

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Sheraton Hotel and Towers*
301 East North Water Street
Chicago, Illinois

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA
January 17-18, 2001

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WEDNESDAY, January 17

3:00 p.m.

WORK-STUDY SESSION I

Michigan Room - Level 2

A. Cumulative Waiver Report

- [Cover](#)

B. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force Report and Recommendations

- [Cover](#)
- [Comparison of Current and "New" CTE](#)
- [A New Vision of Education](#)
- [Goals for a New Vision of Education](#)

C. Alternate Assessment Policy

- [Cover](#)
- [Proposed Policy Statement \(January 2001\)](#)

6:00 p.m.

DINNER

Mayfair Room - Level 2

(Board may discuss business during dinner.)

7:00 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closed Meeting

Mayfair Room - Level 2

THURSDAY, January 18

7:30 a.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Closed Meeting and Breakfast

Erie Room - Level 2

9:00 a.m.

WORK-STUDY SESSION II

Michigan Room -- Level 2

- A. Administrator Academy Evaluation
 - [Cover](#)
 - [Recommendations to the Board](#)
(PowerPoint Presentation)
- B. Virtual High School
 - [Cover](#)
 - [IVHS January 2001 Board Report](#)
 - [IVHS Information Packet \(January 2001\)](#)
- C. Board Priority Reports

10:30 a.m.

PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

Michigan Room -- Level 2

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes: December 13-14, 2000
January 9, 2001
[MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION I,
II and CLOSED MEETING \(December 13-14\)](#)

[MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION
III and CLOSED MEETING \(December 14\)](#)

[MINUTES OF THE PLENARY BUSINESS
MEETING \(December 14\)](#)

[MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
\(January 9\)](#)
- C. Public Participation
- D. Consent Agenda
 - [Cover](#)
 - 1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes
 - 2. Approval of Board Quarterly Travel Expenditures
- E. Immediate Action Items
 - 1. Alternate Assessment Policy
(See Work Study Session I)
 - 2. Cumulative Waiver Report
(See Work Study Session I)

3. Election of Vice-Chair

F. Future Action Items

1. School Technology Rules

- [Cover](#)

- [School Technology Program Rules](#)

G. Information Items

1. School Ambassador Program

- [Cover](#)

- [School Ambassador Report \(January 2001\)](#)

2. Federal Relations Report

- [Cover](#)

- [Washington Education News \(January 18, 2001\)](#)

- [Illinois Education: Second to None \(PowerPoint Presentation\)](#)

H. Announcements and Reports

1. Chairman

2. Superintendent

3. Committees

4. Members

I. Adjourn

Noon

LUNCH

Missouri Room -- Level 2

(Board may discuss business during lunch)

INFORMATION ITEM

* All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities

**MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSION I
and CLOSED MEETING
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois
January 17-18, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
Marjorie B. Branch

Marilyn McConachie
Connie Rogers

Janet Steiner*

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David P. Gomez, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. There was a quorum. (*Dr. Steiner was connected to the meeting by phone for the roll call and the closed meeting vote.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Serritella had been called to jury duty, and Mr. Gomez and Dr. Steiner both had business commitments this month. He noted that Dr. Steiner would be joining the meeting by phone at various times during the two-day meeting.

Closed
Session

The Chairman asked for a motion for the Board to go into a closed meeting during the next two days.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education go into closed session on January 17 at 5:00 p.m. or immediately following Work-Study Session I and on January 18 at 7:30 a.m. 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 M^CGee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

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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

Mrs. McConachie- yes
Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Dr. Steiner disconnected from the meeting.

Waiver
Report

The Chairman called for Agenda Item A., Cumulative Waiver Report.

Chairman Gidwitz noted that the Board would be discussing the Cumulative Waiver Report. He indicated that following Board approval, this Report would be submitted to the General Assembly and serve as the fourth report of this nature.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the staff was asked in September to study six waiver-related policy issues in depth and provide recommendations to the State Board for incorporation in the Cumulative Waiver Report. He indicated that on January 18, he would be asking for approval of the recommendations as reviewed and authorization to submit the 2001 Waiver Report with these recommendations to the General Assembly by February 1.

Lee Patton, Director of the Policy Development Office, and staff member Shelley Helton provided an overview of each of those issues related to the recommendations. They provided additional materials on the issue. Discussion followed for clarification purposes and for Board members' input.

Representative William Delgado, chair of the House Education Subcommittee on Physical Education Waivers, spoke to the Board regarding the three hearings that were held on this issue. He indicated that we need to work together to modify the waiver process. He reported that he had drafted proposed legislation to address these components, and he would like to go in with a consensus.

The Superintendent commented that we concurred completely that we need to modify the waiver process and to focus on students and learning standards.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that we need to insist on students being "fit" -- performance against the standards.

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

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Career/
Technical
Education

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force Report and Recommendations.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that last March the Board heard about a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Challenge Task Force to be convened by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), in collaboration with the Governor's Office. He noted that the Board would now discuss the work of that Task Force, including their preliminary recommendations and future activity.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that the CTE Challenge Task Force had been meeting for the past nine months in an effort to develop a strategy for repositioning career and technical education in Illinois. He commented that as the Chairman indicated, this is a joint effort of the ICCB, the State Board, and the Governor's Office, and as such, it reaches beyond high school and is a significant issue that relates to the Board's P-16 initiative. He indicated that the Task Force work plan calls for distribution and feedback related to the vision and the broad goals following this meeting and that of the ICCB on January 18. The Superintendent noted that we are asking for the Board's direction to distribute portions of this Report for public input.

Deputy Superintendent Diana Robinson and Division Administrators John Klit and Fran Beauman provided information on the preliminary recommendations and future activity. 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).

Alternate

Assessment The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Alternate Assessment Policy.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the alternate assessment was discussed at the December Board meeting, and at this meeting, we would have further discussion regarding a policy on which the Board plans to take action on January 18.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that during the meeting in December, staff presented seven issues that were raised by the field relating to the alternate assessment. He commented that the alternate assessment is for students with IEP's whose disabilities preclude them from participating in regular state or district-wide assessments, even with accommodations and addresses the requirements of IDEA '97. He noted that at this meeting, he had asked staff to briefly highlight the seven issues and corresponding solutions and the policy, as well as their

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continuing efforts to work with the field in the implementation of the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA).

The Superintendent reported that on January 18, he would be asking the Board to adopt a policy on alternate assessment to move this effort forward. He indicated that he would be doing so knowing that we would continue to work closely with the field to address issues that may arise in the implementation of the IAA.

Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel and Division Administrator Kathy Cox provided a power-point presentation on this issue (see Addendum II). Discussion followed for clarification purposes.

Mrs. Rogers requested a copy of the training agenda that was being conducted, and Dr. Riffel responded that he would provide her with that information.

Mrs. McConachie briefly chaired the meeting while Chairman Gidwitz left the meeting to make a phone call.

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

The meeting recessed at 5:10 p.m. and went into closed session at 5:35 p.m. The meeting recessed for the day at 9:30 p.m.

On January 18, the closed session reconvened at 7:30 a.m. with the same Board members who were in attendance on the preceding day.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois
January 18, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz
Marjorie B. Branch
Marilyn McConachie
Connie Rogers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David P. Gomez, Vincent J. Serritella, Janet Steiner

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. There was not a quorum.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Mr. Serritella had been called to jury duty, and Mr. Gomez had business commitments this month. He noted that Dr. Steiner would be joining the meeting by phone during the Plenary Business Meeting.

Administrator

Academy

The Chairman called for Agenda Item A., Administrator Academy Evaluation.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that at this time, the Board would discuss the recommendations to improve the Administrators' Academy.

Superintendent McGee noted that he had asked Division Administrator Dennis Williams and Bill Donaldson, who represents the Regional Offices, to review the recommendations associated with the Administrators' Academy, as well as proposed future activity. He indicated that at this meeting, we were asking for the Board's input and ideas regarding the Administrators' Academy as we move forward in the implementation of the suggested activity.

Dennis Williams and Bill Donaldson provided a power-point presentation on this issue (see Addendum II). 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).

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Virtual High School

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Virtual High School.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that the Illinois Virtual High School (IVHS), an initiative of Governor Ryan, had made significant progress over a very short time period. He indicated that at the August meeting, the Board had requested regular updates on this issue.

Superintendent M^CGee introduced Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato and Division Administrator Brad Woodruff who shared the most recent activity of the IVHS. A multitude of organizations and individuals were involved with the development efforts of the IVHS. A complete listing is available through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

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).

Priority Reports

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

Superintendent M^CGee reviewed the progress made during the past month on the Board priorities.

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 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

Sheraton Hotel and Towers

Chicago, Illinois

January 18, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz

Marilyn McConachie

Janet Steiner*

Marjorie B. Branch

Connie Rogers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David P. Gomez, Vincent J. Serritella

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 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. There was not a quorum at this time. (*Dr. Steiner was connected to the meeting by phone for the approval of the minutes, the Consent agenda, and the immediate and future action items.)

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Dr. Steiner would be connecting to the meeting after Public Participation; Mr. Serritella was on jury duty; and Mr. Gomez had business conflicts.

The Chairman introduced Richard Laine, Director of Education Policy for the Illinois Business Roundtable and a former staff member of the State Board, and Jeff Mays, the president of the Illinois Business Roundtable.

Mr. Mays expressed appreciation to the State Board members for their efforts. He commented that the Illinois Business Roundtable members consisted of business CEO's from around the state and that education is truly a priority to them.

Mr. Laine commented on building a collective vision for education and their activities to improve public education. He presented a check for \$200,900 to the State Superintendent to support 50 percent of all of the teachers that will be going through the National Board certification process (NBPTS) this year. He reported that at their annual board meeting, they decided to contribute another \$200,000 this coming year.

Mrs. Rogers presented Mr. Laine, who is the father to a new baby girl, with a present from the Board members.

Superintendent M^CGee formally thanked the Illinois Business Roundtable for its amazing show of generosity and for the quality partnership. He commented that the teachers will influence many students.

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Chairman Gidwitz indicated that through the Business Roundtable's efforts, in working with IEA and the IFT, they have made this a very meaningful program. He expressed the State Board's appreciation for these efforts, and he commented that the organizations have all worked with the State Board collaboratively for the betterment of children throughout the state.

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

The first five individuals spoke to the Board regarding P.E. waivers, and they distributed a packet of information about what is going on across the nation to the Board members.

Phil Lawler (School District #203, Naperville) spoke on the national perspective of physical education -- to see daily physical education (K-12) at all schools in the United States. He called the Board members' attention to materials in the packet they had received. He indicated that the nation is looking at Illinois' programs as a model.

The Superintendent expressed hope that as Mr. Lawler has these national contacts, he holds up the Illinois Physical Education/Health Standards as a model for the rest of the country. He commented that it is not just time -- it's what is taught.

Mr. Lawler reported that in his own community where education is really valued, when they were reeducated in his building, parents rated physical education the number one curriculum above science, math, and English. He noted that when it is taught in a way that is dealing with national health care, it truly is put on a level with all of the others. He commented that we need to educate the rest of the state about the value.

Phyllis Pickett (School District #108, Lake Park High School, Roselle) reported that she was a part of the three hearings that Representative Delgado held since last summer. She noted that in the proposal that the Board reviewed on January 17, she thought that a lot of the comments that were made during those hearings were reflected in the writing. She indicated that they want to be held accountable to the excellent physical development and health standards, and they want to produce results.

Ms. Pickett reported that they would like the State Board to ask them to meet the standards. She indicated that they have no athletic or marching band exemptions in her building, and except for last year when they took second, they have been the number one band in Illinois. She commented that they maintain that they have helped their band be better because of the physical and life-style training that the students have received.

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Ms. Pickett noted that she also noticed in the writings that the ISU waiver report was referred to -- "68 percent of the schools that have applied for waivers have allowed up to 40 percent of their student body not to have daily physical education." She indicated that programs that have restructured and are basing their instruction on vigorous activity and life-style education are making a difference in the lives of students' health in Illinois. She commented that we need to look at tightening not relaxing -- just to make the law consistent.

Tony Amabile (Fenton High School, Bensenville) indicated that as the assistant principal/athletic director, we need to not equate athletics with physical education. He noted that his focus as a coach no way came near the level of what his focus as an educator was in physical education and health. He reported that as a member of the state standards team in writing the performance descriptors and the state benchmarks, he knew that the physical education programs in Illinois and in DuPage County area have embraced those in a tremendous way.

Mr. Amabile indicated that if we allow 9th and 12th grade waivers to take place, we will lose athletic programs across Illinois, because we will lose staff. He noted that then more people that are not truly educated will fill those coaching spots, and they would not understand what it truly means to physically educate. He commented that we are putting athletics above what the standards are all about, and as an athletic director, he was extremely opposed to this philosophical shift that is being presented. Mr. Amabile indicated that it is the fitness and wellness concepts that they are missing totally, and it is not in the best interest of the children in the State of Illinois.

Ron Muhitch (Wheaton-Warrenville S.H.S.) reported that as president-elect of a suburban high school association, they discuss things that they can do to improve the learning standards performance and the delivery of education to the students. He indicated that in the last five years, he has seen a tremendous growth of change within the practice of the delivery of this program -- in content first and in delivery style second with hands-on experiences and technologies attributed to the use of the curriculum in each school. He noted that the pendulum is swinging to a health/wellness program delivery style, so they have put this across all four-year spectrums which is a more comprehensive program.

Mr. Muhitch commented that when the State Board says that it is exempting students from P.E., he wanted the Board to know that it is exempting the students from health and wellness strategies that are already structured into current reform within the school systems of Illinois. He noted that it is a tremendous problem for local school administrators to try to determine who, how, and when they exempt. He indicated that the two experiences of athletics and fitness/wellness do not have the current equal sign that he thought the law is trying to reflect.

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Mr. Muhitch commented that the individual schools want equity on exemption, so the problem exists in the first of the three exemption clauses: take away all athletic exemptions; believe in the Board's state learning standards; require that schools implement that on a 9-12 configuration of integration curriculum; and allow the exemption for students that are deficient in the 11th and 12th grades for a graduation requirement. He noted that they would wrestle with the delivery style. He suggested that the Board get rid of the athletic exemptions, because they are the wrong message to the community and to the state learning standards.

Mark Peysakhovich, representing the American Heart Association, commented on the extra efforts of the individuals who spoke before him on this issue. He noted that the Association has been very concerned for a long time about the continued cutbacks in physical education in Illinois.

Mr. Peysakhovich reported that he had attended all of the hearings that the House of Representatives had this year. He strongly urged the State Board to discuss this issue longer before making recommendations, and he commented that they would fight this recommendation vigorously in the General Assembly.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that one of the reasons that this issue was put on the agenda in the first place was the Board's concern about the number of waivers that it was granting.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that it was too bad that the individuals present did not hear the discussion on this issue on January 17. He noted that they would have been pleased, and the issue would be discussed further later in the meeting.

Laura Arterburn, representing the Illinois Federation of Teachers, indicated that in the discussion on January 17 regarding physical education waivers, she wanted to add that we want to teach the students that this is a necessary thing and then give them the tools to reach the level of fitness -- even if it is years from now. She noted that they appreciated the comments regarding the calendar issue, and they would like to be a part of that to make it a smooth transition. She commented that as extending the school year is discussed, she asked that we remember that teachers are basically paid for the days they teach.

Ms. Arterburn indicated that regarding the general waiver process, she appreciated the statements that we recommend that the law be amended to allow waivers of School Code mandates to be sought for reasons of meeting the intent of the mandate. She noted that they have been more concerned that we have been eliminating areas in schools but ignoring the original language in the law -- to meet the intent and language of the law but in a more creative or innovative way. She commented that they would be working with all of the interested parties on the substitute issue, and they do hope that an agreement can be reached.

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Greg Seaphus, CEO & Project Director, QEI, S.T.A.G.E.S. R&D Project, Science, Engineering & Adv. Technology, indicated that we are at a crossroads, at a different stage of development in our society with respect to the needs of students in various fields that begin in the middle grades. He noted that the reason the Board has a recommendation for a policy pipeline is so that we now look at the development infrastructure for preparing students from pre-school through grade 16 plus in a more systematic and coherent way. He commented that we do not have a development-stages infrastructure for programs and teaching and learning so that we get students better moved to various academic and degree programs in professional stages.

Mr. Seaphus recommended that we establish the developmental infrastructure pipeline and strategies and processes for developing the students, teachers, parents, and families to prepare them for different optional careers beginning at pre-school.

Lonnie Johns commented on the School for the Deaf, which is not a public school, not having access to the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). He distributed a couple of handouts on this issue to the Board members.

Superintendent M^CGee noted that General Counsel Res Vazquez would look into this issue and provide a legal opinion.

Susan Shea, representing the Illinois Education Association, provided feedback from 17 special education teachers from around the state who had attended one or more of the alternative assessment training sessions. She reported that they said that the activities that the State Board is asking of them is much more onerous than if they were just to deliver the regular test. She indicated that in this particular situation, the activities are very undoable, and it is going to do exactly the opposite of what we want it to do.

Dr. Shea noted that we want to do an alternative assessment so that it makes it more comfortable for students to take and it is more meaningful to them, because so many times the special education students have trouble taking the actual, regular test. She indicated that the IEA does support the policy statement and is in favor of going forward with that, but at the same time, we must take a look at the training program and what the assessment truly is going to be. She commented that we want it to provide good, meaningful data and an accurate reporting of what the students can do.

Dr. Shea noted that the importance of physical education in schools and for students is very important. She reported that the IEA is very concerned about one statement that was made, and they believe that it is wrong to grant a waiver of daily physical education from the schools based on a student's participation in extracurricular activities. She urged the Board to make its decision very carefully, because the nation is looking at Illinois and its model programs and standards.

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Donna Baiocchi, the executive director of Ed-RED, indicated that regarding the discussion on January 17 and the waiver report, there was a comment about the perceived attitude that some waiver applications might be a bit cavalier. She reported that they make a real effort to educate their members to take these very seriously and have told them that they have to demonstrate how this is going to improve student learning and be prepared to defend their request. She noted that she thought they have seen an improvement on the requests that have come out of their districts.

Ms. Baiocchi reported that regarding the school calendar, they were invited to the one meeting that Lee Patton, Director of the Policy Development Office, spoke of on January 17, but they have not been invited to any since then -- and she did not think there was another meeting. She indicated that the one thing that she thought really needed to be addressed in that area is the many inconsistencies in the audit process for time. She asked that the Board make that a point of placing that as a priority for examination by that group.

Chairman Gidwitz asked for examples. Ms. Baiocchi commented on one that would be how to account for banked time. She noted that they are still ready to be a part of that group to help and would be available to attend a meeting whenever possible.

Ms. Baiocchi indicated that regarding substitutes, she appreciated the Board's support on their bill last year, even though it did not pass. She reported that unfortunately, she would not be able to attend the meeting on January 19 with TRS, but she drafted a letter that she provided to the chair of the legislative committee and to the Superintendent, addressing concerns and saying again that they are committed to this process. She noted that they would be working with all of the groups, which they had been doing, and she and Ms. Arterburn would be meeting to talk about the language.

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

Dr. Steiner joined the meeting (11:48 a.m.) at this time. The Chairman indicated that there was now a quorum of Board members.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the December 13-14, 2000, and January 9, 2001, meetings of the State Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Branch, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Consent Agenda: Approval of Closed Session Minutes; Approval of Board Quarterly Travel Expenditures.

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Chairman Gidwitz indicated that there were two Consent agenda items: approval of the quarterly expenditure reports for the Board and approval of the closed session minutes.

Mrs. Rogers reported that she had reviewed all of the expenditures in detail of the Board members, and they are all in order. She commented that the Board members have spent many more hours than the dollars reflected in their reimbursements.

Mrs. McConachie reported that she had reviewed the minutes of the closed sessions for the last six months, and they were acceptable to be opened for public view.

Because there was a question that the Board needed to vote on the Consent agenda, the Chairman asked for a motion.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approved the quarterly expenditure reports for the Board members and approval for the closed session minutes to be opened for public view."

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

Mrs. McConachie- yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Alternate Assessment

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.1., Immediate Action Items, Alternate Assessment Policy.

Superintendent M^CGee reported that on January 17, Deputy Superintendent Gordon Riffel and Division Administrator Kathy Cox provided an overview of the implementation to date of the Illinois Alternate Assessment. He indicated that they discussed issues that had been identified and addressed by the field in that implementation process. He recommended adoption of the policy on alternate assessment to move the effort forward. The Superintendent commented that as he indicated on January 17, he made this recommendation with the clear understanding that the field will be involved and communicated with -- in the agency's efforts to improve the assessment process over time. He noted that per the Board members' requests of yesterday, we would be back to share the design of the assessment report, in addition to other issues we continue to address.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the policy on the Illinois Alternate Assessment as follows:

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

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'The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is committed to ensuring that the state's educational assessment and accountability system addresses the performance of all students and their progress toward the Illinois Learning Standards. As a part of this commitment, ISBE will implement, as required by federal law and regulations, an alternate assessment for those students with current individualized Education Programs (IEPs) whose disabilities preclude them from participating in the regular state assessment, even with appropriate accommodations.

In keeping with the purpose of the state assessment system, ISBE recognizes the importance of using one common alternate assessment statewide to ensure consistent measurement of student progress and comparison of results. Therefore, the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) shall serve as the state alternate assessment. The IAA shall be aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards to ensure the measurement of students' progress toward meeting those standards, and the performance results of students participating in the IAA shall be reported with the same frequency and in the same detail as the performance results of nondisabled children."

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

Chairman Gidwitz encouraged all participants in the various groups that would be engaged in developing the substance that supports this policy to make the State Board members aware if we are creating something that is unsatisfactory and would not solve what we are trying to accomplish. He noted that the Board is very interested in making sure that this is not an onerous program and one that will actually benefit children, as opposed to creating more difficulty for children of special education instructors and for schools.

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

Mrs. McConachie- yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Waiver Report

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.2., Immediate Action Items, Waiver Cumulative Report.

Chairman Gidwitz asked the Superintendent if we wanted to separate the physical education issue from the waiver report. Superintendent McGee recommended that the issue be separated.

The Superintendent reported that on January 17, the Board discussed the six policy issues related to the waiver requests and process. He noted that this Cumulative Waiver Report needs to be transmitted to the Governor and General Assembly by February 1, 2001.

MINUTES OF PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

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Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed recommendations (as follows) regarding

1. School calendar;
2. Substitute teacher service limitations;
3. Non-resident tuition;
4. Criteria for waiver requests; and
5. Waiver report submission dates.

The State Board directs staff to incorporate these recommendations into the 2001 Cumulative Waiver Report and to submit it to the General Assembly by February 1, 2001.

The Board further directs the Superintendent and staff to move forward in the implementation of these recommendations."

Recommendations

- **School calendar**
 - Legislative change to authorize districts to hold school on 5 legal holidays (i.e., those honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.; Abraham Lincoln; Casimir Pulaski; Columbus; and veterans), providing that relevant instruction is provided for students
 - Legislative change to delete Good Friday as a legal school holiday
 - Work with interested legislators and educators to simplify the school calendar and assure a common minimum school year
- **Substitute teacher service limitations**
 - Work with the educational community to identify solutions to the substitute teacher service limitations and support moving forward on this issue
- **Non-resident tuition**
 - Legislation to require districts seeking to reduce or waive non-resident tuition to obtain agreement from neighboring districts
- **Criteria for waiver requests**
 - Legislation to allow waiver requests if the intent of the law can be met in a more efficient, effective, or economical manner
- **Waiver report submission dates**
 - Legislation to move cumulative waiver report date from Feb. 1 to Nov. 1 (to give legislators more time to consider legislative proposals included in that report) and

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- To move the spring report date from May 1 to March 1 (to acknowledge legislative desire to end spring sessions earlier)

Ms. Branch seconded the motion. The Superintendent commended the work of the staff, and he expressed his hope that the General Assembly acts on any or all of these recommendations.

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

Mrs. McConachie- yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Mrs. McConachie indicated that she did not support the increasing complexity of these waivers, and she did not support daily P.E. She commented that she does support achievement of the Illinois Learning Standards. She noted that she regarded the debate over these trivialities in the waiver law as a waste of time and energy and political capital. Mrs. McConachie indicated that we need to be dealing directly with performance on the Illinois Learning Standards -- that is the central issue. For that reason, she recommended the following action to handle P.E. waivers differently.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following procedure to handle P. E. waivers.

In the future, date certain, giving districts time to comply, the State Board grants P.E. waivers for one year only on the following conditions.

1. The district has implemented an approved fitness assessment and presents baseline data on its students.
2. Waivers will be renewed only if students' level of fitness shows improvement."

Mrs. McConachie explained that this puts the waiver issue directly on the matter of performance. She indicated that the State Board would have to provide a list of approved assessments, and those would be developed with the individuals in the field who have the expertise to help the Board select the best. She commented that fitness is an area that the Board has assessments for, and it would be easy to implement quickly.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that it is, of course, only one component of the physical education and health standards, so additional components could be layered on later at the option of local districts that sought waivers -- until we have covered the Illinois Learning Standards. She commented that what would happen here in practical terms is that the State Board would either grant the waiver or refuse it, and if the Board did not accept the request for a waiver, it would go to the General Assembly. She noted that it would then be incumbent upon the

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individuals in the field to go to the General Assembly and make sure that a waiver was not granted for a district that did not have a first-rate physical education and health program. Mrs. McConachie thought that we could do this without legislation, but she would certainly rather see it written into the law. She offered this as a possibility for dealing more directly with the real problem.

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

Superintendent M^CGee indicated that he thought this was a terrific idea, and it has a great potential. He noted that what we want to do is focus on the Standards, and this does it. He reiterated what he said earlier that he was sorry some of the speakers missed the conversation on January 17, because with Representative William Delgado present, it was focused on the standards.

The Superintendent commented that we do need to strengthen the waiver application review process, but that is not just for P.E. He noted that we need to make sure that there is proper notice and evidence of participation. He supported Mrs. McConachie's idea, and he suggested that in fine-tuning it, we may want to consider one year versus two years.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that it was not good practice for a governing board of this kind to act on an idea without staff research, thought, consideration, and discussion with the field, so she recognized the fact that this may come back to the Board looking somewhat different after there has been wide consultation to make sure of what the implications would be for other waivers, whether this is workable, etc.

Superintendent M^CGee noted that he hoped we could send the waiver report over to the General Assembly and indicate that we are taking further time to discuss this issue. He commented that he knew Representative Delgado would much rather have a thoughtful report that looked at this issue in a new way than just something to meet timelines.

Lee Patton indicated that without consulting the Board's attorney, she suggested that the Board put in the intent of what it wants to happen and then come back next month. She noted that there were some other issues that the Board endorsed on January 17, e.g., working with schools to improve their programs, and clarification is needed. She noted that they did include in the Report that there would be a change in the process across the board -- not just for P.E.

General Counsel Res Vazquez reported that there is a timeline to consider, and the State Board has about 45 days to act on the waiver request.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that if he understood correctly, the motion does not change the Board's statutory authority; it only changes the rules by which the State Board makes decision with respect to waivers.

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Mr. Vazquez responded that that was correct. He was only trying to explain that if we do not respond within the time period, it is an automatic approval.

The Chairman noted that the P.E. waivers have been addressed; therefore, we are only talking about tabling a particular rule for 30 or more days for additional conversation.

The Superintendent commented that we need to send a report to the General Assembly, and it is just whether or not to include comments on physical education waivers. He recommended that we do not comment on it other than to say the Board is studying the issue. Mr. Vazquez agreed.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the waivers that were submitted during the first semester have all been dealt with; therefore, all we are talking about are waivers that will come to the Board during the second semester (the spring term of the year). He noted that the State Board would deal with those requests under the current rules until it changes the rules. He explained the situation to Dr. Steiner who was connected to the meeting by phone and then asked staff to examine Mrs. McConachie's recommendation and report to the Board at the February Board meeting.

