I. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
   A. Consideration of and Possible Actions on Any Requests for Participation in Meeting by Other Means

II. Public Participation

III. Presentations and Updates
   A. Technical Advisory Committee Update
   B. Public Inquiry for CPS Special Education Issues Update

IV. Closed Session (as needed)

V. Superintendent’s Report – Consent Agenda
   A. *Approval of Minutes
      1. Plenary Minutes: March 14, 2018
   B. *Rules for Initial Review
      1. Part 130 (Determining Special Education Per Capita Tuition Charge)
   C. *Rules for Approval
      1. Part 203 (Low-Income Students Funds Plan)
   D. *Contracts and Grants Over $1 Million
      1. Renewal of Learning Technology Centers
      2. Renewal Illinois Virtual School
      3. Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) Intergovernmental Agreement
      4. Grant with Illinois State University for the National Board Certification Initiative
      5. Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement with Illinois State University to Administer the Illinois National Board Professional Preparation and Support System
      6. Teach for America Grant
7. Renewal of Contract with International Business Machines (IBM) for ISBE
   Student Information System Information Technology Support
8. TAEOP Grant
9. Intergovernmental Agreement with Illinois State University Content
   E. *Special Education Expenditure and Receipts Report
   F. *Statewide Single Audit

End of Consent Agenda

VI. Student Success/School Quality Indicators

VII. Cut Score Recommendations for Redeveloped Licensure Tests: English Language Arts
     (207), Mathematics (208), Social Science: Economics (244), Social Science: Geography
     (245), Social Science: History (246), Social Science: Political Science (247), Social Science:
     Psychology (248), and Social Science: Sociology and Anthropology (249)

VIII. Discussion Items
     A. District Oversight Update
     B. Legislative Update
     C. Budget Update
     D. ESSA Update
     E. Other Items for Discussion

IX. Announcements and Reports
     A. Superintendents/Senior Staff Announcements
     B. Chairman’s Report
     C. Member Reports

X. Information Items
     A. ISBE Financial and Administrative Monthly Reports available online at
        https://www.isbe.net

XI. Adjourn
Illinois State Board of Education Meeting  
via video conference  
April 18, 2018

Chicago Location: ISBE Video Conference Room, 14th Floor  
100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL

Springfield Location: ISBE Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor  
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

ROLL CALL
Chairman James Meeks called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Dr. Tony Smith was in attendance and a quorum was present.

Members Present in Chicago  
James T. Meeks, Chairman  
Cesilie Price, Secretary  
Ruth Cross  
Lula Ford  
Mitchell Holzrichter

Members Present in Springfield  
Kevin Settle  
Susie Morrison

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Ben Boer, deputy director at Advance Illinois; Mary Havis, superintendent at Berwyn South School District 100 and member of the Equity First Superintendent’s Group and the Real Learning for Real Life Coalition; and Dr. Stephanie Schmitz Bechteler, vice president and executive director of the Research and Policy Center at the Chicago Urban League, spoke in favor of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability system. However, they expressed concern about the pace of the statewide goals. They recommended a new set of goals that they felt to be more realistic.

A subgroup of the Real Learning for Real Life Coalition, composed of Ralph Grimm, former superintendent at District 205; Josh Kaufmann, executive director at Teach Plus Illinois; and Jim O’Connor, project director at Advance Illinois, presented recommendations regarding the teacher shortage issue. They recommended that ISBE address unfilled teacher positions by allowing superintendents and hiring managers to place educators outside of their licensed area with conditions. Additionally, they commented on the entrance tests for teachers -- the ACT, SAT, and the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) -- describing how some teacher candidates feel confused about which test to take because the threshold for passing the TAP is higher than that of the ACT.

Liz Keenan, chief of Diverse Learner Supports and Services at Chicago Public Schools, thanked ISBE for the Public Inquiry into Special Education and updated the Board on reforms that CPS has made in response to the comments from parents and advocacy groups.

