

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
and CLOSED SESSION  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
State Board of Education Office  
Chicago, Illinois  
July 10 and July 18, 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

---

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Alison Harbour, the staff secretary to the Board, to call the roll. Ms. Harbour called the roll of members. A quorum was present. (\*Mr. Serritella and Dr. Steiner were connected to the meeting by phone on July 10, and Dr. Steiner was connected to the meeting by phone on July 18.)

PSAE  
Cut Scores

The Chairman indicated that there was one agenda item to address at this special Board meeting – the PSAE cut scores.

Superintendent McGee reported that all 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Illinois took the first-ever Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) in April, and the preliminary results indicate more than half of them meet or exceed state learning standards in the five areas tested. He also explained that the process used to set the proposed cut scores is the same process used by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). He explained that the process involved twelve hours of training for each panelist and took three days of work.

The Superintendent commented that the cut scores were recommended by expert panels that were composed primarily of high school teachers, and included representatives from higher education and business (see Addendum III). He said to validate the cut score process, ACT took a representative statewide sample of 10, 500 students to see how many would meet or exceed standards (see Addendum IV). He reported that based on the representative sample and the proposed cut scores, we get a preliminary look at what the final PSAE statewide results will look like.

Superintendent McGee noted that the Board will be setting final cut scores for the PSAE in about ten days. He commented that school and student reports will be sent to school districts sometime during the last week of August. He reported that the final statewide results will be announced in early to mid-September.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
and CLOSED SESSION  
July 10 and July 18, 2001  
Page 2

Discussion followed for clarification purposes, and staff member Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer and ACT senior consultant Larry Erenberger 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).

Closed  
Session

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

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

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

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

She 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."

Mr. Serritella 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. Rogers - yes

Dr. Steiner - yes

Mr. Gidwitz - yes

Mr. Serritella - yes

Mrs. Turkal - yes

Mrs. McConachie - yes

The Board members went into a closed meeting at 1:30 p.m. and recessed at 6:00 p.m. until Wednesday, July 18 at 1:00 p.m.

On July 18, the closed meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Connie Rogers, Secretary

---

Ronald J. Gidwitz, Chairman