



Illinois State Board of Education

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

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Illinois State Board of Education Office*
4th Floor Board Room
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois
217/782-9560
217/782-3097 fax

AMENDED SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS
February 19, 2003
(Printable Version)

WEDNESDAY, February 19, 2003

10:15 a.m.

Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call
4th Floor Board Room

- A. Board Officer Elections
 - Vice Chair
 - Secretary
- B. Approval of Minutes:
 - January 7, 2003 Special Board Meeting
 - January 15 & 16, 2003 Board Meeting
 - General
 - Plenary
 - February 6, 2003 Special Board Meeting
- C. Action Items
 - Adequate Yearly Progress Elements within the State Accountability System
 - Cover
 - Standard Monthly Reports:
 - Finance, Audit, Agency Operations Status Reports
 - Cover
 - Appropriations and Spending by Program
 - Federal Applications and Awards (did not change from November and December)
 - Financial Status Report (Contract & Grant Detail)
 - \$1 M Contract - IVHS and Reading First Evaluation (both are described in this memo)
 - Monthly Headcount Graph
 - Staff Detail
 - Personnel Transactions (with attached ERI list)
 - IVHS Portal/Platform and Reading First Evaluation Contracts
 - State Teacher Certification Board Interim Secretary Appointment
- D. Discussion Items
 - State & Federal Legislative Updates
 - State Update
 - Federal Update
 - Test Preparation for Paraprofessionals
 - Cover

12:00 p.m.

LUNCH/CLOSED SESSION (if needed)

12:30 p.m.

Staff Retirement Reception

1:00 p.m.

Action Items (continued)

- Institutional Accreditation Decisions: Knox College and McKendree College
 - Cover
 - Notification of Accreditation Recommendation: Knox College (Attachment 1)
 - Notification of Accreditation Recommendation: McKendree College (Attachment 2)
- Rules for Initial Review:
 - Part 240 (Alternative Learning Opportunities Program)
 - Cover
 - Rules

E. Public Participation

F. Announcements and Reports

- Superintendent
- Chairman
- Committees
 - Board Operations - Janet Steiner, Chair
 - Finance & Audit - Richard Sandsmark, Chair
 - Joint Education - Ronald Gidwitz, Chair
 - Governmental Relations - Bev Turkal, Chair
 - Education Policy Planning - Vacant, Chair

- Members

G. Other Information

- Monthly Status Report on Rulemaking

*All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

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**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
GENERAL/PLENARY MEETING**
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

February 19, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Gidwitz	Marjorie B. Branch	Dean Clark
Joyce Karon	Gregory Kazarian	Richard Sandsmark
Janet Steiner	Beverly Turkal	

Judy Gold: By Conference call

State Superintendent Robert E. Schiller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Gidwitz, who asked Kay Evans, assistant to the Executive for Board Services, to call the roll. Ms. Evans called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Mr. Gidwitz explained that this would be a one-day meeting, and that he and the Superintendent would be leaving to testify before the Senate Executive Committee with respect to the President of the Senate's bill for education appropriation.

Agenda
Amendment

The Chairman stated that the agenda was amended to include the appointment of an Interim Secretary to the State Teacher Certification Board. (see Attachment 1.) He also stated that the Board would be electing a Vice-Chair and a Board Secretary. He asked for nominations.

Motion
Nomination of
Vice Chair

Marjorie Branch said, "I hereby nominate Beverly Turkal to serve as Vice-Chair of the Illinois State Board of Education for a two-year term."

Janet Steiner seconded the motion.

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

Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – absent

Chairman Gidwitz called for a motion to nominate the State Board Secretary.

Motion
Nomination of State Board Secretary

Marjorie Branch said, "I hereby nominate Richard Sandsmark to serve as Secretary of the Illinois State Board of Education for a two-year term."

Janet Steiner seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

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

Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – absent

Committee Appointments

Chairman Gidwitz said that according to the Board Bylaws, the Chairman needs to appoint, by the first of March, Board committees – Board Operations, Education Policy and Planning, Finance and Audit, Governmental Relations, and Joint Education Committee. He stated one individual had told him that she did not have time to spend on the Education Policy and Planning Committee. Because of this unexpected vacancy, he asked if anyone would like to fill this position. He noted that if anyone would like to make changes on any of the committee appointments to inform him.

(See Attachment 2 for Committee Appointments as of March 1, 2003.)

Introduction of Dr. Robert Leininger, Chair, EFAB

The Chairman said we would depart from the agenda to welcome former Superintendent Dr. Robert Leininger, Chairman of the Education Finance Advisory Board (EFAB), to speak to the Board.

Dr. Leininger spoke about the budget hearings at the State Capitol. He said he knew new board member Dean Clark from their work together on EFAB, and would recommend if anyone had any questions to contact Mr. Clark. He further said he was here to thank the Illinois State Board of Education, Bill Hinrichs, Toni Waggoner,

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and Carol Groves, to name a few, for their support and help with EFAB. He said he appreciated the Chairman, Superintendent, and EFAB members for "all being on the same page" with their presentations at the hearings. He commended Superintendent Schiller on his presentation to the Senate, and his straight forwardness in presenting his argument.

Audio of
State Board
Meetings via
Internet

The Chairman mentioned as information that the technology staff was testing audio of the Board meeting so that the public could access State Board meetings through a URL address on the Internet. He said that assuming the Board is in agreement, it would be made available to the public via the Internet beginning next month. He said they hope to get the video portion up and running soon.

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes

He asked for a motion for approval of the January 7, 2003; January 15-16, 2003; and February 6, 2003 Special meeting minutes.

Motion
Approval of
Minutes

Mrs. Branch said that the State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the meetings on January 7, January 18-19, and February 6, 2003, as published.

Chairman Gidwitz questioned the dates of January 18-19 stating it should be January 15-16, 2003. He asked that the motion be amended to show January 15-16, 2003.

Dean Clark seconded the motion.

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

Vote on
Motion

Marjorie Branch – yes	Dean Clark – yes	Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes	Greg Kazarian – yes	Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes	Beverly Turkal – yes	Judy Gold – absent

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Adequate Yearly Progress Elements within the State Accountability System.

AYP
Elements –
State
Accountability
System

He stated that they had discussed the AYP in both the December, 2002, and January, 2003, meetings. He said that on January 21, he, the Superintendent, and staff, met with the United States Department of Education Undersecretary of Education Gene Hickcock and federal staff to discuss the elements of our plan.

Superintendent Schiller said that he explained to Undersecretary

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Hickcock and staff that the spirit of the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* legislation is hard not to embrace, but that the implementation and lack of full resources to meet the districts' needs was where the challenge lies. He said some of the rules were counterintuitive to what we know about schools, districts, and states, and how they can improve. He said they presented to them alternatives that were somewhat contrary to the existing rules, but that made good educational and common sense.

Dr. Schiller asked that Lynne Haeffele Curry, Gail Lieberman, Rebecca MaCabe and Susan Schwicardi, members of the Assessment and Accountability Task Force, join the discussion.

He referenced the Preliminary Accountability Workbook that required all states by January 31, 2003 to identify responses to a number of the overriding principles and directions that the *NCLB* spells out. He said a tentative submission has been completed, pending Board review, as well as the negotiations that would take place through a peer-review process over the next couple of months.

He said points for the Board's review from the Task Force can be found on pages 38 and 39 under this topic in the February Board packet. They include the following elements:

- Minimum group size for reporting purposes/ensuring privacy

The Task Force recommends raising group size to 10.

- Minimum group size for AYP calculations.

Based on consultation with experts and a review of other states' practices, the Task Force recommends a minimum group size of 40 for AYP calculations.

- Definition of a "full academic year," to determine which student scores count in AYP calculations.

The Task Force recommends counting students enrolled on or before the last school day of September in AYP calculations. This date coincides with the date of the Fall Housing Report already collected by ISBE.

Chairman Gidwitz asked if students present at the end of September, but then leave and come back in March or April, could be excluded from the calculations because they cannot make AYP if they are not in school. He said principals and

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superintendents are discouraged with their rankings because of this problem.

Lynne Haeffele Curry said she would look at the numbers.

- Starting points for Reading and Mathematics AYP calculations.

The Task Force recommends that the starting points for Reading and Mathematics both be set at 40%.

- Annual measurable objectives (annual targets) such that all students meet or exceed standards in reading and mathematics by 2013-14.

The Task Force recommends the continuous and substantial growth plan with the illustrated annual targets/intermediate goals (see Annual Target graph on page 40 of the February Board packet.)

Mr. Greg Kazarian stated that he was uncomfortable with the gains we are projecting for the out years. He thinks it is unrealistic to believe that we are going to get the 5 points per year from 90 to 95 to 100 on the graph. He also believes in order to get the recommendations accomplished, we are going to have to see significant progress in those years. He would like to see us have in place the certified qualified teachers, paraprofessionals, resources, and identified programs that will produce these significant changes, and then go to our partners and the legislature and tell them, after they are funded, this is how we are going to get this accomplished. He believes that it cannot be done by squeezing more out of existing practices. He said there are pieces that need to be in place before we can produce significant change. He would like to see a plan reflect this reality. Mr. Kazarian said he would like his thoughts on record.

- Additional indicators for high schools and elementary/middle schools.

The Task Force recommends that Illinois adopt graduation rate as additional academic indicator for high schools, using the currently accepted cohort method.

The Superintendent said more details on high school graduation rate calculations may be found in attachment A.

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(See attachment.)

The Task Force recommends that Illinois adopt “attendance rate” as the additional academic indicator at the elementary and middle school levels.

The Superintendent said more details on calculating attendance rate may be found in Attachment B. (See attachment.)

The Superintendent said the Task Force made a series of recommendations regarding modifications in the current IMAGE assessment and reporting. These recommendations addressed needs of students with limited English proficiency, also called English Language Learners (ELL.)

IMAGE

Becky McCabe provided background information on IMAGE and gave a short description of the recommendations adopted. She discussed the handout on the Features of Hybrid Value-Added/Absolute AYP model for the ELL subgroup. (See attachment 3.)

Chairman Gidwitz asked for questions and stated he would like to vote on both of these issues if there were no questions.

Motion on Elements

Joyce Karon said the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following elements of Adequate Yearly Progress for Illinois' Assessment and Accountability System:

- a minimum group size of 10 for reporting student performance.
- a minimum group size of 40 for AYP calculations.
- a policy of counting students in AYP calculations who are enrolled on or before the last school day of September, to coincide with Fall Housing Report data collection.
- the statewide AYP starting points of 40% for both reading and mathematics.
- the “continuous and substantial growth” plan for AYP annual targets/ intermediate goals.
- the graduation rate as the additional academic indicator for high schools, using the currently accepted cohort method.
- the attendance rate as the additional academic indicator for elementary and middle schools.

Dick Sandsmark seconded the motion.

Chairman Gidwitz asked if there were any questions. Marjorie Branch said that she would like to discuss the facts that Mr. Kazarian had

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brought up concerning the continuous and substantial growth plan. She said she agrees with him and asked if it can be left out or reworded.

Discussion followed with Mr. Kazarian defending the adoption of the continuous and substantial growth plan where we are not making standard annual incremental progress, but instead making variable progress in targeted years. He again reiterated that he had a problem with locking us up to 5% in the out years. He said we have to go to the legislature and tell them they have to fund these programs in order to get these gains in the middle years, and that they cannot be made up in the out years. He said he would then be comfortable with it.

The Superintendent said that what was presented was the variable growth plan, and if over the next several months if the Board wishes to question this, then they have until the first of May to make a final determination with the USDOE. He said in his judgment that the continuous and substantial growth plan would be endorsing the variable level that was submitted.

Chairman Gidwitz said he would like to note that this is not a work product of just the staff, but that of the Superintendent's Accountability Task Force which consists of a diversified group of 24 people. He said this was a very contentious issue and would have a concern if the Board did not let the Superintendent take it to the USDOE as portrayed in the graph.

The Superintendent said the Task Force looked at a variety of increments, and what is shown is a unanimous agreement. He does not believe anyone was dissatisfied with believing the 5% increments were satisfactory, but to front load would not be possible, and to look for more accelerated growth in the middle years of getting into double digits did not necessarily make for statistical reliability. This was therefore the best case scenario.

Susan Shea, of the Illinois Education Association and member of the Task Force, explained how they arrived at the 5% and the Task Force's thoughts on achieving this in the out years.

Chairman Gidwitz called an end to the discussion, and noted that the motion did not include the 60 days in which students were not in school. He wanted to know how the Superintendent wanted this handled.

Superintendent Schiller answered by saying he was not prepared

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today to make a recommendation until the legality of this was researched. He would like to report back in March.

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

Vote on Motion

Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – no Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Motion on IMAGE

Greg Kazarian motioned that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following recommendations as Board policy directions regarding modifications in the current IMAGE assessment and reporting:

- the IMAGE 2006, like ISAT 2006, should assess the state standards in reading, math and writing. Science should be added in 2007.
- the IMAGE should reflect the same requirements that are established for the ISAT/PSAE 2006.
- Ensure that the achievement categories on IMAGE are equivalent to ISAT/PSAE.
- Develop a statewide supported student identification system that would allow school districts to collect data on mobile students.
- Develop a Grade 2 IMAGE assessment test as an option for school districts (pending appropriations).
- Determine a state definition of ELL/LEP students.
- Ensure use of accommodations: allow local districts to report data on listening and speaking using an approved standardized instrument. The state will provide a common reporting system.