Representatives from the U.S. Marines – Major Nicole Bastian, Major Robert Stevenson, Lieutenant Anthony Gomez, Corporal Tally Craig, Lance Corporal Abel Gun and Lance Corporal Miranda Robertson – spoke on the value and importance of the armed forces as a postsecondary option and expressed concern that high schools are withholding information from students about postsecondary career and educational opportunities. They requested that the Board consider establishing procedures for the state to distribute information from the Student Information System to the armed forces.

Vanessa Kinder, executive director of South Cook Intermediate Service Center, and Dr. Courtney Orzel, superintendent of Lemont-Bromberek Combined School District 113A, spoke in favor of continuing Foundational Services and expressed concern for districts that will not fall into Tier 3 or 4 categories.

Jill Reedy, assistant regional superintendent of schools for Macon and Piatt counties, and Dr. Jeanne Koehler, director of Academy for Scholarship in Learning at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, expressed support...
for Foundational Services and concern that Tier 1 and 2 districts will have added costs if the program is dissolved. Dr. Koehler shared her experiences working with districts.

Susie Morrison asked whether ISBE planned to continue Foundational Services. Superintendent Smith responded by updating the Board on the transition from Foundational Services. He expressed appreciation for the high-quality services, but said he was concerned that the quality of those services is not standard across the state. Superintendent Smith said that while Foundational Services will no longer exist as named, the services will be continued.

Dr. Jason Helfer, deputy superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided additional details on the planning for the transition. Ms. Morrison asked how districts will access services once Foundational Services have ended. Dr. Helfer responded that ISBE is reviewing how districts use Title I funds, in addition to looking at services through Illinois State University in order to ensure that districts that are not eligible for those funds will still receive support.

Ms. Morrison asked if the districts that currently do not qualify for additional funding to access IL-EMPOWER will receive additional funds. Dr. Helfer said that they will receive Title I allocations and ISBE is working on developing a transition plan for money that has not been allocated.

Superintendent Smith clarified Dr. Helfer’s statement by reminding the Board of unspent dollars in districts for Title I. He stated that part of the transition will be to use those funds, in addition to other resources. He stated that there will be more information provided to the Board in June.

Kevin Settle remarked that there were IL-EMPOWER pilot districts that would not have been required to join the program but were still able to participate, so a solution must exist.

Dr. Koehler asked how a high-need child is defined. Dr. Helfer responded that in Title I they are defined by their family’s income. Dr. Koehler requested that the Board consider a student’s access to services as part the criteria for determining high need.

Jonathan VanderBrug, policy and research director at Arts Alliance Illinois, updated the Board on the Arts Indicator workgroup, which is coordinated by Arts Alliance Illinois and ISBE.

Eliot Regenstein, senior vice president of advocacy and policy at Ounce of Prevention, presented a proposal for implementing the P-2 indicator at above zero weight immediately, as opposed to waiting for three years per ISBE’s recommendation. He proposed considering the P-2 indicator as stand-alone elements that are referred to as the indicator rather than a composite of the four different elements of the indicator. He outlined the benefits of this approach.

Susan Rhodes, a past president at the Illinois Association for Gifted Children (IAGC), expressed support for the stakeholder engagement in the Illinois ESSA State Plan and its focus on closing the equity gap. She explained why including access to gifted programs in an accountability system is important for the success of students in families with low incomes. Ms. Rhodes stated that IAGC is supportive of ISBE’s indicators and would like to be part of any collaboration.

Kenneth Newman expressed his concern about the athletic facilities at Chicago Public Schools. He recommended adding four 100-meter tracks throughout the city. He also expressed concern about tax increment finance districts, which he felt drew money away from athletic facilities. Mr. Newman recommended that the ISBE Legal Department sue CPS for lack of funding for athletic facilities.
Chairman Meeks recognized Vanessa Kinder, executive director of South Cook Intermediate Service Center, as well as Jane Quinlan, regional superintendent of Champaign and Ford counties.

**Presentations and Updates**

**Technical Advisory Committee Update**

Dr. Helfer presented on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with Chris Domaleski, associate director at the Center of Assessment, who joined by phone.

They reviewed the purpose and methods of the Technical Advisory Committee, which is to develop recommendations regarding growth and proficiency for the ESSA accountability system. They informed the Board that the TAC will recommend using mean Student Growth Percentiles as the basis for computing growth.

Ms. Morrison cautioned against using letter grades for a school's proficiency and growth. Mr. Domaleski responded to Ms. Morrison’s concern about the grades, indicating that the TAC was hesitant about how they were interpreted.

Mr. Settle expressed concern about designating a lower quintile for districts in perpetuity because there will always be a bottom 20th percentile in each group. Mr. Domaleski acknowledged that the question will continue to be on the TAC agenda. He outlined a possible solution that there would not be a fixed percentage. However, he also described the potential benefit of viewing growth normatively.

Ms. Morrison asked how often a school would receive a designation. Dr. Helfer responded that comprehensive schools would be identified every three years, and target schools and grades would be provided annually.

Ms. Morrison expressed concern about how these different designations will be explained.

Superintendent Smith remarked that there will be an opportunity for two more webinars. He outlined the next steps to the Board: ISBE will bring a working definition to the Board meeting in May, and the Board will move to act in June to establish the framework.

Ms. Morrison asked which one of the indicators will be in place to identify comprehensive schools. Dr. Helfer responded that chronic absenteeism and the student voice portion of the climate survey will be in place in the P-8 portion of the accountability system, in addition to required academic attainment. In grades 9-12, it will be ninth grade on track, chronic absenteeism, and the student voice portion of the climate survey.

**Public Inquiry for CPS Special Education Issues Update**

Stephanie Jones, general counsel at ISBE, presented the findings of fact for the Public Inquiry into Special Education at Chicago Public Schools to the Board members. She informed the Board that the inquiry’s report is also available online. Ms. Jones introduced the members of the public inquiry team, Nancy Krent, Rich Cazzola, and Rupa Ramadurai, and thanked them for their work.

Mitchell Holzrichter asked about the requirement that a division representative must authorize when a student can take the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment. Ms. Jones responded that it is a statutory requirement of limitation of students within the entire district can take the DLM, and the method of limitation that CPS implemented was approval by a district representative. Professor Krent responded that there was little in the documentation that suggested that it was an ongoing problem. There was a discussion about the involvement of the district representative.
Mr. Holzrichter asked if it was an issue that what parents/advocates think is in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) is not being followed, not that an IEP wasn’t being followed. There was a discussion about the parental perception of the IEP meetings.

Mr. Holzrichter asked about one of the team’s general findings, which was lack of training for CPS special education staff. Professor Krent responded that there were a couple of issues regarding things that changed over time and it was unclear how that information was passed down. It appeared that teams didn’t always know or understand why the system wouldn’t allow them to submit a certain thing.

Ms. Jones highlighted that the Student Service Management (SSM) system has tremendous capability and that the teams don’t want findings in the discrete issues to persuade people that the SSM system is not good.

Superintendent Smith expressed appreciation for the thoughtful and thorough public comment and Board’s direction to take up those comments. He recognized Ms. Jones’ work to find a process to include as many people as possible and convert findings of fact to change in practice.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

The State Board of Education approves the minutes for the March 14 Board meeting as amended.

Rules for Initial Review

Part 130 (Determining Special Education per Capita Tuition Charge)

Public Act 100-465, the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for Student Success Act, enacted on August 31, 2017, integrated funding for five programs:

- General State Aid
- English Learner Education
- Special Ed Personnel
- Special Ed Funding for Children
- Special Ed Summer School

The Part 130 Special Education Per Capita Tuition rules require modification due to the sunset of the Special Education Personnel program authorized in Section 14-13.01 of the School Code and the accompanying reimbursement amounts for full-time licensed personnel, including paraprofessionals and other nonlicensed personnel (i.e., program aides), as a revenue offset to special education program expenditures.

One of the primary amendments to this Part requires that all full-time licensed personnel, licensed paraprofessionals, and nonlicensed personnel who are included for computation of special education program costs will have their compensation offset using the Special Education Personnel funding each district or cooperative received as part of their base funding minimum at the traditional amounts of $9,000 and $3,500, respectively. Additionally, this rulemaking adds the following definitions: building, classroom, contractual services, equipment, and supplies.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for Part 130 (Determining Special Education per Capita Tuition Charge), including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

Rules for Approval

Part 203 (Low-Income Students Funds Plan)

This Part is being repealed to align with the enactment of Public Act 100-0465 effective August 31, 2017. Section 18-8.05(H) of the School Code outlined how supplemental general state aid (SGSA) was calculated. School districts that
were eligible for SGSA that had 1,000 or more students in average daily attendance were required to file plans with ISBE in accordance with this Part. PA 100-0465 sunset Section 18-8.05 in its entirety. SGSA is now part of the base funding minimum or hold harmless paid to each district.

The State Board of Education hereby approves the proposed rulemaking for Low-Income Students Funds Plan (Part 203). Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make any technical and nonsubstantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Contracts and Grants Over $1 Million
Renewal of Learning Technology Centers

The Learning Technology Centers (then known as Learning Technology Hubs) were established in 1996 as seven regional centers (Palatine Community Consolidated School District #15, LaSalle County ROE, Peoria County ROE, Champaign/Ford County ROE, Madison County ROE, Clay/Crawford/Jasper/Lawrence ROE, and the City of Chicago Public Schools #299) and charged with the mission of proactively supporting Illinois public schools by integrating technology and telecommunications in their school improvement plans; helping districts with long-range technology plans; and providing professional development in instructional technology, telecommunications, networking, and distance learning. Additionally, they were charged with helping districts remain current with technology by linking them with initiatives in higher education, libraries, museums, and business. They also helped districts expand their internet connectivity.

Administering this grant through one ROE provides equitable distribution of technology support services statewide and ensures the most efficient operation.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to enter into a one-year intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Champaign and Ford Counties Regional Office of Education #9 through June 30, 2019, not to exceed $1.7 million subject to appropriations. This IGA is for the administration and management of the Illinois Learning Technology Centers.

Renewal Illinois Virtual School

The Illinois Virtual School (IVS) facilitates and coordinates a wide variety of online full-service courses (such as Algebra 1, Middle School Language Arts, Biology, etc.) and credit-recovery courses (such as Geometry, English 1, Chemistry, etc.) that are available to all Illinois schools and are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards.

ISBE released a Request for Sealed Proposals in 2008 for the administration and management of the IVS to increase the professional development offerings for teachers as well as continue to offer high-quality, standards-based courses for students in grades 5-12. These courses would be taught by highly qualified, Illinois-certified teachers. ROE 48 was the successful bidder.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to enter into a one-year intergovernmental agreement with Peoria County Regional Office of Education #48 through June 30, 2019, not to exceed $2,403,350, subject to appropriations. This contract is for the administration and management of the Illinois Virtual School.

Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map Intergovernmental Agreement

The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map project provides a comprehensive picture of early care and education services in Illinois by combining up-to-date demographic information with early childhood program information from state agencies, Head Start, and private sector child care. The website uses sophisticated GIS coding/mapping to locate early childhood programs across multiple sectors of the state.
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois for the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map. The initial term of the contract will begin July 1, 2018, and extend through June 30, 2019. There will be four possible one-year renewals contingent upon sufficient appropriation and satisfactory contractor performance in each preceding contract year. The estimated contract total costs, including renewal, will not exceed $3,750,000.

Grant with Illinois State University for the National Board Certification Initiative
The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization created in 1987 to provide voluntary national certification of teachers who meet rigorous, advanced standards through a series of performance-based assessments. ISU has managed the Illinois National Board for Professional Teaching Standards program since fiscal year 2006. It partners with Illinois National Board Certified Teachers, Regional Offices of Education/Intermediate Service Centers, and school districts in all regions of the state to arrange services to recruit and support candidates in targeted schools and counties.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to award a grant to the National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University for $1 million for FY 2019 to serve as the fiscal agent for the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program.

Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement with Illinois State University to Administer the Illinois National Board Professional Preparation and Support System
In 2011, Public Act 097-0607 changed how funding is used for National Board supports. Under the new law, any funds appropriated for the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program must provide monetary assistance and incentives for qualified educators employed by school districts and who have or are in the process of obtaining licensure through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The goal of the program is to improve instruction and student performance.

This contract provides funds for administrative costs to Illinois State University to support the recruitment, training, and mentoring of teachers who are seeking National Board Certification. This work supports the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program grant, which is a line item in the state budget and required by Illinois School Code. The grant awards up to $1 million to educators who are undergoing the certification process. Illinois State University serves as ISBE’s fiscal agent for the grant.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to renew the intergovernmental agreement with the National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University to administer the Illinois National Board Professional Preparation and Support System (subject to appropriation). The IGA will be for $298,000 in FY 2019 and the total contract will not exceed $2,862,928.

Renewal of Contract with International Business Machines for ISBE Student Information System Information Technology Support
The ISBE Student Information System (SIS) provides state and federal education entities, the education community, and the public with timely and accurate data collection and reporting for students, schools, school districts, and the State of Illinois. SIS provides secure and appropriate access for applications such as student record inquiry, retrieval, and transfer.
The contractor has met all system support requirements necessary to maintain the operational needs for agency reporting of student information. Additionally, the contractor has met all system upgrades in accordance to key due dates.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to enter into a one-year renewal contract from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, with International Business Machines for the purpose of knowledge transfer and transitioning to a new SIS vendor. The estimated contract renewal cost will not exceed $1.2 million.

**Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program Grant**
Section 2-3.66 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.66] authorizes the State Board of Education to provide grants for the establishment of Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Programs (TAEOP). These programs, which serve as part-time or full-time options to regular school attendance, offer modified instructional programs or other services designed to prevent students from dropping out of school. ISBE’s allocation for grants in FY 2018 was $11.5 million. There are currently 27 active grants in Cohort 17 and 28 active grants in Cohort 18. Cohort 17 and Cohort 18 currently consist of school districts, Regional Offices of Education, and charter schools.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to release the TAOEP Request for Proposals (RFPs) and to award successful applicants. The initial term of the grants will begin July 1, 2018, and extend through June 30, 2019. There will be two one-year renewals contingent upon a sufficient appropriation and satisfactory performance in each preceding grant year. The estimated total cost, including cohort renewals, will not exceed $14.5 million in FY 2019.

**Intergovernmental Agreement with Illinois State University Content**
The intergovernmental agreement with Illinois State University provides support for the work of 11 content specialists. Content specialists develop and deliver professional learning, instructional resources, and technical assistance aligned to Board goals and the Illinois Learning Standards to administrators and teachers statewide. Content specialists developed and delivered support services to teachers and administrators in districts and at conferences (e.g., Connections Conference, Illinois Association of Title I Directors Conference, ESSA Conference, among others) during FY 2018. ISBE entered into an IGA with ISU on December 13, 2012, to support statewide implementation of the new Illinois Learning Standards for English language arts and math.

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to enter into an IGA with Illinois State University for $2 million for services in FY 2019. The total will not exceed $8,449,421.89.

**Special Education Expenditure and Receipts Report**
Section 2-3.145 mandates that ISBE submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual report that designates school districts’ special education expenditures, receipts, and net special education expenditures. The receipts are to be specified as local, state, and federal. The calculation utilizes data ISBE receives on school districts’ Annual Financial Reports and Pupil Transportation Claims and from the Fall Housing Reports/Student Information System and the Funding and Child Tracking System.

The calculations for this report are limited to the data collected by ISBE and are based upon special education student counts compared to total student counts unless actual revenue or expenditures are known. This report should not be perceived as reflecting the exact amount of net special education costs incurred by each school district, but it should be noted that the methodology utilized has been consistent for 11 years. This report is not intended to denote the amount of or type of special education services school districts are providing for their students. However, this report continues to demonstrate the high costs that school districts incur to provide necessary special education services to their
The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to forward the Special Education Expenditures and Receipts Report to the General Assembly and Governor by May 1, 2018.

Mr. Settle asked whether these contracts and grants would remain if ISBE’s budget request is not appropriated in its entirety. Robert Wolfe, chief financial officer at ISBE, responded that the Board is authorizing the request of award in addition to the RFP and the application; however, the awards will be contingent upon appropriation. He added that while the intergovernmental agreements are planned, nothing will be executed until the appropriation is known. Additionally, the contracts have language that acknowledges they are contingent upon appropriation.

There was a discussion between Ms. Morrison and Mary Reynolds, executive director of Innovation and Secondary Transformation, about whether the agency has done an external evaluation of the Illinois Virtual School. Ms. Morrison asked if there could be a connection between IVS and IL-EMPOWER, to which Ms. Reynolds agreed there was opportunity. Ms. Morrison asked further questions to determine if there was impact data for the school. Ms. Reynolds responded that there has not been an external evaluation conducted but there is a report available online. Ms. Morrison asked a question regarding the difference between the $2 million spent on content specialists in comparison to the $5 million paid for specialists to work with IL-EMPOWER.

Mr. Holzrichter moved that the State Board of Education hereby approve the consent agenda with the following changes: March 2018 minutes as amended, removal of the grant agreement for Teach for America, and removal of the approval of the Statewide Single Audit. Lula Ford seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Helfer presented on the workgroup recommendations for the Illinois ESSA Plan P-2, 3-8, and College and Career Readiness Student Success and School Quality Indicators. Some indicators will be weighted at zero for a certain amount of years. Dr. Helfer explained that those indicators will not be used in the accountability system, but will be recorded.

Cesilie Price asked a question about school districts that are moving away from GPA, in regard to the definition of “distinguished scholar” for the college and career readiness indicator. Dr. Helfer said that the agency is working on this with the field.

Mr. Holzrichter asked whether students who had participated in accelerated programs could still receive a distinguished scholar classification. He also asked a question about the accountability score of a school that does not have enough students in a particular subcategory. Dr. Helfer responded that any indicator that doesn’t meet the required n-size or subgroup would not be a part of the final accountability score.

Ruth Cross expressed her disappointment about the use of grades as part of the accountability score. She felt that it was agreed not to use academic indicators. Ms. Cross was concerned about biased grading.

Dr. Libi Gil responded to Cross’s concern by acknowledging that there will be limitations to any indicator. She highlighted the opportunity of grades as a mechanism for teacher voice, which was pulled from responses from the field. Additionally, she emphasized the dramatic shift in the accountability system by moving from single measurement of test score.
Superintendent Smith gave an example of the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey as a tool to have a conversation about outcomes. He also addressed the concern of the public commenters that the Board goals are paced too fast for the state by restating the commitment to focus on outcome measures as a way to address equity.

Ms. Cross expressed appreciation for Superintendent Smith and Dr. Gil’s comments, but stated that she still had some questions.

Ms. Morrison also indicated concern about the use of letter grades, given the history of encouraging schools to move to a standardized system.

Kevin moved that State Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s recommendations for the P-2, 3-8, and College and Career Ready indicators. Chairman Meeks seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Helfer reported on the cut score recommendations for the redeveloped licensure tests.

Mr. Settle asked a question in response to a recommendation from the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board that the cut scores be moved one standard deviation lower in order to account for the teacher shortage crisis. Dr. Helfer responded that the same pass rates exist as prior to the redesign. Superintendent Smith confirmed that the pass rates are high, and the redesigned assessment is still targeting a similar pass rate.

Susie moved that the State Board of Education authorizes the State Superintendent to approve the panel-recommended cut scores for the following redeveloped tests: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Science: Economics, Social Science: Geography, Social Science: History, Social Science: Political Science, Social Science: Psychology, and Social Science: Sociology and Anthropology. Mitch seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Legislative Update

Sarah Hartwick, co-director of Legislative Affairs at ISBE, provided an update on current legislation in the General Assembly. She reported the licensure bill that ISBE proposed passed out of committee with no opposition. She also stated that ISBE would file a bill related to ESSA that week and provided an update on appropriations discussions in the General Assembly.

Mr. Holzrichter asked a question following up on rule changes that related to physical education that were discussed in March’s Board meeting.

There was a discussion about whether the School Code defines acceptable activities to include “school-sponsored” extracurricular activities. Jeff Aranowski, executive director of Safe and Healthy Climate, and Ms. Jones explained how they came to the definition in the rules, including mirroring court processes and consulting with the authors of the bill.

Mr. Holzrichter expressed concern that ISBE felt it needed to be involved. He requested continued updates.

Ms. Cross stated that she understood Mr. Holzrichter’s concerns, but did not want school districts to have to resolve which programs to accept and which ones not to accept. She added that it is hard to determine how much physical education a student is getting in an after-school program.

Ms. Cross also asked if the language in HB 4637 – “emotional intelligence” – could be changed to “social-emotional learning,” since that was more in line
with educational terminology. Mr. Aranowski responded that ISBE had already raised those concerns.

Superintendent Smith reminded Board members that they could provide feedback on new bills that are in the General Assembly.

Ms. Morrison moved to accept the cut scores for the redeveloped licensure tests. Mr. Holzrichter seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Settle moved to accept the School Quality and Student Success indicators. Chairman Meeks seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Budget Update
Mr. Wolfe reported that the tier money for districts was distributed beginning on April 10. He said that ISBE has processed a second round of vouchers, but there is still work to do, including reporting requirements.

He reported that the Illinois Comptroller issued January vouchers on April 18 for Early Childhood and Career and Technical Education. Additionally, the additional $29 million for English Learners are being processed and payments are being made.

Superintendent Smith commented that this was a continuing process that has required conversations between the General Assembly and ISBE staff.

Chairman Meeks remarked on the importance of Evidence-Based Funding. Ms. Ford stated that she had heard media reports about ISBE and the funding of tier money, including public relations by Chicago Public Schools. Superintendent Smith stated that this has been an agencywide activity.

Superintendent/Senior Staff Announcements
Superintendent Smith remarked on the upcoming anniversary of the Columbine school shooting. He highlighted resources for students, families, communities, and districts on ISBE’s website, including the page built by the Student Advisory Council for Student Voice.

He also announced the applications for the next Student Advisory Council are due at the end of May and invited students to apply.

Chairman’s Report
Chairman Meeks thanked Board members for comments they made in response to an email he sent about a recent Chicago Sun-Times report on the conditions in Chicago Public Schools. He urged the agency to ensure that students attend clean and safe schools.

Superintendent Smith added that ISBE has additional responsibility because it acts as the Regional Office of Education for Chicago Public Schools.

Mr. Aranowski reported on the communication between ISBE and CPS regarding conditions in CPS schools. Since the publication of the Chicago Sun-Times piece, ISBE has received a report from CPS and asked follow-up questions. There is also communication scheduled involving the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ISBE, and CPS. ISBE staff were awaiting additional information.

Ms. Price expressed concern that these problems are created by adults who don’t have the best interests of children in mind.

Ms. Ford commented that the issue was privatization.
Ms. Cross commented that it was a systems problem that CPS will have to work through.

Chairman Meeks recommended a Public Inquiry in response to the report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ISBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports *(available online at http://isbe.net/*)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ruth Cross moved that the meeting be adjourned. Lula Ford seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cesilie Price
Board Secretary

Mr. James T. Meeks
Chairman