teacher Preparation Report Card as proposed by the ad hoc task force/Governor's Advisory Committee/Joint Education Committee. These include: 1) definition and criteria for designation of a teacher education preparation program as "at-risk"; 2) definition and criteria for designation of a teacher education preparation program as "low-performing"; 3) requiring successful completion of a content area skills test as a condition for program completion; 4) instituting consequences for lack of progress on the part of institutions; and 5) report headings and format. Furthermore, the State Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent and staff to move forward with legislation, rule changes, and administrative actions necessary for implementation."

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.

Ms. Branch - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Dr. Hill - yes
Mrs. Rogers - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes
Dr. Steiner - yes

FY 2002 Budget

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.2., Items for Immediate Action, Education Funding Advisory Board/Budget and Annual Report.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that on December 13, he indicated that he would be recommending the FY 2002 budget for adoption at this meeting. He noted that the FY 2002 budget in its entirety would be recommended at a future meeting. However, he recommended that the Board address the Education Funding Advisory Board recommendation related to the General State Aid foundation level that we received on December 13.

The Superintendent indicated that in essence, he was recommending that the Board endorse the Education Funding Advisory Board recommendation to increase the General State Aid foundation level by \$135. In addition, he recommended that the Board endorse the annual plan and budget book direction and ask staff to continue refinement of the document for submission to the Governor and General Assembly in January.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board hereby endorses the recommendation of the Education Funding Advisory Board to increase the General State Aid foundation level by \$135. Furthermore, the State Board endorses the direction of the FY 2002 Budget Book and Annual Report and directs staff to continue

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refinement of this document for submission to the Governor and General Assembly in January, 2001."

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.

Ms. Branch - yes

Dr. Hill - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Resolutions For Retiring Board Members

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.7., Items for Immediate Action, Resolutions for Retiring Board Members.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that we have two members of the Board who have served the Board diligently for many years and whose terms are expiring. He noted that Bill Hill and Sandy Pellegrino would be sorely missed. He indicated that there are resolutions that we would like to read into the record.

Motion

Chairman Gidwitz moved that "the State Board hereby adopts the resolution for Bill Hill as follows.

Whereas, Bill Hill has been a member of the Illinois State Board of Education for almost six years; and

Whereas, the outstanding personal and professional qualities that led to Bill's appointment to the 17-member Board in March 1995 formed the basis for his appointment in 1997 to the re-configured 9-member State Board; and

Whereas, Bill's calm and even-handed approach to issues was invaluable during the period of transition to a "new" Board; and

Whereas, Bill's deep southern Illinois roots have made it possible for him to be a tireless and effective advocate on behalf of students and schools in the southern third of the state, even though his Charleston home is north of I-70 -- the Illinois equivalent of the Mason-Dixon line; and

Whereas, Bill has used his experience as a district administrator and president of the Illinois Association of School Administrators to provide his fellow Board members with unique insights into the practical implications of proposed policies; and

Whereas, throughout his tenure on the Board, Bill could be counted on to speak out about the need for improved funding for schools and school construction, and

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Whereas, throughout his tenure on the Board, Bill could also be counted on to read the voluminous materials and otherwise do his "homework" for Board meetings:

To volunteer for or accept extra responsibilities, such as speeches and school visits; and

To remain true to his convictions about issues but to accept the will of the majority even when he did not agree with a decision; and

Whereas, Bill's leadership of the Legislative Committee has provided a legacy of legislative principles to guide Board actions in the future; and

Whereas, Bill now leaves the State Board of Education to give more time to his grandchildren and to the traveling and other pursuits that he and Barbara so enjoy;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the State Board of Education extends its deep appreciation to Bill Hill for a job well done and wishes him well in all future endeavors."

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.

Ms. Branch - yes

Dr. Hill - abstained

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Chairman Gidwitz presented Dr. Hill with the framed resolution and a picture drawn by Cornelia Powell, a staff graphic artist.

Dr. Hill commented that his six and one-half years on the State Board of Education had been most gratifying. He thanked the staff for providing him the information and support that he needed to make informed decisions. He thanked the Board members and the Superintendent for putting up with him at times, but he hoped that he had brought some degree of decorum to the Board and contributed in some ways.

Motion

Chairman Gidwitz moved that "the State Board hereby adopts the resolution for Sandra Pellegrino as follows.

Whereas, Sandra Pellegrino has served the citizens of Illinois as a member of the State Board of Education since 1995; and

Whereas, Sandy's background as teacher, attorney, community leader and parent of four children has provided a strong foundation for her work as a Board member and foretold the special contributions she would make; and

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Whereas, during her tenure on the Board, Sandy has been a particular advocate for the rights of children and the State Board's responsibility for meeting their special needs; and

Whereas, Sandy has provided singular leadership for reading improvement, serving as chair of the Strategic Agenda Team on Reading and guiding the development of a policy that will support the Board's work in this area in the years ahead; and

Whereas, Sandy has contributed to the Board in many other ways, including her outstanding efforts as Board Vice Chair and chair of the Board Operations Committee; and

Whereas, Sandy has enriched the Board's understanding of the challenges and possibilities in urban education by hosting visits to Harrison Elementary School, Manual High School, and the Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Center; and

Whereas, Sandy has enriched the Board's deliberations about issues through her compassion, her ability to articulate her positions and views, and the high expectations she sets for herself and others; and

Whereas, Sandy took the unique step of setting aside her law practice to devote time to the State Board of Education and, over the past six years, continued to provide dedicated service to the Board through back surgery and a fire that destroyed her home; and

Whereas, Sandy now leaves the State Board so that she and Bob can spend more time on other pursuits, including their far-flung family, their winter home in Florida, their beloved books and an occasional game of "dollar-bill poker";

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the State Board of Education extends its gratitude to Sandra Pellegrino for exceptional service on behalf of Illinois children and wishes her well in the years ahead. She will be remembered, and she will be missed."

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.

Ms. Branch - yes
Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Dr. Hill - yes
Mrs. Rogers - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes
Dr. Steiner - yes

Information Items

The Chairman called for Agenda Item for Information Items: South Suburban Cook Consortium.

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Superintendent M^CGee reported that the reason he had asked the South Suburban Cook Consortium to spend some time with the State Board is to inform the Board members of what he considers to be perhaps the most innovative practice in the state in dealing with the challenges of poverty and educational funding. He commended all members of the Consortium for their courageous leadership and for their dynamic and action vision on behalf of children, realizing that there is strength in numbers and unity in teamwork. He indicated that as we proceed throughout the state and try to find ways to help districts meet the challenges, he thought that this Consortium could be a model for literally hundreds of districts.

Consortium members Bill Kling, William Browne, and Dr. Lela Bridges presented an initial status report on a really exciting project. This included the background of the Consortium, policy initiatives, and a few of the initiatives they are working on. A packet of information was distributed to the Board members.

Other Consortium members in the audience were introduced.

The Superintendent thanked the Consortium members, because he commented that it is not easy to collaborate and certainly to formalize a collaboration with other school districts. He indicated that they are really leaders. He noted that this was probably a difficult decision at the board level but a great one, obviously, for students.

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

Chairman's Report The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.1., Reports and Announcements, Chairman's Report. There was nothing further to report.

Supt.'s Report The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.2., Reports and Announcements, Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that on an e-mail, he had provided the Board with a thorough executive briefing concerning the Virtual High School. He indicated that there is a satellite meeting scheduled for December 19, and the school registration also starts that date. He noted that there is a listing of the available classes. The Superintendent commented that the degree of collaboration is beyond all expectations. He indicated that we are working with the Governor's Office for a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the School Designation Task Force recently met, and they were still talking about resolving some issues related to the reporting of IEP students, particularly speech-articulation students, and looking at

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other factors in addition to test scores. He indicated that they would like, however, to keep designation systems simple and focused on performance.

The Superintendent noted that they talked about raising and lowering the bar, and they asked him to report back to the Board that the 50 percent level of meeting or exceeding standards is the bar. He reported that there will be more schools than ever before not meeting that bar, because the standards are higher than ever before. He commented that they are talking about perhaps different wording for those ratings and certainly different sanctions for schools below that bar.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that one item that they are continuing to discuss is whether performance below 50 percent subject schools to placement on the watch list. He noted that they are also talking about what are meaningful rewards for schools that are above the bar, and focus groups are scheduled to talk about that as well. He commented that there would be another report in January.

The Superintendent deferred the list of kudos for the next meeting. He indicated that he was glad that so many people at this meeting recognized the contributions of the staff.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the Employee Summit teams gave their reports to him on December 4, and he sent the Board a quick memo on those and will send a more detailed memo.

- We are already working at improving internal communications, and for one example, we have a weekly newsletter every Wednesday and the functional directory is nearing completion.
- Agency staff development -- We are working on an individual, professional development plan requirement that is exciting.
- Equitable technology resources -- We are talking about standards and having an agency-wide plan for updating equipment on a regular basis.
- Cross-agency cooperation -- We actually are formalizing a process for informing and involving different divisions and work groups.
- External communication -- We are putting together actual communication kits for people who work in the field and giving them training on using those to talk about the Board's mission and accomplishments and also to gather feedback for our field-based people.
- Customer service -- We have several recommendations, and some of the most noteworthy follow. Beginning in February, we will have division-by-division customer service forms as a way of getting systematic feedback, and we have gone to other states to seek examples of that. We are looking to have our State Board of Education report card on March 1.

Committee Reports

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

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Mrs. Rogers, Chair of the Board Operations Committee, reported that the September 2001 Board meeting location has been changed to Springfield to coincide with the Superintendents Conference.

Mrs. Rogers reported that regarding the Triple I Conference, not only were the constituent meetings a success, but she thought the hospitality room was outstanding. She commended staff for an unbelievable job and indicated that the highest praise had to go to the technology employees. She noted that the other thing that happened from the constituent meetings is that we will be meeting with local board members and trying to have input from them on the Board's significant State Board advisory committees.

Member
Reports

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.4., Reports and Announcements, Board Members. There was nothing further to report.

Chairman Gidwitz announced that the Board would be reconvening in closed session as soon as the Plenary Business meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Rogers, Secretary pro tem

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman