



# Illinois State Board of Education

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

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Illinois State Board of Education Offices**  
**100 North First Street**  
**Springfield, Illinois**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

## **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA** **March 21-22, 2001**

### **WEDNESDAY, March 21**

#### **1:00 p.m. WORK-STUDY SESSION I**

ISBE

Board Room - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

- A. School Designation System Update
- B. Financial Accountability and Assurance System
  - o Cover
  - o FAAS Questions and Answers
- C. 5 Year Statewide Technology Plan
  - o Cover-Technology Plan Status Report

#### **5:00 p.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION** **Closed Meeting**

#### **6:30 p.m. LEGISLATIVE DINNER**

Maldaner's Restaurant

### **THURSDAY, March 22**

#### **7:30 a.m. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION** **Breakfast and Closed Meeting**

Hilton Hotel

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

ISBE

Board Room - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

- A. Board Priority Reports – Focus on Math
- B. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)
  - NBPTS and the Illinois Master Certificate-Cover/li>
  - Framework of National Board Certificate
  - Illinois National Board Certified Teachers - Total
  - Application for National Board Certification Fee Subsidy 2000-2001
  - All Illinois National Board Certified Teachers (Maps)
- C. Federal Relations
  - Cover
  - Washington Education News - March 21, 2001

#### **10:45 PLENARY SESSION**

**a.m.**

ISBE

Board Room - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

- A. Call to Order

- B. Approval of Minutes: February 20, 2001 and February 21-22, 2001
  - o MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING (via conference call - February 20, 2001)
  - o MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSION I and CLOSED MEETING (February 21, 2001)
  - o MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSION II and CLOSED MEETING (February 22, 2001)
  - o MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION (February 22, 2001)
- C. Public Participation
- D. Immediate Action Items
  - 1. Financial Accountability and Assurance System
  - 2. Keller Graduate School of Management
  - 3. Physical Development and Health Policy
- E. Announcements and Reports
  - 1. Chairman
  - 2. Superintendent
  - 3. Members
  - 4. Committees
- F. Adjourn

Noon

**LUNCH**

ISBE

Superintendent's Conference Room - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Illinois State Board of Education**

100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

**MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY SESSION I  
and CLOSED MEETINGS  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
State Board of Education Office and Hilton Hotel  
Springfield, Illinois  
March 21-22, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald J. Gidwitz  
Marjorie B. Branch

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Beverly Turkal

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janet Steiner\*

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Roll Call      The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

\*Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Dr. Steiner was unable to be present on March 21 but would be in attendance on Thursday (March 22).

School      The Chairman called for Agenda Item A., School Designation System Update.

Designation

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that in October, the State Board reviewed the School Designation Task Force report and adopted fourteen recommendations made by that Task Force. He reported that the Board had asked the Superintendent to proceed with planning for implementation of those recommendations. He noted that at this time, the Board would discuss the status of activity related to implementation of those recommendations.

Superintendent McGee indicated that Michael Dunn, Chief Education Officer, and Deputy Superintendent Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer had assumed the leadership role in the design of the School Designation System. He reported that several meetings have been convened to further clarify issues and identify implementation steps. He noted that conversations focused on a variety of points with special emphasis on indicators for improvement and rewards and sanctions per the Board's request in October.

The Superintendent commented that at this meeting, an update would be shared on the status of the School Designation System, and we would like to obtain input

# MINUTES OF WORK STUDY SESSION I

## and CLOSED MEETINGS

March 21-22, 2001

Page 2

regarding the implementation plan. He noted that the intent is to provide a full implementation plan in June.

Michael Dunn and Carmen Pfeiffer highlighted some of the major observations and themes from the groups.

Discussion followed with Board members' providing input and sharing their concerns.

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

### FAAS

The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., Financial Accountability and Assurance System.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that at this time, there would be a rather extended discussion regarding the financial health of Illinois public school districts. He noted that in keeping with past practice, we would also be preparing for adoption of the 2001 Financial Watch, Financially Certified School District, and Financial Oversight Panel Lists.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that at this meeting, we would not only hear about the financial health of schools but would also have the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by two school districts (Decatur and Homewood) as they provide a standards-based education to their students.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Ey and Division Administrator Chuck Schmitt provided a power-point presentation, reviewing the fiscal health of Illinois schools that included ILEARN enhancements (see Addendum II).

Discussion followed with Board members' providing input and sharing their concerns.

The meeting recessed at 3:20 p.m. and reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

The following individuals provided information on the financial health of their respective schools districts. A copy of the materials distributed is available upon request through the State Board office in Springfield (217/782-9560).

- Decatur Public School District #61 -- Kenneth Arndt, Superintendent; Martin Getty, Director of Business Affairs; and Jacqueline Goetter, president of the Board
- Homewood School District #153 -- Ed Wahl, Assistant Superintendent

MINUTES OF WORK STUDY SESSION I

and CLOSED MEETINGS

March 21-22, 2001

Page 3

The Superintendent thanked the individuals for their participation in the Board meeting. He indicated that as the Chairman had mentioned, on March 22, he would be recommending adoption of the 2001 Financial Watch, Certified School District, and Oversight Panel Lists.

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

Technology Plan The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Five Year Statewide Technology Plan.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Board's final agenda item surrounds the statewide Technology Plan to be adopted in 2001. He noted that this discussion would focus on the Plan content and the development activity since the November Board meeting when we had the last update.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee introduced Lugene Finley, Chief Technology Officer, and Vicki DeWitt and Kathy Bjelland, Directors of Area 4 and Area 5 Learning Technology Centers. He reported that during the November discussion, a great deal of input was provided to Ms. DeWitt and Ms. Bjelland on the Technology Plan. He indicated that since that time they have been persistent in obtaining consensus from the Technology Coalition members and others, as well as drafting a plan to present to the State Board.

The Superintendent thanked Ms. DeWitt and Ms. Bjelland for their leadership and dedication to producing what would be the future direction for technology in the schools. He also expressed appreciation for their efforts.

Mr. Finley, Ms. DeWitt, and Ms. Bjelland provided an overview of the Plan.

Discussion followed with Board members providing their input and expressing their concerns.

Discussion surrounding the use of this Plan as a "consensus" document, enhancing the vision of the Plan, and the process for finalizing the Plan followed.

It was agreed that a letter would be developed and disseminated reflecting the status of the Technology Plan development.

Division Administrator Frank Whitney assisted in responding to Board members' questions.

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

MINUTES OF WORK STUDY SESSION I

and CLOSED MEETINGS

March 21-22, 2001

Page 4

Staff Recognition The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Recognition of Frank Whitney (not on published agenda).

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee indicated that he always does kudos during the Plenary Session for the outstanding work of staff. He commented that he would like to do a special kudo at this meeting and personally thank Division Administrator Frank Whitney for his leadership and hard work in building the state's internet. He presented Mr. Whitney with a customized poster, recognizing his leadership in initiating the state infrastructure.

Closed Meeting

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

Motion

Mr. Serritella moved that "the State Board of Education go into a closed meeting on March 21 at 5:00 p.m. or immediately following Work-Study Session I and on March 22 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; and
- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

He further moved that Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee be included in this meeting and that the Board be authorized to invite anyone else into the meeting as needed."

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

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Mrs. Turkal - yes

Chairman Gidwitz announced that on March 22, Work-Study Session II would begin at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.

The meeting recessed at 5:10 p.m. and reconvened into a closed meeting at 5:15 p.m. The closed meeting recessed at 6:00 p.m. and reconvened on March 22 at 7:30 a.m.

MINUTES OF WORK STUDY SESSION I

and CLOSED MEETINGS

March 21-22, 2001

Page 5

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

State Board of Education Office  
Springfield, Illinois  
March 22, 2001

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz  
Marjorie B. Branch  
Marilyn McConachie

Connie Rogers  
Vincent J. Serritella

Janet Steiner  
Beverly Turkal

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

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Roll Call      The meeting was called to order at 10:03 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. (Dr. Steiner joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and Mrs. Turkal at 10:30 a.m. Superintendent McGee joined the meeting at 11:15 a.m.)

Priority Reports      Because the Superintendent was not present, this agenda item was deferred until later in the meeting.

NBPTS      The Chairman called for Agenda Item B., National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that at this time, an update on Illinois involvement in the NBPTS would be provided as well as the process for certification. He noted that this was a program of high visibility and support by the Board's partners. The Chairman reported that in January, the Illinois Business Roundtable presented the State Board with a check to support teacher costs for pursuing certification -- just one example of support and commitment beyond that of the State Board. He commented that the IEA and IFT continue to support the effort as two additional partners.

Lynne Haeffele, the Chief Deputy Superintendent, indicated that at this meeting, we would provide a brief update on this initiative and request the Board's input as to how we build and promote this program. She noted that specific issues relate to the Board's goals for participation, possible incentives, geographic and population



## MINUTES OF WORK STUDY SESSION II

March 22, 2001

Page 2

representation, support for the candidates, and additional leadership opportunities for these teachers.

Chairman Gidwitz left the meeting at 10:15 a.m. and Mrs. McConachie took over as chair of the meeting.

Division Administrator Mike Long and staff member Linda Kopecky provided a power-point presentation on this initiative (see Addendum II).

Discussion followed for clarification purposes. Board members provided input and expressed their concerns.

Vice Chair McConachie summarized the discussion. She stated that we are looking at the following.

- A clearer statement of goals for the program
- Measurable objectives
- A clear definition of roles that the Board, ROE's, and teachers play
- Specific recommendations from staff on how to increase participation with perhaps some options for focusing on low-performing schools, etc.
- Possible incentives with budgets attached
- New methods of support and how we measure whether it works or not
- Additional leadership opportunities and how those would be structured

The Vice Chair requested that staff come back to the Board with some very specific and measurable recommendations. She noted that the Superintendent recommended January 2002 for that report. She asked Ms. Haeffele if that date could be moved up to September 2001, because she believed the report would have budget implications.

Ms. Haeffele responded that she did not think if we received the numbers after September that there would be a realistic chance to build it into our budget projections

Vice Chair McConachie asked Mr. Long is this is possible. He responded that it is possible, but what we would probably not be able to include, which is something that is important to the Board, is the Chicago experience. He noted that as Chicago's report indicates, it has a large number of applicants this year, and they are doing some unique things with those applicants. He commented that we would not know in September how successful they were, because we would not learn the past numbers until November. Mrs. McConachie indicated that we could advise them of when we are taking action, and perhaps they would provide what they have. She commended staff for their work on this initiative.

MINUTES OF WORK STUDY SESSION II

March 22, 2001

Page 3

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

Federal Relations

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item C., Federal Relations.

Vice Chair McConachie introduced Gail Lieberman, Director of the Federal Relations Office, who provided an update on federal relations activity.

Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. McConachie, Ms. Branch, the Superintendent, Ms. Haeffele, and Ms. Lieberman spent several days in Washington, D.C. since the last Board meeting. A great deal of discussion was focused on President's Bush's plan for education. The purpose of this discussion and agenda item is to prepare should the President's plan become law.

The Superintendent had requested authorization to develop a statement that responds to the components of the President's plan.

Ms. Lieberman provided a power-point presentation that identified the current and actual components of Bush's plan and the areas in Illinois that are missing and may merit further policy discussion (see Addendum III). She distributed a brochure that Missouri had done on the President's budget. Mrs. Rogers suggested that the State Board do something similar. Ms. Haeffele commented that the Joint Education Committee was also looking at the President's plan.

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

Priority Reports

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item A., Board Priority Reports -- Focus on Math.

Ms. Haeffele introduced Deputy Superintendent Mary Jayne Broncato who reviewed the Math priority report.

Superintendent McGee joined the meeting and reviewed priority reports for the other areas: Reading; AEWL/support systems; Standards, Assessment and Accountability; and Educator Quality.

Vice Chair McConachie commended Dr. Broncato for her work.

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

MINUTES OF WORK STUDY SESSION II

March 22, 2001

Page 4

Adjournment The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Marilyn McConachie, Vice Chair

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

State Board of Education Office  
Springfield, Illinois  
March 22, 2001

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marilyn McConachie  
Marjorie B. Branch

Connie Rogers  
Vincent J. Serritella

Janet Steiner  
Beverly Turkal

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz

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Roll Call

In the absence of Chairman Gidwitz, the meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by the Vice Chair, Mrs. McConachie, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that Chairman Gidwitz had another commitment, but he was in Springfield since March 20 working on behalf of the Board.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes for the meetings of the State Board held on February 20, 21, and 22, 2001. The motion was seconded by Dr. Steiner, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

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

Jim Guilinger, representing the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education, indicated that some information regarding agricultural education would be mailed to the Board. He noted that all of the current House Appropriations Committee members have a copy, and he gave one to Superintendent McGee when he appeared before that group. He reported that their initiative continues to expand ag education in the State of Illinois.

Mr. Guilinger commented on their activities in the legislature regarding an increase in the line item on ag education. He indicated that the two new CD's (one coming out in June in Management and Economics and another one in ag machinery and ag machinery science) would be close to providing all of the core curriculum for ag education that meets all of the State Board's skill standards as well as the Learning Standards. He expressed two concerns.

## MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 2

- As a member of the CTE Committee, he is getting the impression that the philosophy of CTE is to roll all of vocational education to the community college concept, and that would mean serious problems for those in ag education.
- We do not know what the ramifications are for Senate Bill 218 (Senator Karpziel) regarding block granting. In the past, block granting caused real problems, because we cannot work on the basis of encouraging local programs in agriculture to meet specific standards.

Mr. Guilinger invited the Board members and Superintendent to attend the Illinois Ag Teachers Conference and inservice sessions on June 21 in Decatur.

Superintendent McGee thanked Mr. Guilinger for the invitation. He indicated that the Board completely concurs that vocational education/career technical education belongs at the State Board, and from conversations with the Community College Board, he thought that they saw it that way too. He noted that we had also opposed Senator Karpziel's bill. The Superintendent commented that we value our relationship with Mr. Guilinger and the ag community, and he encouraged them to continue to do great things.

Deborah Wolf, as president-elect of the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD) and a professor at EIU, indicated that they support the language in the proposed physical education waiver policy. She expressed appreciation for the Board's support of House Bill 1927, because they feel that its language will be instrumental in holding schools responsible for achieving the state standards in physical development and health. She commented that she is currently on sabbatical from her university responsibilities and is visiting schools, and she has witnessed the impact of some of the new programs on the students in the various districts. Ms. Wolf planned to share with ISBE staff videotapes of some of the more exciting programs in action, and there are dynamic curriculum materials that she would also be happy to share which she uses in her classes. She expressed gratitude for the Board's support.

Stephen Riley, representing OmniBus Education Management, distributed materials to the Board. He read parts of a letter that is a direct outreach to the State Board, expressing his vision for American education on behalf of youth and the importance of teachers, followed by a poem. He asked that his remarks be passed on to Chairman Gidwitz, and he requested that before June, he would like to have a conference with Superintendent McGee, Chairman Gidwitz and any or all of the other Board members. Mr. Riley commented that he was impressed with the attitudes, mindset, and the dedication that the Board members pursue toward improving the nation's schools. He indicated that he had already submitted a proposal to Dr. Hill, Superintendent of Springfield School District, asking him to consider an educational summit in Springfield where as many superintendents as

MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 3

possible would be invited. He added that he would like the State Board members and the Superintendent to participate in that summit.

Susan Shea, on behalf of IEA, indicated that they are in support of the physical education waiver policy, and she thanked the Board for the concentrated effort that was put into that issue. She noted that those school districts applying for waivers would have to show that their students meet the standard of physical education before they request it and the Board approves it.

Dr. Shea reported that last month she talked with the Board about the impossibility of online providers to give credit online and talked about the virtual technology and Virtual High School, and she had been asked to provide a written report of the issues. She explained that she did not do this, because early on the day following the Board meeting, the Board staff faxed to her a draft to address exactly that issue. Dr. Shea indicated that the policy on an online provider, how a person would be able to provide online courses, has been disseminated to get feedback. She thanked the Board for fixing the problem.

Dr. Shea reported that she has served on the Board's design team for NBPTS for the last four or five years, and the Board's new policy calls for the teachers to pay the \$300 up-front costs. She indicated that the IEA voted "no" on the design team, and she wanted to tell the State Board that they are not supportive of asking the teachers to pay the \$300. She commented on one of the Certification Board members who is an NBPTS teacher, has taught for 29 years, has a Masters Degree, and just this year made \$40,000, and he cannot spend the \$300 (has a child in college and it cost \$2,300 to sit for the exam).

Dr. Shea noted that in her districts, looking at the areas where there are candidates and successful teachers now, there are major holes in the rural areas. She indicated that she knew there are plenty of organizations that would sponsor that \$300, but there are a lot of rural areas that simply will not have an entity to give the teachers that \$300. She thought this would create an even bigger problem, and she knew that the Board did not want that.

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

FAAS

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.1., Immediate Action Items, Financial Accountability and Assurance System.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that on March 21, the Board spent a great deal of time discussing the various issues surrounding the financial health of Illinois school districts. He recommended that the Board adopt the 2001 Financial Watch, Financially Certified School District, and Financial Oversight Panel Lists. He noted

MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 4

that in the fall, we would provide an update in the efforts to develop a financial report card that links with the academic report card.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the Financial Watch, Financial Certified School District, and the Financial Oversight Panel Lists (see Addendum II).

Over the next year, we recommend staff develop a prototype "Financial Report Card" system that will improve the financial Assurance and Accountability System and enhance the school districts, members of the General Assembly, and the publics' understanding of the true financial conditions of Illinois school districts."

Vice Chair McConachie indicated that she did not see this written into the motion, but may we assume that the things that the Board talked about on March 21 in terms of this report card being linked to the Academic Report Card, aligned with it, and generally user-friendly for a broad population -- that those principles would be part of this. The Superintendent responded that she could assume that, but we would be glad to have that in the motion as well. The Vice Chair asked that the motion be amended, so the motion would read as follows.

"The State Board of Education hereby adopts the Financial Watch, Financial Certified School District, and the Financial Oversight Panel Lists (see Addendum II).

Over the next year, we recommend staff develop a prototype "Financial Report Card" system that will improve the financial Assurance and Accountability System and enhance the school districts, members of the General Assembly, and the publics' understanding of the true financial conditions of Illinois school districts. **The Financial Report Card will be linked to and aligned with the Academic Report Card and generally user-friendly for a broad population."**

Mrs. Turkal seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes	Mrs. Turkal - yes

Keller School

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.2., Immediate Action Items, Keller Graduate School of Management.

Vice Chair McConachie noted that this is a very interesting proposal, and this is the first time that the State Board has received a request for accreditation.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that he chaired the State Teacher Certification Board meeting and heard the presentation on the Keller Graduate School of Management, and he truly appreciated the diligence that they spent responding to the initial review. He commended members of the State Teacher Certification Board for their work and their endorsement of his recommendation to the State Board.

The Superintendent indicated that the Keller Graduate School of Management provides an innovative approach to preparing principals, and he hoped it becomes a model for other programs in the country. He reported that the materials identify the process that has been used to get to the point of his recommendation that the State Board grant initial operating authority to the Keller School of Management and give conditional approval to its principal preparation program. Superintendent McGee noted that as indicated in the materials, they would be coming back to the State Teacher Certification Board. He commented that we would be looking very hard to make sure that they have diligently addressed some of the weaknesses in the program, but they are off to a good start.

The Vice Chair commented that regarding the first condition of a focused visit in a year by the State Board staff, she suggested that an independent committee be considered of the sort that the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) would be more likely to use. She noted that when the state education agency is the sole visitor, there are different dynamics than when there is a trained, independent committee visiting.

The Superintendent responded that he thought that is a good idea and that the State Board should have some members on that committee as well. He indicated that it would be better for the school and everyone if we do have a committee made up of more than just State Board staff.

Motion

Ms. Branch moved that "the State Board of Education hereby grants initial operating authority to the Keller Graduate School of Management and gives conditional approval to its principal preparation program, with the following stipulations:

1. Following submission of the annual report that is required of all institutions that prepare educational personnel, State Board staff will visit the institution to review overall progress, as well as specific progress in the areas of weakness identified by the Certification Board.
2. Representatives of the Keller Graduate School of Management will meet with the Certification Board following the October 2002 visit to explain how the institution has addressed concerns identified in the Certification Board review as 'met,' 'not met,' or 'met with weakness.'



MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 6

3. Representatives of the Keller Graduate School of Management will return to the State Teacher Certification Board within three years to present evidence that the program is meeting the Illinois Professional Leader Standards."

Mr. Serritella seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes	Mrs. Turkal - yes

P.E. Policy

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.3., Immediate Action Items, Physical Development and Health Policy.

Vice Chair McConachie noted that as mentioned previously, the State Board has been working on this policy for several months, and at this meeting, the Board is ready to take action.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee thanked Dr. Wolf for her comments during Public Participation. He commended Lee Patton, Director of the Policy Development Office, for the fine work.

The Superintendent indicated that during the February Board meeting, the Board discussed policy issues associated with the physical education waiver and modification requests. He noted that while the Board adopted two statements from the overall policy, additional work on the statement language was requested. He reported that at this meeting, we have a proposed policy that has been revised since the February meeting to communicate greater focus on the Illinois Learning Standards.

Ms. Patton commented that the focus is not on learning opportunities or the requirements of the law in terms of daily P.E., but it is on students meeting the standards. She reported that we have received many questions in terms of how this would be implemented, and we will be coming back to the Board with timelines and procedures for implementation, using the data that schools have on hand or can develop to support their waiver request. Ms. Patton indicated that the proposal gives districts a lot of latitude. She noted that we may want to give them some guidance in terms of what is an appropriate documentation to provide for the Board.

Motion

Mr. Serritella moved that "the State Board of Education hereby adopts the policy statement regarding physical education waiver requests (see Addendum III)."

MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 7

Mrs. Turkal seconded the motion.

Mr. Serritella expressed his compliments for the work in the process. He noted that it received great public input; we listened to the partners; and we worked the process.

The Vice Chair indicated that what she did not see in the next steps was a communications plan. She offered the following suggestions.

- We need communications with the legislature, especially those promoting physical education and waiver legislation, and we need to be working with them about the relationship.
- For legislators who will be receiving waiver and modification requests, they need to know what the implications of this policy change are.
- We need to put out to the field not just timetable and implementation measures but some recognition that we understand the impact that this may have.
- Because students and parents will be directly affected, the press needs to understand that we know what the implications are and that we are ready to provide whatever services we can to help school districts deal with this.
- While it does not affect juniors and seniors in high school, it may affect freshmen and sophomores and will affect future waiver requests. We need to be very tactful, sympathetic, and thorough in the presentation of the issues.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee indicated that there was a news release planned for that day, and Kim Knauer, Director of the Communications Office, and Media Supervisor Wade Nelson would be working together to communicate this to both the members of the General Assembly and the school districts. He noted that he has had some conversations with legislators about this issue, and he planned to do some further visits later that day. He stated that we would move ahead with this issue.

Vice Chair McConachie commented that we need to think about students, parents, teachers, and schools as well as legislators. She noted that we will need some support. She thanked Ms. Patton for her work on this policy.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes	Mrs. Turkal - yes

Supt.'s Travel

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item D.4., Immediate Action Items, Superintendent's Travel (not on published agenda).

MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 8

Mrs. Rogers reported that she had reviewed the Superintendent's travel and found no irregularities. She thanked the Superintendent for traveling and speaking on the Board's behalf and for putting children first.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the travel of the Superintendent."

Dr. Steiner seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

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

Ms. Branch - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mrs. McConachie - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mrs. Turkal - yes

Chair

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E.1., Announcements and Reports, Chair. There was nothing further to report.

Supt.

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

Superintendent McGee reported that there was a very successful schoolhouse meeting in Kewanee last week. He indicated that there were about 100 people in attendance, and we had a terrific dialogue about some of the Board's initiatives and local concerns. He noted that it was great to hear from teachers, school board members, and taxpayers at these meetings. The next scheduled schoolhouse meeting is on April 2 in Carbondale, and several others were planned around the legislative sessions.

The Superintendent reported that the first day of ISAT testing is March 23 for four weeks, and he thought that Illinois is the only state that has the interactive state test on their website. He commented that one of the members of the Appropriations Committee had taken one of the ISAT tests online and done fairly well. He noted that as of last night, there have been 170,000 practice tests online, and this past week's average was 8500 tests per day. Superintendent McGee indicated that as he has said many times, "If you teach the test, you are wasting students' time." He commented that it disturbs him greatly to hear about teachers getting pressured to teach the test and spending a lot of time preparing for the test instead of teaching the Learning Standards like they should be doing.

Mrs. Rogers asked if we were keeping track of those who passed the tests. The Superintendent responded that we only keep track of how many hits the website receives.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that he had met with the editorial boards of the *State Journal-Register*, *Peoria Journal Star*, *Chicago Sun Times*, and *Chicago Tribune* and reminded them that they could include the Board's website and give students and parents the opportunity to take the tests. He indicated that Mrs. McConachie had just passed him a note stating that Florida does have sample tests online, and there is plenty of practice there.

The Superintendent reported that as we move ahead in our goal to become a more responsive, customer-friendly agency, we will be having an indepth customer service analysis completed during April. He noted that we are looking at pencil and paper surveys as well as focus groups, and he thought that we would be awarding a contract for this in the next few weeks. Superintendent McGee commented that we are serious about collecting data on our performance and doing a better job. He indicated that the anecdotal data that we have in the form of letters continues to be evidence that we are doing a better job, but we need some systematic data.

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

- Frank Llano, Rob Sampson, and Mike Long -- for working with the Champaign-Ford Regional Office of Education and putting together a dynamic program that addressed the shortage of special education teachers
- Mary Jayne Broncato, Larry Boyd, and Tanya Patton -- for their efforts with the Violence Prevention Authority in giving workshops throughout the state
- Jack Shook, Mike Ross, and Jan Tanner -- for their fast action regarding Lincoln-Way Community High School District #210 and some technical problems with a student who is placed in one of the their private, residential facilities
- Eric and Tessie Abaca, along with Mrs. Turkal -- for participating on a Sunday in the Community Unit School District #2 Open Houses for Lincoln Elementary and Robinson High School
- Nancy Christensen and her team -- for their excellent service in the Quality Assurance External Review of Calumet City School District #155 (The Superintendent commented that we continue to receive commendations for the Quality Assurance Reviews. He would be reporting to the Board in either April or May on both what we can do to support internal review and what our external reviews will look like when we focus more on teaching and learning.)
- Gar Brown, Gloria Jordan, and Myron Mason -- for their review of the Springfield Public School District's compliance
- Gail Buoy -- for her valuable contributions on a Quality Assurance Review Team for Elk Grove Township Schools (District #59)

## MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 10

- Marilyn Holt, Sharon Roberts, and Sue Kurtz -- for coordinating a conference call and expediting a quagmire of "paper-smithing" to resolve a conflict at the Norris City-Omaha-Enfield High School
- Sally Cray and Amy Bianco -- for their work in putting the State, Local and Federal Financing for Illinois Public Schools on our website and the production of the CD-ROMs (a total savings to the State Board of \$26,000)
- Fiscal Services employees -- for the first time the department has had an audit-free findings
- State Board employees -- for being so helpful to two teachers who were the Superintendent's job shadows for a day (The teachers were very impressed with the quality of work, the friendliness, and courtesy that they saw around the agency.) The Superintendent also thanked Dr. Susan Shea of the IEA for the time she spent with the teachers.

### Members

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E.3., Announcements and Reports, Members.

Mrs. Rogers reported that on March 23, she, Mrs. Turkal, and the Superintendent met with the board of directors of the Illinois Association of School Boards. She indicated that from that meeting, they decided that there needed to be another meeting, and she noted that we would like to change the State Board's May Board meeting to May 17 and 18 (Thursday and Friday) to be in conjunction with the IASB's weekend meeting. Mrs. Rogers noted that we would like to have some collaborative time with the IASB -- either Thursday evening or Friday at lunch. She asked Board members to let her know if their schedules would permit moving the May Board meeting dates. She commented that the State Board needed to convey what are its role and responsibilities, its goals and plans, and the things that really make a good board member.

Vice Chair McConachie thanked Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Turkal for spending time with this key constituency, and she expressed appreciation for their leadership.

### Committees

The Vice Chair called for Agenda Item E.4., Announcements and Reports, Committees.

Ms. Branch reported that on March 9-10, she had attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) study group meeting on "The Changing Face of America's School Children" in Washington, D.C. She indicated that the group was looking in depth at the diversity issue. She noted that there is one more meeting in June that she hoped she would be able to attend, and then the group would submit a written report. Ms. Branch reported that this particular project is funded with the Libby Foundation, and they are mainly interested in what is happening in the Middle West. She noted that there may be a companion report a little later concerning that issue.

MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION

March 22, 2001

Page 11

Vice Chair McConachie reported that she and Mrs. Rogers were also in Washington, D.C. In addition to attending the NASBE Legislative Conference, Mrs. Rogers chaired the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, and Mrs. McConachie chaired a study group on e-learning.

Mrs. McConachie reported that on March 24, she would be traveling to Seattle for a week for NCATE, the unit accreditation board, and she commented that it was a very intensive experience. She indicated that while she does not get to vote on any Illinois institutions, she does learn a lot about how teacher preparation accreditation works, and she is able to bring a state board member's perspective, which is her job as a representative of NASBE.

Vice Chair McConachie thanked the Board for sending a very beautiful memorial to her grandmother's service.

The Vice Chair especially thanked Kathy Nicholson-Tosh, Director the Board Services Office, and her staff for preparations for this meeting and to all of the staff who prepared reports, gave presentations, and responded to questions. She indicated that the Board members really appreciated the way the staff facilitates their policy decision work.

Adjournment The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Marilyn McConachie, Vice Chair