Joyce Karon seconded the motion.

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

Vote on Motion

Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Finance, Audit and Agency Operations Status

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Finance, Audit and Agency Operations Status.

Superintendent Schiller said the Operations reports were for the Board's review, but he would like the Board's action on release of the

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RFSP for the Illinois Virtual High School Portal/Platform, and the Reading First Evaluation contracts.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Brad Woodruff if we could develop standards of performance, or a metric system for evaluating cost per student, performance of instructors, etc., of the Virtual High School, through the help of e-college or others. He would then like to track these metrics. He noted there are only approximately 50%, or 310 schools participating, and he would like to see more schools using this by setting goals for ourselves to raise this percentage.

Motion on Agency Operations Reports

Dick Sandsmark moved that the State Board of Education hereby accept the financial, audit and agency operations reports presented during the February 2003 meeting.

Dean Clark seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion

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

Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Motion on Virtual High School Portal/Platform

Dean Clark made the motion that the State Board of Education hereby approves the release of the RFSP for the Illinois Virtual High School portal/platform.

The motion was seconded by Dick Sandsmark.

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

Vote on Motion

Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Motion on RFSP Reading First Evaluation

Greg Kazarian made the motion that the State Board of Education hereby approves the release of the RFSP for the Reading First Evaluation.

Janet Steiner seconded the motion.

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

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Vote on Motion Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Appointment of Interim Sec'y to Teachers Cert Board The Chairman called for the appointment of an Interim Secretary for the Teacher Certification Board.

Superintendent Schiller said that Dr. Robert Sampson will be retiring after 31 years of service, and that Dr. Sampson has admirably served as Secretary to the Teacher Certification Board since 1997. He asked that the Board appoint Mr. Dennis Williams, Division Administration, Certificate Renewal and Leadership, as the Interim Secretary to this Board.

Motion on Appointment Janet Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby appoints Dennis Williams, Division Administrator for Certificate Renewal and Leadership, as the Interim Secretary of the State Teacher Certification Board, effective March 1, 2003, pursuant to Section 21-13 of the School Code.

Greg Kazarian seconded the motion.

Chairman Gidwitz echoed Superintendent Schiller's praise of Dr. Robert Sampson.

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

Vote on Motion Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Chairman Gidwitz made two announcements. First, Greg Kazarian has agreed to serve on the Education Policy and Planning Committee. Secondly, Greg Kazarian would like to be shown on record as having joined the majority on the measures of adequate yearly progress.

Mr. Kazarian said he thinks it is important we explain to the USDOE and the legislature that there is a better way to get this done, and that the Board be unanimous. He said his vote will reflect a yes.

Reconsider motion on AYP Elements – Dean Clark made a motion to reconsider the motion on AYP Elements – State Accountability System and to put the amended motion which reflects Mr. Kazarian's vote from no to yes, on record.

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Joyce Karon seconded the motion.

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

<u>Vote on</u>	Marjorie Branch – yes	Dean Clark – yes	Ron Gidwitz – yes
<u>Reconside-</u>	Joyce Karon – yes	Greg Kazarian – yes	Dick Sandsmark – yes
<u>ring Motion</u>	Janet Steiner – yes	Beverly Turkal – yes	Judy Gold – yes

2nd Motion on Joyce Karon moved that we adopt the various elements as read
AYP before of the Adequate Yearly Progress for the Illinois Assessment and Accountability System.

Dick Sandsmark seconded the motion.

Vote on 2nd Chairman Gidwitz called for a roll call vote on the motion. The
Motion motion passed with the following votes.

Marjorie Branch – yes	Dean Clark – yes	Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes	Greg Kazarian – yes	Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes	Beverly Turkal – yes	Judy Gold – yes

Institutional The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Institutional Accreditation
Accreditation Decisions: Knox College and McKendree College.
Decisions

Superintendent Schiller said the State Teacher Certification Board has reviewed and recommended that the accreditation decisions with regard for Knox and McKendree Colleges be moved to the State Board for concurrence.

Motion on Beverly Turkal motioned that the State Board of Education hereby
McKendree grants Continuing Accreditation to McKendree College and
College authorizes the Superintendent to inform the college of the State
Accreditation Board's decision.

Janet Steiner seconded the motion.

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

<u>Vote on</u>	Marjorie Branch – yes	Dean Clark – yes	Ron Gidwitz – yes
<u>Motion</u>	Joyce Karon – yes	Greg Kazarian – yes	Dick Sandsmark – yes
	Janet Steiner – yes	Beverly Turkal – yes	Judy Gold – yes

Motion on Janet Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby grant
Knox College Continuing Accreditation to Knox College but requires a written report

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Accreditation on identified weaknesses in six months and authorizes the Superintendent to inform the college of the State Board's decision.

Dick Sandsmark seconded the motion.

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

Vote on Motion Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Rules: Part 240 The Chairman called for Agenda Item: Rules for Initial Review: Part 240 (Alternative Learning Opportunities Program)

Superintendent Schiller gave a background of the action item.

Motion on Rules: Part 240 Dick Sandsmark made the motion that The State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

- o Part 240 (Alternative Learning Opportunities Program)

including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

Marjorie Branch seconded the motion.

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

Vote on Motion Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Chairman Gidwitz asked that a motion be made to go into closed session.

Motion – Closed Session Joyce Karon made the motion that the Illinois 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, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of an employee.
- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

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The Board is authorized to invite anyone into these meetings as needed.

Dick Sandsmark seconded the motion.

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

Vote on Motion

Marjorie Branch – yes Dean Clark – yes Ron Gidwitz – yes
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian – yes Dick Sandsmark – yes
Janet Steiner – yes Beverly Turkal – yes Judy Gold – yes

Retiree Reception

Board members and Superintendent Schiller gave a reception for ISBE employees that were retiring, where they both spoke thanking employees for their dedication to the agency and good work on behalf of the students of Illinois.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened with Vice-Chair Beverly Turkal presiding at 1:10 p.m.

Chairman Gidwitz and Superintendent Schiller were not in attendance as they were testifying before the legislature on ISBE's budget.

Retiree Tribute

Mrs. Turkal stated that Ms. Lee Patton, staff member, had composed remarks for ISBE employees that were retiring. Mrs. Turkal said she would like the retirees recognized as many of these employees have helped her. Mrs. Turkal said she wants Ms. Lee Patton to know how much she and the State Board appreciated the hard work she put into developing this tribute and listing.

Mrs. Turkal read the tribute. (See attachment 4 for tribute and listing of retirees.)

State & Federal Updates

Vice-Chair Turkal called for agenda item: State and Federal Legislative Updates.

Mrs. Turkal gave an overview of State Governmental affairs as Mr. Peter Leonis was at the Capitol with the Chairman and Superintendent.

Randy Burge, staff member, Federal Governmental Affairs gave an update of federal legislation and funding.

Since Mr. Burge will be retiring, he said he wanted to thank the Board and Superintendent for the opportunity to serve ISBE and the

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children of Illinois.

Parapro-
fessionals

Vice-Chair Turkal said that we need to discuss test preparation for paraprofessionals.

Test
Preparation

Dr. Chris Koch, Director, Teaching and Learning, said the Board had asked for an update on this topic, and this was just an informational item as this had been discussed at the January Board meeting. He said two dates should be brought to their attention regarding test development because we were looking at ACT and modifications to the WorkKeys Assessment to ensure there was an evaluation of paraprofessional's ability to assist in instruction – proficiency in math and reading, but also the instruction component. The target date for completion of this is March 14, 2003. The other date is with ETS – standards setting panel – and its progress. A group is being assembled for this study and will be meeting on February 25, 2003.

Mr. Mike Long, Division Administrator for Professional Preparation and Recruitment, said as of today they have talked to ETS and are trying to persuade them to accept community colleges as testing sights. He said community colleges also have committed today to do test preparation programs at the majority of community colleges.

Vice-Chair Turkal called for agenda item: Public Participation

Public
Participation

Mr. Jay Runner and Bill Schreck, representing Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education, disseminated a summation of the incentive funding summary and spoke on the data contained in the summary, and how this data will be available after March 31 on the Internet. They also asked for funding support of this line item.

Announce-
ments &
Reports

Vice-Chair Turkal asked if Respicio Vazquez would like to make a report in the Superintendent's absence. He said he just wanted to reiterate the comments made about our retirees, and to thank the current employees that are still with us that are picking up additional duties.

Janet Steiner, Chair, Board Operations Committee, provided a short update on the committee.

Dick Sandsmark, Chair, Finance & Audit Committee said the next committee meeting will be done by teleconference, with time and date to be announced.

Mr. Kazarian asked Mrs. Turkal, as Chair of Governmental Relations, how the 2003 and 2004 figures Mr. Randy Burge reported dovetailed

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into our existing budget, and if there were significant deviations that would impact our 2004 budget. He asked if at the March Board meeting this could be discussed.

Monthly Rule Making

Vice-Chair Turkal said a monthly status report on rulemaking can be found at the end of the board packet.

Vice-Chair Turkal adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Richard Sandsmark
Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz
Chairman