Election/ Vice Chair

The Chairman called for Agenda Item E.3., Immediate Action Items, Election of Vice Chair.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that with the departure of Sandra Pellegrino, the office of Vice Chair of the Board is vacant. He indicated that the Bylaws state that during the next Board meeting, the State Board should elect a new Vice Chair or officer.

Motion

Ms. Branch moved that "she nominated Marilyn McConachie for the office of Vice Chair of the Illinois State Board of Education, effective February, 2001. Furthermore, she nominated Connie Rogers to assume the office of Secretary of the Illinois State Board of Education (currently held by Marilyn McConachie), effective February, 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
Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. McConachie- yes
Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

School Technology

The Chairman called for Agenda Item F.1., Future Action Items, School Technology Rules.

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Superintendent M^CGee reported that rules for the Technology Revolving Loan Program had been revisited and amended to address procedural concerns that were not anticipated by the original team when the rules were first written. He indicated that in addition, a review of the rules by the Internal Audit office had highlighted areas that the initial rules did not address. He noted that these changes were summarized in the Board packet.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board accept the proposed amendments as an item for future action and direct their dissemination for public comment.

Motion

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the amendments as proposed to Part 575 (School Technology Program) which specifically address the School Technology Revolving Loan Program."

Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion.

Dr. Steiner disconnected from the meeting at this time.

Information Items

The Chairman called for Agenda Item G., Information Items: School Ambassador Program; Federal Relations Report.

School Ambassador

Superintendent M^CGee reported that during the November Board meeting, the Board requested a report on the School Ambassador Program that was implemented from September through November, 2000. He indicated that this has been an extremely successful program -- not only for providing the Board's staff a true picture of the challenges faced by the districts and schools in Illinois, but it has also served as a great customer service outreach effort. He noted that the Board members received on a CD-ROM a copy of all of the comments made by the participating districts.

The Superintendent commented that he thought the Board would agree that local administrators and teachers were very pleased with putting a face or faces on the State Board of Education. He indicated that he was very pleased with the results as well as the leadership that was provided by Ray Schaljo, Director of the Customer Service Office, in this effort, and he also commended staff members Cliff Erwin and Tanya Patton for making this project happen. He noted that this is a true example of collaboration across all parts of the agency.

Mr. Schaljo gave a brief report on the employees' school visits to see what is going on in the teaching and learning process.

Chairman Gidwitz asked what exactly the recommendation is. Superintendent McGee responded that this was an information item, and we intend to continue this Program. He commented that 95 percent of those employees who

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participated in the school visits reported that this experience would improve their services to the State Board's customers.

Federal Relations

Superintendent M^CGee reported that he was very pleased with what has happened with the agency's federal program.

Gail Lieberman, Director of the Federal Relations Office, provided an update on the federal level (see Addendum II).

Discussion followed for clarification purposes. Mrs. Rogers indicated that she would be in Washington on January 19, and she would express the Board's thanks for the federal dollars.

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 H.1., Announcements and Reports, Chairman.

Chairman Gidwitz made the following statement regarding the Superintendent's annual evaluation.

"The Superintendent's contract calls for an annual review, and on January 17, the Board engaged in that process and reviewed the last year to evaluate the Superintendent's performance against the objectives that were established when he was originally hired in November of 1998. In any undertaking as complex as this, one might imagine that there were things that were done extraordinarily well; there were things that were done well; there were things that were sometimes done O.K.; and some that were disappointments. The Board spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the Superintendent.

He summarized the Board's review on a number of areas where we have in some cases made progress satisfactory or better and progress in some cases where we have not made quite as much progress as we might have liked. The Board members were generally all very comfortable with the fact that we have really focused on the Board's mission this year. Being 'second to none' could have a lot of implications for a lot of people, but we have been talking about standardized-based education, quality teachers and administrators in every classroom, early childhood education, what we do in reading and mathematics, and how we help poor performing schools. He and the Board thought that the agency has made major strides in all those areas, and he commended the Superintendent and staff for their efforts. Clearly as the leader, it has been quite an achievement for the Superintendent -- a real turnaround in the agency that has not had always the most focus.

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The Superintendent made some significant organizational changes this year that also began to help address some of the diversity and opinion as to what we ought to be doing. Appointing a chief operating officer has been very beneficial and helped focus people's efforts. Occasionally, we have heard constituents that say that we are doing things that do not make any sense, sort of after the fact. At this meeting, the individuals who spoke about the physical education waiver and the contribution that the Board received from the folks both on January 17 and today, anticipating problems as opposed to responding to problems, is an indication of the kind of progress that the agency has made under the Superintendent's leadership. He commended Superintendent McGee for that.

You have also made some difficult choices in terms of some of the personnel that you have. This has not been an agency that has made changes easily, and while it still is not easy to make changes in personnel, there have been some very beneficial new additions to the staff. We applaud you for that. There have also been some people who have elected to retire for one reason or another or to go elsewhere, and we in some cases will miss them sorely and in other cases, we commend you for that too. Fundamentally, we are pleased with the performance, but you can always do better.

One of the major inhibiting factors this past year has been the budget, and it will be no less true this coming year. We have a great need. We have to make choices. We have to parcel out our dollars carefully. Sometimes we are not always in a position to make those decisions; others make them for us. We do the best we can under difficult circumstances. He commended the Superintendent and staff for that as well. The entire Board of Education truly wishes that we would have had more resources last year and would have more resources to put against these issues this year. We will work diligently with you to see that we can secure the most for the children of Illinois -- both from a federal as well as a state level. There is yet room for more focus. There is room for giving people greater challenges and ask them to surmount those challenges. You have a very talented staff. You have come a significant distance, but we have a very long way to go. And you and your staff can do it. We support you; we encourage you; we are proud of you; and we thank you. And we wish you well. Good luck in this coming year in all of our endeavors."

NASBE

The Chairman recognized the efforts of the Board members in their working above and beyond the call of duty not only at the state level but also through their leadership efforts with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) membership. He made the following announcements.

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- For the second year, Mrs. Rogers would be serving as chair of NASBE's Governmental Affairs Committee.
- Mrs. McConachie was selected as a member of the committee studying policy related to distance learning.
- Ms. Branch was asked to serve on a study regarding "Diversity in the Schools" that is sponsored by NASBE and funded by the Joyce Foundation.

Supt.'s Report

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

Corey H.

Superintendent M^CGee read the following statement on Corey H case. He indicated that from this point on, he thought it would be valuable to have a brief monthly update.

"Given the legislative and judicial activity regarding the Corey H. special education lawsuit, we want to make a brief statement regarding this matter.

Last week JCAR suspended rules related to special education content standards. Also last week the State Board withdrew an earlier appeal regarding these content standards, because practices in other states and documented educational research weighed heavily against a successful appeal. Later in the week, in fact Friday morning, we met with Judge Robert Gettleman regarding the suspension of the rules by JCAR. Judge Gettleman decided to withhold making any rule or decision for at least two weeks. I am pleased that during that meeting Judge Gettleman agreed to our request to meet with some members of the General Assembly. I trust that the end results of this meeting will be what is best for students with disabilities.

We must ensure that students with disabilities get the services that best meet their needs. That means ensuring that their teachers are appropriately prepared to provide those services. Organizations like the National Council for Exceptional Children that represent an advocate for students with disabilities and their families strongly support a system for training and preparing special education teachers grounded on our standards. In fact, our own teacher standards were developed by Illinois teachers with the collaboration of parents and other individuals involved in the education of children with disabilities; our standards are based on the National Council of Exceptional Children's standards. Our standards were also endorsed by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The next step in the Corey H. case is for us to file a brief with the court which Judge Gettleman has asked the plaintiffs and us to outline our perspectives on the federal authority in this matter. Those briefs are due this Friday, January 19 (tomorrow). At the Judge's request, we are also

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continuing to meet with the plaintiffs regarding rules related to certification. On January 26, we will meet with the Judge, the plaintiffs, and legislators selected by the legislative leaders.

In conclusion, we are committed to continuing to work with the court, the plaintiffs, the General Assembly, and other interested parties to ensure that we fully meet the needs of our students with disabilities throughout this case and as we move ahead."

Annual Report/ Budget

The Superintendent highlighted portions of the Annual Report and talked about what it would really take to deliver a quality of education that is "Second to None," which included follow-up information to the budget discussions.

Chairman Gidwitz expressed his appreciation to the Superintendent and staff for the work that was done in putting the information together.

Mrs. Rogers requested one page to show what we need in early childhood, reading, professional development, standards, and math to really make the differences and the change. The Superintendent responded that he would be glad to provide that information.

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

Committee Reports

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

Mrs. Rogers, Chair of the Board Operations Committee, indicated that Ms. Branch would be joining the Committee.

Chairman Gidwitz reported that on January 16, he and the Superintendent attended the Joint Education Committee meeting. He indicated that the discussion dealt with the budget areas of the Community College Board, Board of Higher Education, and the State Board and where there were inter-links. He noted that the issue of teacher report cards was also discussed.

Superintendent McGee reported that the Committee discussed a common support for budget initiatives related to the Governor's initiatives and also a common legislative agenda that we can all support. He noted that there was a lot of collaboration and cooperation. He indicated that what we need to come back with is a very concise document that shows how these are all fitting together.

Board Members

The Chairman called for Agenda Item H.4., Announcements and Reports, Members. There were no further reports.

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Chairman Gidwitz apologized for the length of the meeting. He commented that the information at the end that the Superintendent provided regarding the Annual Report and the Budget was excellent material, and he expressed his appreciation to Superintendent McGee and staff.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman