

March 19-20, 2003
State Board Meeting

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

State Board Room
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

March 19-20, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

State Superintendent: Robert E. Schiller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Roll Call

The March State Board meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chairman, Mr. Ronald Gidwitz, who asked Kay Evans, assistant to the Executive for Board Services, to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Judith Gold and Janet Steiner were not present at the time of the roll call. The Chairman indicated they would both be present for the meeting. Both members arrived at 11:40 a.m.

Chairman Gidwitz indicated that the Board meeting was going to be on the internet for viewing.

Education
Showcase

Mr. Gidwitz said he was pleased to have representatives from District #87, Bloomington Public Schools as this month's educational showcase.

Superintendent Schiller started by saying the school district is one of the original charter districts in Illinois created by a special act of the legislature, and has approximately 5,800 students. He introduced Dr. Bob Nielson, Superintendent; Mary Kay Scharf, Principal, Irving Elementary School; Shirley Jacobs, fifth grade teacher and active member of the Learning Leadership Team; Joan Brown, media specialist; and Sally Tucker, Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. Scharf handed out their philosophy, mission, and belief

statements. She said they would like to highlight what they believe is the most important belief statement, and that is, "We believe that no significant learning occurs without a significant relationship within the school community."

She gave a comprehensive overview of what they were achieving, highlighting such things as their diverse learners, cultures, heritage, mobility, and income rates. She explained how parent programs have become a very important program of their school.

Ms. Scharf also talked extensively about school improvement within their district, showing PowerPoint graphs of ISAT scores, and graphs of reading, writing, and math. She followed by their technology plan.

Dr. Nielson said, in answer to Chairman Gidwitz' question, that last fiscal year they ended with a \$1.7 million gap in revenues to expenditures, and this year they will end with a \$2.5 million gap. Mr. Nielson stated they have put in a budget reduction program by eliminating some programs and charging for others. He stated if it continues, as they predict it will, they will no longer be just cutting the fat.

Board members shared questions with these individuals and complimented them on their achievements.

Chairman Gidwitz requested that they allow us to send a film crew to the school district in order to memorialize their presentation to be posted on the agency's website. They agreed to this.

Recess for lunch

The Chairman recessed the meeting and invited the Bloomington School District guests to lunch.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

2002 S.D. Financial Profile Designation Lists

Chairman Gidwitz said they would be deviating from the agenda in order to discuss the adoption of the 2002 School District Financial Profile Designation Lists.

He stated this instrument gives us the clearest picture we have ever had by giving a real picture of how our school districts are fairing across the state since there is a disparity with respect to the quality of education being rendered, and funding. He stated we need to properly fund these districts by taking the funding out of competition with other interests. Further, this tool will help us to have meaningful dialogue with the Governor's office and State Legislature regarding the true condition of schools. He asked the Superintendent to

introduce, more specifically, the material to be discussed.

Superintendent Schiller said this report was at that moment being delivered to the Governor and Legislature. He stated these lists show statistics based on FY02, stating this is important because factors have made things change. Even though this report was only a snapshot ending last June, it would show how things were getting worse. In the past there was one indicator to identify school districts in a financial watch category. This has been revamped using the following five specific indicators to judge a district's fiscal condition: revenue ratio (used previously); expenditure to revenue ratio; a day's cash on hand; a percent of short-term borrowing; and a percent of long-term debt remaining. He said these new indicators now let us see an entirely different picture than previously.

Dr. Schiller said we have gone through a one-year process with partners. Data have been run and have been given to school districts to verify and to review comparing data from FY01 with FY02 using the same profile last year as this year. He said 1/3 of our school districts are on a financial watch or warning list which indicates we need to reform how we fund schools; and that if we do not make funding a top priority, a year from now it will be beyond a crisis situation.

Dr. Schiller introduced staff members David Wood, Director of Operations; Donna Luallen, Manager, School Finance; and Debra Vespa, staff member.

Mr. Wood said he would like to point out that this measure still has the problems of the FAS in that it delays the situation in the field. He said since this was based on annual audited financial data, FY02 is the last year for which we have data. He said we have used FY01-FY02 data on this same basis --it shows if we had used this tool last year what would have happened. He indicated that this instrument was not the end-all of school finance, but the beginning of an inquiry into concerns districts have raised.

Debra Vespa gave an overview of the data handed out. (See our website for the document.)

Routes to
Paraprofes-
sional
Qualifications

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item: Routes to Paraprofessional Qualifications

Mr. Gidwitz said at the January Board meeting they approved the draft guidance and timeline, and heard an update in March, 2003.

Superintendent Schiller said there were 3 purposes today: 1) provide a progress report toward implementation of a paraprofessional assessment that the Board endorsed in January; 2) recommend securing action on passing scores for the paraprofessional tests that were endorsed in January, and to consider action in this area; and 3) share with the Board a report on the progress toward implementing the AAS program, associate arts and teaching program for paraprofessionals that was also discussed in January.

He gave a brief overview of the 3 options, which the Board endorsed, for paraprofessional to meet the requirements under *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*. He gave background information, and said we have a technical correction on page six. (See attachment 1, minimum score levels for the ACT WorkKeys tests – should be Writing instead of Mathematics.)

Dr. Schiller introduced Ines Bosworth, Educational Testing Service, Director of ParaPro Project; Jack Reese, Director of Post-secondary Services, ACT WorkKeys; Chris Koch, Director; and Lee Patton, Interim Director for Teaching and Leadership.

Jack Reese, WorkKeys, explained briefly the process and the meaning of the scores, and talked extensively about the test and the skill levels. (Materials can be obtained from the Board Services Office, ISBE.) He said that the Illinois Para Educator's Occupational Profile (See attachment 2, Executive Summary,) will be kept on file in Human Resources offices as a reference for hiring paraprofessionals in Illinois. He indicated that WorkKeys meet EEOC standards and ADA standards.

He said that as of yesterday they have completed the pedagogical part by developing a performance based survey instrument that can be downloaded from the web and used by ParaPro supervisors to access the paraprofessionals' classroom skills.

Ines Boswell, ETS, talked about the score-setting process of ParaPro assessment done in February; the test preparation options for those preparing for the test; and the delivery of the assessment.

She handed out a packet of the *NCLB/ParaPro Assessment*. (This material can be obtained in the Board Services Office, ISBE.) She said they have a free website called "Test at a Glance," a full-length study guide; a full-length practice test to be used by professionals, as well as agencies interested in giving preparation courses for paraprofessionals; and a workshop for trainers.

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Mr. Gidwitz said that school districts could also create their own test if they are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Ms. Boswell stated that information would be given in the Superintendent's message and on the web by Friday, March 21, 2003.

Mr. Gidwitz asked Superintendent Schiller if we could highlight this on our website.

Ms. Boswell also brought the Board up to date on the community college initiative. She said they are looking to take it to the Community College Board and the Board of Higher Education during the spring period in order to implement it in the fall.

New Teacher
Preparation
Programs

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: New Teacher Preparation Programs.

Ms. Lee Patton, Interim Director, Teaching and Leadership, and Nancy Patton, staff, were present to answer questions.

Superintendent Schiller said that on February 7, 2003, the State Teacher Certification Board reviewed program proposals for eight institutions that had requested approval to initiate one or more new preparation programs. The eight colleges/universities were: Aurora University; Dominican University, Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Judson College, National-Louis University, St. Xavier University, and University of Illinois at Springfield.

He stated the Code currently allows the Certification Board to recommend to the State Board two choices regarding new program proposals. These are: provision approval until the time of the next regularly scheduled Fifth-Year Review; or denial. The Certification Board recommends the State Board approve each of these programs under a provision approval, and authorize the institutions to conduct programs and recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the institution's next scheduled review. If approval by the State Board is obtained, they would authorize Dr. Schiller to inform the institutions of their decisions.

Vice-Chair
taking over

Vice-Chair Beverly Turkal started to preside over the meeting in Chairman Gidwitz' absence.

Institutional
Accreditation
Decisions

Ms. Turkal called for Agenda Item: Institutional Accreditation Decisions.

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Superintendent Schiller said this was regarding three institutions: Illinois College, North Central College, and Olivet Nazarene University. He stated that at the State Teacher Certification Board meeting in December, 2002, the Certification Board took action on institutions that received an accreditation visit during the previous spring. Subsequent to this action, the Superintendent said he sent a letter notifying them of this decision, and that the State Board would be taking action on their decisions. He said the Administrative Code states the institutions can file a 'Notice of Objection' if they only receive unconditional accreditation of the unit.

Dr. Schiller said these three institutions have decided not to file this "Notice of Objection." They are asking the State Board to issue final accreditation to these three colleges/universities.

The Superintendent further stated they are asking: 1) assigned continuing accreditation with probation to Illinois College, and require a full visit within 2 years of this decision; 2) assign continuing accreditation with conditions to North Central College, and require a focused visit within two years of the decision; and 3) assign continuing accreditation with conditions to Olivet Nazarene University with a focused visit within two years of the decision. He said if the State Board chooses to affirm these decisions, it would be in conjunction with the recommendations of the State Teacher's Certification Board and he would inform these institutions of this decision.

Chairman Gidwitz returned to the meeting.

System of
Support
Update

The Chairman called for Agenda Item: System of Support Update

Superintendent Schiller said because of accountability requirements of *NCLB*, and the annual yearly progress (AYP) sequence that must be charted of schools and districts meeting those standards, we fully expect more schools and districts faced with not meeting the standards, thus being placed on the early warning and watch lists.

He said that if the Board is in agreement, they want to bring before the Board a more comprehensive presentation and review for approval in about a month.

Lynne Haeffele Curry, Director, Planning and Performance introduced Christopher Walczak, Division Administrator for System and Support, and Don Full, Division Administrator who was interim

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until Mr. Walczak was hired.

She made a PowerPoint presentation on the System of Support – Moving to a Systemic Improvement Approach. (See attachment 3,) and gave a brief overview of this system.

Ms. Curry asked Clay Slagle, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, to join them as he had been working on the implementation of the performance management system which tie into the discussion of System of Support.

Mr. Slagle said it is important to note that the Deloitte and Touche Report for ISBE effectiveness continues to drive change within the agency. The System of Support was an example of one of the recommendations of the Report – which is a leverage for resources and increased collaboration between ISBE and the Regional Offices of Education (ROEs). The identification of this ROE initiative came from the risk assessment performed within Planning and Performance and System of Support after they examined ways to provide more focused resources to schools on the watch list. He said that next month performance measures would be associated with the expected outcomes of this program with the ROEs. He said they have, through the ROEs, the Standards Aligns Classroom Initiative, which is a proven methodology to develop professional development - a vehicle to enable and deliver it.

Mrs. Curry said Deloitte and Touche will be submitting a report on the use of data by schools next month. She said Deloitte & Touche looked at those schools former Superintendent Max McGee had identified as being high performing, high poverty schools, and how they used data systems. They are recommending that they be regionalized and the ROEs help in their understanding of use.

She said they would also be submitting a presentation from The Coalition for Community Schools. This would be a research report showing the effectiveness of community and school collaboration; and, according to the head researcher of the Coalition, Illinois is positioned to be the first state in the country that could implement this mechanism to support students outside of schools as well as in school.

Chairman Gidwitz said the comment was made today that the quality assurance program had been dropped. He asked for comments.

Mrs. Curry answered by saying in some districts the quality assurance program was greatly implemented and worked very well, but in other districts no change was noted. The Board had

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commissioned formal evaluations of the program and the resulting feeling was, if schools were successful with the program they could continue using it, but we could not continue supporting it statewide – we did not have the data to show it was effective.

Amendments
to the 2002
Academic
Early
Warning List

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item: Amendments to the 2002 Academic Early Warning List.

Superintendent Schiller stated that since the inception of the Academic Warning List in 1997, situations have arisen that warrant the reanalysis of the data and placement of the schools on this List.

He said this month we have an amendment for Lincoln Jr. High School in LaSalle Elementary School District 122, and A. J. Katzenmaier Middle School in North Chicago School District #187 to be deleted from the AEWL, and Future Commons and Flower High School, both in Chicago School District 299, be removed from the list.

Also, we have the following five schools needing to be added to the AEWL: Carol Mosely Braun School in Dolton School District 149, Meadowview School in Country Club Hills School District 160, New Dawes Area Elementary School in Chicago School District 299, Spalding Elementary School in Chicago School District 299, and Stephen Decatur Middle School in Decatur School District 61.

Assessment
and
Accountability
Issues

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item: Assessment and Accountability Issues.

He stated that the Superintendent's Assessment and Accountability Task Force met on March 10, 2003 to discuss the remaining issues of the State's accountability system, and is scheduled to meet again on April 9, 2003.

Superintendent Schiller said a variety of the Task Force's subcommittees have been reporting recommendations for the Board's consideration, and that they are hoping everything will be completed by April, 2003. He said they submitted January 31, 2003, their Accountability Workbook to the United States Department of Education (USDE) with stipulations that certain matters must be attended to. He said USDE would visit with the Task Force on March 28 giving them comments or recommendations on the Workbook.

Dr. Schiller said the Task Force will bring back to the Board in April what conclusions could be drawn and changes that would be needed in order to make the May 1, 2003 deadline.

The Superintendent asked Gail Lieberman and Lynne Curry to walk through the recommendations. They handed out two additional pieces of material, (see attachment 4.)

Mrs. Lieberman reported that the Hybrid Value-Added/Absolute Adequate Yearly progress model for English Language Learners (ELL) handout was originally handed out at the February meeting. She said what this means was that the subgroup of ELL would not only be the IMAGE assessment score, but would be a way of looking at growth over time. This would be an additional feature, but noted that it is not required by *NCLB*, but thought to be an improvement since this group is changing.

Chairman Gidwitz asked for an explanation and Mrs. Lieberman stated it was a way of looking at a group of youngsters over a period of time using the same group. She said this subgroup is constantly changing and that is the reason for the recommendation.

Greg Kazarian stated that he was at the NASBE Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of the month, and that Secretary Paige believes working with this group is not futile because he has "heard them from the field."

Mrs. Lieberman was happy to hear this information because this Hybrid model was not part of the January, 2003 submission, but came to the Board in February. She said they would be sharing this information with the review team the end of March.

She said the second handout (see attachment 5) had inadvertently been left out of the board packet. This covers the assessment data from the limited English proficiency (LEP) subgroup. Since they are also continually changing, she said they are asking if there was some way to observe them for a 4th or 5th year.

Continuous
Improvement
Plan for
Special
Education –
Part B
(Revised)

Chairman Gidwitz called for Agenda Item: Continuous Improvement Plan for Special Education – Part B (Revised)

Superintendent Schiller gave a brief overview of the agenda item stating it had previously been brought before the board and had been revised. He said it will be sent to the USDE for review, and after their response they will make modifications if needed. Updates will be given to the Board.

He asked Chris Koch, Director, Anthony Sims, and staff person Kathy Cox to answer any questions from the Board.

Chris Koch stated that they were asked last year to attach cost to the Plan. He said that has been shown on page 90 of the packet. He said this data was completed showing a full complement of staff in his department - based on vacancies filled.

Kathy Cox summarized changes, along with Anthony Sims.

Superintendent Schiller stated that the action plan and remedies as presented were not inconsistent with other action plans and remedies to OSEP findings that he had observed around the country. He said the reality was - there is a certain parameter of responses that are permitted, and certain areas particularly with tape that are required. He asked Dr. Koch to share the status of Illinois in comparison to other states with regard to inclusion.

Dr. Koch elaborated and said since it was submitted last year, OSEP was using our plan as an example to other states.

Rules for
Adoption –
Part 25
(Certification)

Chairman Gidwitz asked for Agenda Item: Rules for Adoption – Part 25 (Certification), and Part 226 (Special Education); and

Rules for Initial Review Part 25 (Certification) and Part 27 (Specific Certification)

Superintendent Schiller said these Rules were presented for the Board's initial review at the November 2002 meeting and published in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment. He said they received 800 responses.

and Part 226
(Spec. Ed).

Chairman Gidwitz called for Part 226, (Special Education).

Superintendent Schiller said the amendments to this Rule were presented for initial review in September, 2002, published, and responses were received. He said they were asking for adoption of the proposed rules, then they would move to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for review.

There were no questions or comments.

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Rules for
Initial Review
Part 25
(Certification)
and Part 27
(Specific
Certification)

Chairman Gidwitz called for Part 25 (Certification), and Part 27 (Specific Certification) for initial review.

Superintendent Schiller gave a brief overview stating Board approval was being sought to publish these Rules for public comment.

Standard
Monthly
Reports

Superintendent Schiller said David Wood would give an overview, and stated there were a couple important aspects that needed attention.

David Wood pointed out that we were approximately 67% of the way through the fiscal year, and indicated where spending had fallen at this time.

Secondly, he said every contract is brought before the Board before initiating the RFSP. He said the state assessment system was undergoing change with the Task Force making recommendations. The proposal was to extend most of the existing contracts for a 2-year period, and to go forward with a new RFSP for a new set of test developments that would evolve in approximately 2 years.

Superintendent Schiller stated we are in need of moving our assessment program into compliance with the requirements of *NCLB* on off-year grades that we presently had not been testing. He said we have built a framework that is the predicate for the RFSP with the Board's approval, and started negotiating.

Following discussion of the present contractors, Chairman Gidwitz indicated he would not favor extending our current contracts unless he saw some demonstration of good faith.

It was decided they would discuss this item further at a later time.

Status
Report: FOP
School
Finance
Authorities

Chairman Gidwitz called for agenda item: Status Report –Financial Oversight Panel and School Finance Authorities

Superintendent Schiller said they wanted to give the Board the status of schools with financial oversight panels and school finance authorities, but since many of these involve litigation, they might want to be discussed in closed executive session.

Chairman Gidwitz said he wanted shown on the record that he would like to discuss Round Lake Area School District Number 116, but because it was also a litigation issue he did not want it discussed in open session.

David Wood said he would like to note that we do not have enough money in the fund to make emergency payments should they become necessary for Cairo School District, nor any other school district in the future. He noted that there was possibly another school district that may appear within the next few weeks that will need help.

He said included in his packet, in addition to the annual report, was the loan agreement the Superintendent would be signing today or tomorrow that would move the first \$1.5 million to Hazel Crest School District to stabilize the district. He said the district was trying to attain a way with FSA to remain open next year to give them time to transition; but noted that the only authority provided in the statute was for two willing partners to consolidate, but at this point none had been found. And, that it may be too late, absent a legislative declaration, to work things out.

Adjournment
to Closed
Session

Chairman Gidwitz asked Mrs. Steiner to read the motion to go into Closed Session.

Mrs. Steiner read the motion as follows:

I move 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, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of an employee.
- Section 2 (c) (11) for the purpose of discussing litigation.

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

Mr. Kazarian seconded the motion.

The Chairman asked for a voice call on the motion. The motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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Reconvene
General
Session

The public General meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2003.

Judy Gold was to hook up by teleconference, but was unavailable at that time.

State Gov'tl
Report

Chairman Gidwitz asked for Peter Leonis, Director, Governmental Relations to give the Federal and State governmental updates.

Mr. Leonis said since the last meeting the Division had seen Don Payton retire and move to Florida, Randy Burge had retired, and Paul Williams and Shawn Rotherham had been reassigned from within the agency to work with Governmental Relations for the remainder of the session.

He said the General Assembly had introduced 5700 bills, with 678 having some impact on education and the State Board of Education.

He stated HB2352, *NCLB* Implementation – Assessment and Accountability Task Force was a key bill that the Superintendent had worked on diligently, and it was now on its 3rd reading.

He said yesterday HB2790 – 22-month payment, sponsored by Representative Bill Mitchell, was passed and would in the future eliminate the 23rd-24th payments being issued to July, thus eliminating problems by making it a 22 payment cycle.

Superintendent Schiller said Senate Bill 1 as amended, was approved by the Executive Committee yesterday to assure a continuing appropriation for this year. He stated if it would be implemented immediately, it would preclude the need for a supplemental.

A list of key bills was handed out (see attachment 6.)

Judy Gold joined the meeting.

Mrs. Steiner asked about the bill raising the compulsory school age from 16-18 years. Chairman Gidwitz wanted to know the incremental cost. Mr. Leonis said he had that information, and the Chairman asked Patrick Mogge, Executive for Board Services, to e-mail this information to the members.

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Federal
Gov'tl Report

Mr. Leonis gave a brief overview of federal updates stating that with the help of Barbour, Griffith & Rogers (BGR), consultants, eight earmark requests totaling \$3,587 million were secured.

It was noted that Greg Kazarian had just returned from Washington, D. C. where he attended the NASBE Legislative Conference. Mr. Leonis asked Mr. Kazarian to speak about the conference.

Mr. Kazarian said those in attendance met on the Hill for a series of meetings with BGR consultants; and he said he thought it was important for the members of the Board to understand the mechanics of how the earmarking process works. He thought our most recent success was directly attributed to the fact that we had gotten smarter and adjusted our behavior in this process. He stated we used the opportunity to apprise the congressional delegation of issues that were pending, and said BGR was most useful in supporting these delegation meetings and our credibility.

Adjournment
of General
Session

Chairman Gidwitz called for adjournment of the General meeting, and asked to proceed with the Plenary Session.

Convene
Plenary
Session

Roll Call

Chairman Gidwitz asked for roll call.

Members Present

Marjorie Branch	Ron Gidwitz	Dean Clark
Joyce Karon	Greg Kazarian	Richard Sandsmark
Janet Steiner	Beverly Turkal	

Judy Gold was by teleconference but had stepped away for a brief time.

Motion of
Minutes
Approval

Chairman Gidwitz asked for approval of the February 19, 2003 minutes.

Marjorie Branch said "I move that the Illinois State Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the February 19, 2003

meeting as published.”

Dean Clark seconded the motion.

Roll Call

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

Public Participation

Chairman Gidwitz called for public participation.

Mr. Gidwitz called Penny Richards, Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois, Oswego, IL to speak. She spoke on the continuous improvement plan for special education. She was against this plan.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Respicio Vazquez, General Counsel, to address this issue.

Mr. Vazquez said there seemed to be some misconception about the improvement plan for special education. He said that under OSEP they had requested that all states insert measurable outcomes as to the direction they were heading. He stated these are goals that we would be measured by, not quotas, and they do not in any way prohibit/restrict or override any of the IDEA and fundamental needs for special education and students. He said these goals that were inserted in the plan would not override IEPs, that we still had to meet those needs for those special education students.

Mrs. Richards said they know students are being placed in classrooms based on LRE and Corey H, and that the parents are being told their children are being placed back in the regular classroom because inclusion is the only placement for these children.

Bill Kienzle, Chairman, ISAC on the Education of Children with Disabilities, past member of the Task Force that developed the Continuous Improvement Plan, and a parent of 6 children, 2 having cerebral palsy, spoke on special education. He said his comments have changed since talking with Chairman Gidwitz before the meeting because he was told that Dr. Chris Koch was now leading the special education unit, and he was very excited about this.

Chairman Gidwitz introduced Stephen Riley, Chairman, President and C.E.O. of OmniBus Education Management. He spoke on the value of leadership naming historians, past Presidents, and their

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contributions to education and equality.

Chairman Gidwitz introduced Brian Schwartz, General Counsel for Illinois Principal Association, representing the Schoolwide Statewide Management Alliance, who spoke on the proposed rules for the administrator re-certification. He said he was there to thank the State Board and ISBE staff for their work on these rules, and asked that the Board accept the proposed rules.

Chairman Gidwitz introduced Beverly Johns, Chair, Illinois Special Education Coalition. She came forth to express her sadness of ISBE wanting to impose a statewide inclusion quota, which had resulted in special education teachers leaving.

Chairman Gidwitz introduced Lonnie Johns who spoke on the Continuous Improvement Plan for Special Education, and Corey H. He asked the Board not to adopt this plan. He then presented Ron Gidwitz with a copy of the report which recommended the formal structure of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Immediate
Action Items

Chairman Gidwitz asked the Superintendent to summarize the Immediate Action Items for Board approval, and give his recommendations.

Notices of
Objection
from Colleges
and
Universities

Superintendent Schiller said the Administrative Code, Section 25.160 allows institutions to file a notice of objection if the State Certification Board had recommended anything other than an unconditional accreditation of the unit. He said the following three institutions had filed this notice of objection; and according to the administrative rules, he was conveying to the Chairman the recommendations made by the SCB on December 6.

Blackburn College, University of Chicago, and University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana;

He was forwarding for the Board's consideration the institutions' objections to the SCB's recommendations. He would advise the SCB that the material had been submitted to the State Board for consideration, and the protocol established last fall.

Chairman Gidwitz said the records should show he received the conveyance from the Superintendent.

Greg Kazarian said that in order to be in compliance with the conflict of interest rules, Counsel had advised him to disclose that he was a

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graduate of the University of Illinois, but that he had no affiliation with the College of Education.

Mr. Vazquez, Legal Counsel, advised the other Board members to disclose if they had attended any of the above universities or colleges.

In following Mr. Vazquez's recommendation, the following board members made disclosures:

Dean Clark – Attended Blackburn College

Janet Steiner – Attended Blackburn College, had been employed by the college, and her mom and dad attended the college.

Marjorie Branch – Was a graduate of Wheaton College, the University of Chicago, and attended Northwestern University, Chicago State University, and DePaul University.

Ron Gidwitz – He is not a graduate of the schools, but has a son who had been accepted by the University of Illinois. His father is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and his grandfather is a graduate of the University of Chicago. He said he sits on a foundation board who in the past had made significant contributions to the University of Chicago.

Motion on
Notices of
Objection

Mr. Sandsmark then made the motion that the Illinois State Board of Education hereby accepts the Notices of Objection from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, the University of Chicago, and Blackburn College and defers the matter for further State Board consideration.

Beverly Turkal 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 – not present	– later voted yes	

Paraprofes-
sional Cut
Scores

Superintendent Schiller gave a brief overview of what was being requested of the Board.

Motion

Mrs. Turkal made the motion that the State Board of Education hereby accepts the following assessments and passing scores for establishing a candidate's qualifications as a paraprofessional

educator under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

- The ETS ParaPro Assessment, with 460 as the minimum passing score;
- The ACT WorkKeys tests of Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Writing, with the Board adopted minimum passing scores, and a locally-developed performance assessment that is consistent with State Board guidance.

I further move that the State Board of Education authorize continued implementation of the Illinois routes to paraprofessional qualification as adopted at the January 2003 Board meeting.

Joyce Karon 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 – not present – later voted yes

New Teacher Preparation Program

Superintendent Schiller gave an overview of the item stating that at yesterday's meeting eight universities were presented to the Board looking to initiate one or more preparation programs as listed in the materials.

Motion

Greg Kazarian gave the motion that the State Board of Education hereby provisionally approves the following programs, thereby authorizing the institutions to conduct the programs and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution's next Fifth-Year Review:

- Aurora University - Administrative Certificate – Superintendent
- Dominican University - Special (K-12) Certificate – Reading Specialist
- Eastern Illinois University – Alternative Route to Secondary Certification in the content areas of:
 - Business, Marketing, and Computer Education
 - Family and Consumer Sciences
 - Foreign Language
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Technology Education
- Illinois State University - Special (Preschool-Age 21) Certificate – Learning Behavior Specialist II in three (3) areas

- Curriculum Adaptation Specialist
- Behavior Intervention Specialist
- Technology Specialist
- Judson College - Secondary (6-12) Certificate in the content areas of:
 - Business, Marketing, and Computer Education
 - Science
 - Social Science
 - Visual Arts
- Judson College – Special (K-12) Certificate – Visual Arts
- National-Louis University - School Service Personnel Certificate – School Counselor
- St. Xavier University – School Service Personnel Certificate – School Counselor
- University of Illinois at Springfield – Administrative Certificate - Superintendent

Further, the State Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to inform the institutions of these decisions.

Janet Steiner seconded the motion.

Mr. Gidwitz asked for comments or questions and Mrs. Turkal said she had a conflict of interest because she attended and taught at Eastern Illinois University, and have family who have attended EIU.

Counselor Vazquez said if you are no longer an attendee of the school it is not a problem.

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

Institutional Accreditation Decisions

The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the item.

Janet Steiner gave the motion the State Board of Education hereby:

Motion

- assigns Continuing Accreditation with Probation to Illinois College and requires a full visit within two years of this decision;
- assigns Continuing Accreditation with Conditions to North Central College and requires a focused visit within two years of this decision; and
- assigns Continuing Accreditation with Conditions to Olivet

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Nazarene University and requires a focused visit within two years of this decision.

Further, the State Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to inform the institutions of these decisions and their respective responsibilities for notification of candidates enrolled in their preparation programs.

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

AEWL
Amendments

Superintendent Schiller gave a brief overview of the item.

Motion

Joyce Karon moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the amendments to the 2002 Academic Early Warning List by deleting the following schools:

Lincoln Jr. High School in LaSalle Elementary
School District 122
A. J. Katzenmaier Middle School in North Chicago School
District 187

and adding the following schools:

Carol Mosely Braun School in Dolton School District 149
Meadowview School in Country Club Hills School District 160
New Dawes Area Elementary School in Chicago School
District 299
Spalding Elementary School in Chicago School District 299
Stephen Decatur Middle School in Decatur School
District 61

Further, the State Board of Education hereby removes the following schools from the 2002 Academic Watch List:

Future Commons in Chicago School District 299
Flower High School in Chicago School District 299

and directs the State Superintendent to inform these schools of our

decision.

Dick Sandsmark 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

Assessment
and
Accountability
Issues

Superintendent Schiller gave an overview of this item.

Motion

Marjorie Branch moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts 88% as the threshold for the attendance rate at the elementary/middle school level, as attendance rate is the indicator adopted by the Board at the elementary/middle school level as part of the AYP factors and a part of the safe harbor factors, and authorizes the use of a hybrid model (as presented at the February board meeting) to demonstrate growth on the IMAGE assessment.

Further, the State Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to proceed with asking the Advisory Council on Bilingual Education, in consultation with the IMAGE subcommittee, to study and make recommendations regarding the remaining IMAGE issues before the task force. This group will report directly on these issues to the State Superintendent or his designee.

Further, the State Board of Education hereby adopts as part of the Illinois assessment and accountability model that LEP students will be included in the AYP subgroup calculations until they score at the "Proficient" level (which means 'meets standards' on ISAT or 'expanding' on IMAGE) for 3 consecutive years".

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.

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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

ICIP for
Spec. Ed.

Superintendent Schiller gave an overview of the item stating that in January, 2002, the State Board approved the Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan (ICIP). He stated that this was after the USDE, Department of Special Education conducted a review; and after the State Board looked at the matters of non-compliance relevant to IDEA part B. The State Board submitted an amended ICIP showing changes. He said upon submittal to the Advisory Board with recommendations to approve, the ICIP was to address non-compliance. He said there were a series of goals for the Board's consideration, which indicated the aspirations, directions, and targets that are in compliance with OSEP.

Chris Koch said this was being brought before the Board because there were revisions based upon the monitoring, and that certain activities were added. He wanted to emphasize that the goals of the Plan had been approved by the State Advisory Council last year.

Mr. Vazquez stated he would like to note that on page 61 of the packet, page 13 of the Plan, with regard to Goal 2 at the bottom of the page, it says: "Note: Goal Number 2 includes the premise that a continuum of services and settings will be available as appropriate to meet the needs of individual students with disabilities." He said this emphasizes the Superintendent's point that the continuum of services is still key. He said the Goal is simply that, it will not disregard meeting those needs.

Motion

Dean Clark moved that the State Board of Education hereby approve the revised Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan for Special Education and authorize its transmittal to the United States Department of Education.

Dick Sandsmark seconded the motion.

A discussion followed and Mr. Koch answered the Board member's questions.

Chairman Gidwitz stated he had concerns implementing this Plan because he does not feel the schools in this State have adequate resources without the State funding schools on a district by district

basis. He recognizes that the State is required under OSEP to pass a Plan, so he will vote yes, but with this observation. He expects to see difficulty in the future with this Plan.

Vote on
Motion

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

Marjorie Branch – yes with the same concerns as the Chairman
Dean Clark – yes with the same concerns as the Chairman
Ron Gidwitz – yes with the noted concerns
Joyce Karon – yes Greg Kazarian–yes Dick Sandsmark–yes
Janet Steiner – yes with the same concerns as the Chairman
Beverly Turkal – yes with the same concerns as the Chairman
Judy Gold – yes

Rules for
Adoption:
Part 25 &
Part 226

Superintendent Schiller gave a brief overview of the item.

Dick Sandsmark moved that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed rulemaking, including the changes recommended in response to public comment, for:

Motion

Certification (23 Illinois Administrative Code 25); and
Special Education (23 Illinois Administrative Code 226.)

Further, the State Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical or non-substantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative rules.

Marjorie Branch 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

Rules for
Initial Review

Superintendent Schiller gave a brief overview of the item.

Motion

Janet Steiner moved that the State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

Certification (23 Illinois Administrative Code 25); and Standards for Certification in Specific Teaching Fields (23 Illinois Administrative Code 27.)

Including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

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

Financial Profile Designation Lists

Superintendent Schiller gave an extensive overview of the item. He stated that yesterday they reviewed with the Board the first district financial profile using the new profile developed, and supplied them, the legislature, and the governor a district alpha list designating their status. He said the Board had the opportunity to formally adopt this.

Motion

Beverly Turkal moved that the State board of Education hereby adopts the 2002 School District Financial Profile Designation Lists, including the Financial Early Warning and Financial Watch Lists.

Dick Sandsmark seconded the motion.

Dick Sandsmark, Greg Kazarian, Beverly Turkal, and Ron Gidwitz said they were pleased with these designation lists.

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 Operational Reports

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

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 – yes

State Assess-
ment RFSP

Superintendent Schiller said they were asking permission for the Board to authorize the release of an RFSP in order to work with contractors to develop and implement an enhanced state assessment system that would follow the newly adopted testing schedule. He said they were asking for this consideration in order to move forward on the setting up of the schedule for validation studies and cross-walks necessary to implement this by the established time.

Motion

Joyce Karon moved that the State Board hereby approve the release of an RFSP for the contracts on the State Assessment systems.

Seconded by Janet Steiner

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

Announce-
ments and
Reports

The Superintendent said last month the quarterly report on agency work and accomplishments was postponed. He said he would like to distribute that report now, and that it will be put on the website.

Chairman Report: Chairman Gidwitz said he led a network meeting last Friday in Chicago and talked about various issues related to education, albeit the most critical one being funding.

Operations Committee Report: Janet Steiner, Chair, stated she has handed out a calendar of upcoming meetings. She said to note that the April, May and June meetings are all on Monday and Tuesdays, and the June meeting has been changed from Oakbrook to Springfield and would meet on the 16th and 17th.

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She also said there were conflicts with the April meeting on the 14th and 15th, and asked about making it a one-day meeting.

Chairman Gidwitz asked Mr. Mogge, Executive to the State Board, to poll the Board on days for this meeting.

Mr. Kazarian said he wanted to point out that on one-day meetings they lose the opportunity for committee meetings.

Mrs. Steiner said the October meeting will be in Carbondale, and the November meeting will be changed to Springfield because of the veto session of the General Assembly,

Mr. Gidwitz said that the November meeting usually falls on the Triple I Conference and that is why it is usually in Chicago, but it was decided that they could meet in Springfield and travel to Chicago for the Triple I Conference on Saturday. They left it this way with the option of changing it later if needed.

Counselor Vazquez said that Board calendars are approved at the beginning of the year and would suggest if the Board were going to make a change that it provide a motion, at least, for the April Board meeting at a minimum.

The Chairman said they would have a 30-second telephonic meeting to change the date for the record after the poll was completed and a date decided.

Finance and Audit Committee: Dick Sandsmark, Chair, said he would like to have a meeting this month.

Joint Education Committee: Ron Gidwitz, Chair, said the committee has yet to meet since the new administration has taken office.

Governmental Relations Committee: Beverly Turkal, Chair, said she would like to thank Peter Leonis and the legislative staff for its two new members - Paul Williams and Shawn Rotherham. She said a meeting was not held this month due to the busy schedule, but they would have a meeting in April. She said there was a great interest in the legislative committee. The members included: Dick Sandsmark, Greg Kazarian, Dean Clark, Judy Gold and herself.

Education Policy Planning Committee: Marjorie Branch, Chair, said they had their first meeting that morning.

Chairman Gidwitz said there is a standard monthly status report on

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rulemaking in the back of the packet.

Adjournment Chairman Gidwitz adjourned the meeting at 12:00 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
Board Secretary

Ronald J. Gidwitz
Chairman