



# 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 April 18-19, 2001

**WEDNESDAY, April  
18**

**11:00 a.m.**                   **CLOSED MEETING AND LUNCH**  
**Superintendent's Conference Room**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**WORK-STUDY SESSION I**  
**ISBE**  
**Board Room - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

- 1:00 p.m.**
- A. Standards Implementation
    - o Standards Partnerships
    - o Standards and Assessment
    - o Agency Collaboration
    - o Performance Descriptors for PSAE Standards Implementation
  - B. School Report Card
    - o Cover
    - o School Designation
    - o 2001 Illinois School Report Card State Profile
    - o 2001 Illinois School Report Card district Profile
  - C. Waiver Report
    - o Cover
    - o Executive Summary
    - o Applications to be Transmitted to the General Assembly

**5:00 p.m.**                   **CLOSED MEETING AND DINNER**  
**Governor's Cabinet Room**  
**Renaissance Hotel**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**THURSDAY, April  
19**

**7:00 a.m.**                   **LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**  
**Capitol Building**

**9:00 a.m.**                   **WORK-STUDY SESSION II**  
**ISBE**  
**Board Room - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

- A. Board Priority Reports

- Board Priority Accomplishments-April 2001
- B. Learning Environments
  - Cover

**PLENARY SESSION**

ISBE

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

**10:00 a.m.**

- A. **Approval of Minutes: March 21-22, 2001**
  - MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY SESSION I and CLOSED MEETINGS (March 21-22, 2001)
  - MINUTES OF THE WORK-STUDY & SESSION II MEETING \*March 22, 2001)
  - MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION (March 22, 2001)
  - MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING (via conference call - April 9, 2001)
- B. Public Participation
- C. Immediate Action Items
  - 1. Part 575: School Technology Program Rules
    - Cover-Proposed Amendments
    - Rules
  - 2. Part 140: Calculation of Excess Cost Rules
    - Cover-Proposed Amendments
    - Rules
  - 3. Waiver Report
  - 4. Quarterly Board Travel Report
- D. Announcements and Reports
  - 1. Chairman
  - 2. Superintendent
  - 3. Members
  - 4. Committees
- E. Adjourn

**Noon**

**LUNCH**

ISBE

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

**OTHER INFORMATION**

\*All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities

**Illinois State Board of Education**

100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz  
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

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Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (Mr. Serritella joined the meeting at 4:00 p.m.)

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

Agenda  
Item B.

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

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

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

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

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

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### AND CLOSED SESSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Agenda Item D.1.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D.1., Standards Implementation, Agricultural Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Agenda Item C.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C., Special Education Rules Revision: Selected Issues.

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

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

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

The meeting recessed for a ten-minute break.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Agenda Item D.2.

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

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

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

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

The Superintendent provided examples.

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

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

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

The meeting recessed for a short five-minute break.

Agenda  
Item E.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Serritella commended staff for their work.

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

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

Closed  
Session

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

Motion

Dr. Hill moved that "the State Board of Education go into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:

- Section 2 (c) (1) for the purpose of discussing information regarding appointment, employment or dismissal of an employee and



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

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

Dr. Steiner seconded the motion.

Vote on  
Motion

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

Dr. Hill - yes

Mrs. McConachie - yes

Mrs. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz  
William E. Hill

Marilyn McConachie  
Connie Rogers

Vincent J. Serritella  
Janet Steiner

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

David P. Gomez, Sandra M. Pellegrino

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Roll Call

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

Agenda  
Item B.

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

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

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

Agenda  
Item C.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Agenda Item D.

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Learning about the Lincoln/Baldrige in Education Initiative.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Agenda Item B.1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Agenda Item B.2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agenda

Item C.

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

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

Adjournment Secretary McConachie adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn McConachie, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman

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

State Board of Education Office

Springfield, Illinois

April 19, 2001

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald J. Gidwitz

Connie Rogers

Janet Steiner

Marilyn McConachie

Vincent J. Serritella

Beverly Turkal

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Marjorie B. Branch

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Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Judy Carmody, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Mrs. Carmody called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that Ms. Branch was unable to attend the Board meeting this month.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. McConachie moved that "the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the March 17-18, 2001, Board meeting and the Special Board meeting of April 9, 2001." The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

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

Laura Arterburn, representing the IFT, applauded the Board's attempt to at least encourage that the P.E. waivers be kept to a maximum of two years. She noted that a lot of those waivers are renewals because of inadequate facilities, and she wondered if the districts have been asked what they have done in the last five years to try to provide more adequate facilities or to try to work this better into the curriculum. She commented that she suspected that we do not have an answer, and since they got it waived once, they continue the practice.

Ms. Arterburn expressed concerned about the number of waiver requests on substitutes (up to 32 -- 17 in Lake and Cook Counties). She indicated that the question was asked if these are day-to-day substitutes or substitutes that are being hired for when a teacher is out for a semester or on a leave, and the answer was that it did not matter. She commented that regarding accountability and the certified teachers, the teachers cannot do anything when administrators hire non-certified people because it saves the district money. Ms. Arterburn suggested that when the Board looks at school report cards and other accountability issues, this



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may be another issue to take into consideration -- how many classes are taught by subs because certified teachers are not hired.

Chairman Gidwitz commented that he had read an article earlier that day in the *State Journal-Register* regarding a reduction in state sales tax revenues, and the first place the Governor is talking about going for money is education.

Ms. Arterburn indicated that teachers are still paid according to about 1940's to 1950's salaries, but there is so much more to address in teaching -- from every thing we expect teachers to be for students and the knowledge teachers are supposed to possess including technology, as well as everything else.

Ms. Arterburn noted that teachers are expected to do this for the love of the job, and we do not live in that world any more.

Chairman Gidwitz suggested that we at least ask teachers to be lobbyists for the Board's budget. Ms. Arterburn responded that they always lobby and also ask why we are not fighting for a lot more money. The Chairman responded that that was a very good question.

Jacqueline Goetter, president of the Decatur Board of Education, indicated that their request for the P.E. waiver requirement for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades students is based solely on the current financial crisis in their District, and she commented on their comprehensive financial plan. She reported that the community did approve a 73 cent increase in the education fund tax rate that would significantly help the District in the very near future, and they have also implemented revenue enhancements throughout the District that would result in savings in the education fund. Ms. Goetter noted that the most important and most unfortunate element of the financial plan was the elimination of \$7.25 million of expenses in the education fund. She commented on the different cuts and eliminated programs.

Ms. Goetter indicated that they would still continue to:

- Offer physical education as an elective;
- Provide eleven years of physical education as a requirement for kindergarten through 10<sup>th</sup> grade;
- Offer what they can in a wide range of sports activities -- both individual and team activities;
- Offer physical education activities in which students may choose to participate; and
- Provide students with a comprehensive physical and health education that is aligned with the Illinois state goals and the national education goals.

She urged the State Board to approve their request to waive the requirement for physical education for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

Jim Guilinger, representing the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE), commended the State Board and expressed hope that the \$200,000 in its budget for ag ed would be retained. He commented on SB1173

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and indicated that ILCAE was one item that the Governor recommended to sunset. Mr. Guilinger indicated that he had informed the Governor's liaison of the monthly and yearly reports that are submitted regarding their activities. He reported that they have submitted nominees to the Governor's committee for six months with no appointments occurring, so the records show only one member of the Committee.

Mr. Guilinger called the Board members' attention to a copy of the proposed five-year plan, giving directions of what they are looking for and how to move forward in ag education. He reported that every ag teacher in Illinois would receive two new CD's (on management and banking as well as ag science, particularly addressing mechanics) in June and would attend workshops on using the CD's. He noted that the CD's meet all of the State Board standards and skill standards, and he had showed the members of the General Assembly that they are the leader in this business.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that on April 18, the Board saw a presentation by the Standards and Assessment staff that showed some work they are doing in developing model lesson plans and examples of work that is being done by students. He reported that the request was made to include some ag ed material in that work.

Diane Robertson, Superintendent of CUSD #4, indicated that they require 4 years of P.E. to graduate, which is unique. She noted one exception.

- If a varsity level athlete, the student can meet graduation requirements with three years of physical education, but that only means that the student can take two semesters out of the junior and senior years. P. E. is the only class that they require four years for graduation, and it is considered an academic course just as important as the other courses.

Ms. Robertson reported that the District requires their students to be enrolled in eight academic classes each year (on the block schedule), and when they take the classroom portion of driver ed, they are in a classroom earning an academic credit. She indicated that on a current waiver, the District has been pulling them from their P.E. class for six days in a semester to do their driving part. She noted that their waiver request is for those six days. Ms. Robertson commented that if the District cannot continue this practice, there is no other option but to assign the students to a study hall for a semester, pull them out of study hall for those six days, and then have them spend the rest of the semester in the study hall. She indicated that the District feels that it is overall more educationally beneficial to the students to miss six days of P.E. rather than spend most of a semester in a study hall.

Kirt Hendrick, a principal in Herscher CUSD #2, spoke regarding their request for renewal of a P.E. waiver and gave some background information about the

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District, indicating that it is very well known for musical excellence. He reported that there are two junior highs in the District.

- One junior high is in a more suburban, populated setting, and they actually do two bus runs every day. Their instrumental music students take their music class before their actual school day begins, so the students are able to have transportation to school.
- The other junior high is from his own attendance area, as well as two smaller elementary schools, for about 210 square miles, and a double bus run is not realistic. A few years ago, in an effort to increase their instructional class periods from 37 to 44 minutes, they went from a 9 to 8 period day. In order to fit in all of the other classes, continue to allow the students to be able to take two music courses, fit that equality within the District, and the musical excellence, they needed to get the P.E. waiver. If the students take two music courses, they give up a daily study period and P.E. If they take one, then they miss their study period but they have daily P.E.

Mr. Hendrick commented that the music students were involved in other kinds of activities -- intermurals or interscholastic sports. He indicated that they also did a statistical study of those students who were in the music elective courses. He reported that in all of the comparisons they did, the students' scores were significantly higher than those not participating, so they felt that the students are doing well academically.

Marjorie Olson, representing the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC), reported that it has recently come to the attention of ISAC that Governor Ryan has proposed the elimination of 81 boards and councils including ISAC. She indicated that they found this recommendation to be very surprising in that a state advisory panel on special education is a requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA) Section 300.650 (a). She noted that in fact, the requirement of a state advisory council is directly tied to a state's eligibility to receive IDEA funds.

Ms. Olson reported that if the ISAC is eliminated, Illinois stands to lose over \$243 million in federal dollars for special education. She indicated that the state would also lose valuable programmatic input regarding special education for youths with disabilities. Ms. Olson commented that most importantly, children with disabilities would incur a much greater loss, the inability to access appropriate educational services and programs. She noted that surely the ultimate cost of eliminating ISAC is far greater than the amount associated with funding of this all volunteer council. She urged the State Board to send a letter to Governor Ryan reinforcing the need to reconsider the elimination of ISAC.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee indicated that he had the opportunity to attend the ISAC meeting for just a few minutes, and that was the first time that he heard about this issue. He reported that the State Board is certainly strongly supporting the

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continuation of ISAC, and a formal letter would be sent in addition to many phone calls.

Chairman Gidwitz commented that it was probably safe to say, that the Governor is interested in receiving all of the tax dollars from the federal government that is due to Illinois. He noted that this is clearly an oversight on the part of someone in the executive branch, and he assured Ms. Olson that once this issue is called to their attention, it would be fixed. He indicated that the Superintendent and the Board's General Counsel would be sure that happens.

Mr. Serritella asked if a letter would be sent from the Board to the Governor's Office. The response was "yes."

Mrs. Rogers asked that other than the dollars, what are some of the exciting things that ISAC has done already to help improve student learning. Ms. Olson commented that one of the very important projects that ISAC completed about two years ago was with State Board employees -- the rewriting of the due process.

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

Technology Rules The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.1., Immediate Action Items, Part 575: School Technology Program Rules.

Superintendent McGee reported that the proposed amendments address procedural changes in the school district's application for a loan from the School Technology Revolving Loan Fund, and most of the changes concern if the money is not used properly. He indicated that these rules were published for public comment, and no public comment was received. He recommended that the Board adopt the proposed amendments as presented and authorize their submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Review.

Motion Mrs. Rogers moved that "the Illinois State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed amendments to Part 575: School Technology Program Rules and authorizes their submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules."

Mrs. McConachie 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.

Mr. Gidwitz - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes	Mrs. Turkal - yes

Excess Cost Rules The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.2., Immediate Action Items, Part 140: Calculation of Excess Cost Rules.

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Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that this rule amendment primarily is concerning students residing in orphanages or detention homes. He indicated that the rule amendment addresses P.A. 91-764 that amended the statute to provide that a district's failure to certify its claim for a particular year by July 31 would constitute the forfeiture of that claim. He recommended that the Board authorize the submission of this rulemaking for publication in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment.

Chairman Gidwitz asked why we were doing this, and staff member Sally Vogl responded that basically the rule amendment is only to make the Board's rules consistent with state law.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the Illinois State Board of Education hereby directs the dissemination of the proposed amendment to Part 140: Calculation of Excess Cost rules under Section 18-3 of the Illinois School Code for publication in the Illinois Register to elicit comment."

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.

Mr. Gidwitz - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes	Mrs. Turkal - yes

Waiver Report

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.3., Immediate Action Items, Waiver Report.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that on April 18, the Board discussed the waiver report and heard from a Rockford School District representative regarding the rationale for their waiver request. He indicated that there were some other representatives who spoke to the Board earlier during public participation regarding their waiver requests.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board

- Approve his recommendation to deny the waiver modification request to extend the reading improvement block grant funds for additional grades (Rockford waiver);
- Recommend to the General Assembly denial of the waiver request from Antioch High School District #117 to administer an assessment other than the PSAE;
- Recommend to the General Assembly that 18 of the 19 physical education waiver requests be limited to two years based on the Board's new policy and pending legislation (The request from Leyden High School District is

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recommended for approval for the 2001-2002 school year per their request. This is a modification to the recommendation as printed in the Board packet.); and

- Forward the remaining requests without comment.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee expressed appreciation to Superintendent Robertson and Board President Goetter for their comments during public participation, and he also expressed hope that in two years, things may be different. He encouraged them and others to come back at the two-year period. He commented that we need to focus on the Illinois Learning Standards, and we believe that the physical education/health standards are critically important to all students.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that he thought it was important that young people have physical education. He noted that the Board had spent the last several months talking about how important it is and that we see that we fulfill the intent of the Board's standards. The Chairman suggested that in future submissions, we begin to get evidence of the accomplishment of those standards even if the formal practice of having a P.E. class is not undertaken. He noted that that is what we have asked the General Assembly for. The Superintendent responded that going forth from this point, we will have that.

### Motion

Mr. Serritella moved that "the State Board of Education adopts the following two motions.

'The Illinois State Board of Education hereby denies the request of Rockford Public School District #205 for modification to Section 2-3.51 of the School Code that specifies the use of reading grant funds.'

'The Illinois State Board of Education hereby approves the Spring 2001 Waiver Report and authorizes its submission to the General Assembly by May 1. This includes:

1. Recommendation to the General Assembly for legislative denial of the request of Antioch Community High School District #117 concerning the Prairie State Achievement Exam;
2. Recommendation to the General Assembly that the legislature approve the 18 requests seeking to waive the daily physical education requirement for two years only (through school year 2002-2003) and 1 request, Leyden High School District #212, for one year (school year 2001-2002) per their request.
3. Submission of all remaining requests to the General Assembly without comment."

Mrs. McConachie seconded the motion.

The Superintendent indicated that regarding the Rockford School District, the waiver requested that they reallocate their reading grant money or a portion of it to

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serve students in grades 7-12. He reported that we denied that waiver based on the data we had in reading achievement in the grade schools. He noted that it is easy to see through the ILSI website that of the approximately 36 schools that have third grades in Rockford, 23 of those schools have 50 percent or more of the students who do not meet state reading standards.

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee commented that we were worried that allocating money away from those schools would not be in the best interest of the students and would dilute the resources to these students. He reported that as we assured them on April 18, we do hope and are fervently working to have H.B. 2063 pass the Senate and be signed by the Governor. He noted that this bill would allocate an additional \$5 million of reading block grant money to middle schools and high schools above and beyond the \$80+ million we already have in there for K-6.

The Superintendent indicated that there is hope for Rockford, and he hoped that they would direct their efforts toward helping the State Board pass that bill. He reiterated that the data was so compelling that the current reading grant money they have now, which is over \$400,000, really needs to be put to better use in their elementary schools.

Vote on Motion

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

Mr. Gidwitz - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes	Mrs. Turkal - yes

Board Travel

The Chairman called for Agenda Item C.4., Immediate Action Items, Quarterly Board Travel Report.

Motion

Mrs. Rogers moved that "the Illinois State Board of Education hereby approves the Quarterly Board Travel Expenditures Report."

Mrs. McConachie 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.

Mr. Gidwitz - yes	Mrs. Rogers - yes	Dr. Steiner - yes
Mrs. McConachie - yes	Mr. Serritella - yes	Mrs. Turkal - yes

Chairman

The Chairman called for Agenda Item D., Announcements and Reports, Chairman.

Chairman Gidwitz announced that the May Board meeting has been changed to May 17-18, 2001 (Thursday and Friday), in Springfield.

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

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee reported that the Virtual High School is going very well for approximately 100 students enrolled in pilot courses. He indicated that we have selected additional courses for the fall semester based on surveys of superintendents, principals, and high school students which showed that they want more courses in AP, foreign language, career, technical, and fine arts. He noted that there are now 66 courses ready, and we have received inquiries from over 300 schools. The Superintendent commented that we are excited that the initial launch is bigger than it was in Florida and Kentucky. He reported that we have delivered 24 Virtual High School online instructor laptops, scanners, faxes, etc. He indicated that "e-college.com" and others are very excited about helping in this, and he was pleased to read an article talking about the success of some of these educational providers.

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

- Gary Greene -- for providing an excellent presentation and technical assistance to Schlarman High School (a Catholic High School) and Danville High School personnel
- Sharon Riffey and Bill Lohman -- for their help to District #99 in Downers Grove in the Illinois Textbook Loan program
- Ann Keran -- for her tremendous contribution to the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program from the Council of Chief State School Officers
- Sharon Battles -- for helping an individual get the certification papers that were needed
- Shelley Helton -- for her technical assistance on a substitute waiver for Lake Bluff District #65
- Gloria Jordan and Dr. Hilda Everage -- for technical assistance to Belvidere School District
- Frank Llano -- for his hard work and cooperation from Carolyn Nordstrom of Chicago United
- Nona Myers and Marty Miller and from the Capital Development Board -- Donald Broughton, and Marcy Joerger -- for their help in preparation of a construction grant from Robinson School District #2

Superintendent M<sup>C</sup>Gee commented that we are taking customer service seriously, and providing first-class service is a part of the Board's mission. He noted that it was good to see that we are taking some big steps toward realizing that aspiration.

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



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Chairman Gidwitz announced that he had asked Mrs. Turkal to chair the Legislative Committee, and she agreed to do this.

Mrs. Rogers, Chair of the Board Operations Committee, indicated that in an effort for continuous improvement, she asked the Board members what went well with this meeting and what did not. The Board members provided their feedback.

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

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

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Rogers, Secretary

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Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman