

# ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



This meeting will be audio cast on the Internet at: [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)

December 16, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## 1. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

- A. Consideration of and Possible Actions on Any Requests for Participation in Meeting by Other Means

## 2. Public Participation

- A. Public Participation will be completed using an online form that can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx> and will open on December 16 at 8:30 and close at 9:30 a.m. Participants will be able to review the participation guidelines and indicate if they wish to speak. For Public Participation, please join the link below by computer or phone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/127034485> Call in number: (646) 749-3112; Access Code: 127-034-485

## 3. Recognition

- A. 2020 Teacher of the Year, Eric Combs

## 4. Presentations

- A. FY22 Budget Development
  - i. Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability's (COGFA) Economic and Revenue Forecast: Clayton Klenke and Jim Muschinske, COGFA
  - ii. Development of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Recommendation on behalf of pre-K through 12th grade educational service providers: Robert Wolfe, Financial Officer
- B. Assessment Discussion – State Perspective

## 5. Closed Session (as needed)

- A. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

## 6. Superintendent's Report – Consent Agenda

*\*All action consideration items listed with an asterisk (\*) below are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and vote. Any board member who wishes separate discussion on any item listed on*

*the consent agenda may remove that item from the consent agenda, in which event, the item will be considered in its normal sequence.*

- A. \*Approval of Minutes – Plenary Minutes: November 19, 2020
- B. \*Rules for Adoption - Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) *Educator Licensure Department Changes*
- C. \*Rules for Adoption -- Part 24 (Standards for All Illinois Teachers) *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards*
- D. \*Rules for Adoption - Part 226 (Special Education) *Various Changes*
- E. \*Approval of 2020 State Board of Education Annual Report for the General Assembly
- F. \*Approval for one-year grant extension for Facilitating the Coordination of Agricultural Education (FCAE)
- G. \*Approval to release and award a request for sealed proposal for the Illinois CTE Improvement Project
- H. \*Approval of Special Education Data Reporting and Training Contract with ROE 20
- I. \*Approval of Implementation of PA 101-643: District Intervention Funding
- J. \*Approval of Elevating Special Educators Project – IDEA Part D: State Personnel Development Grant – IGA with ROE 9

#### ***End of Consent Agenda***

#### **7. Upcoming Board Actions**

- A. Rules for Initial Review - Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) *Time Out and Physical Restraint*
- B. Rules for Initial Review - Part 380 (Student Online Personal Protection) *New Part*
- C. Approval to Release a Request for Proposals and to Award Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grants
- D. Approval of Preschool Development Grant Birth – Five
- E. Approval of Renewal Decision for ACE Amandla Charter School
- F. Approval of Renewal Decision for Bronzeville Academy Charter School
- G. Approval of Renewal Decision for Betty Shabazz International Charter Schools

#### **8. Discussion Items**

- A. Accountability in 2021 Addendum, Timeline and Next Steps
- B. IL-EMPOWER 2.0 Update
- C. Spring Legislative Agenda Update

#### **9. Public Participation (as needed)**

#### **10. Announcements & Reports**

- A. Superintendent's/Senior Staff Announcements
- B. Chair of the Board's Report

C. Member Reports

**11. Information Items**

A. ISBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports

B. FOIA Monthly Report

C. ISBE Quarterly Staff Demographics Report

**12. Adjourn**

*This meeting will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the date prior to the meeting. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of Education. Phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 217-782-1900.*

**NOTE: The Chair of the Board may call for a break in the meeting as necessary in order for the Board to go into closed session.**

**Approved  
1/20/2021**

**Illinois State Board of Education Meeting**  
December 16, 2020

Via Webinar Only

**ROLL CALL**

Chair of the Board Darren Reisberg called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Chair Reisberg thanked everyone, especially Board members and agency employees, for their outstanding work throughout this challenging year.

Chair Reisberg announced that the Board meeting was being audio-cast live over the internet and video recorded. He declared that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that made a physical presence for the meeting unfeasible.

Chair Reisberg asked the clerk to call the roll. A quorum was present with seven members attending via webinar. State Superintendent Dr. Carmen I. Ayala was also in attendance.

**Members Present:**

Mr. Darren Reisberg, Chairperson  
Dr. Donna Leak, Vice Chair  
Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Secretary  
Dr. Christine Benson  
Dr. David Lett  
Ms. Susie Morrison  
Ms. Jacqueline Robbins  
Dr. Jane Quinlan

Chair Reisberg had those in attendance join him in a moment of silence in honor of DuPage High School District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, who recently passed away.

Chair Reisberg congratulated Dr. Leak for being named the 2021 Illinois Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Leak thanked him, spoke of how honored and humbled she is, and praised all of her colleagues who have been working hard with and alongside her.

**PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION**

Chair of the Board Reisberg reminded those in attendance of the public participation policy and the sign-up procedures for today's remote meeting.

Astrid Suarez, director of education for Enlace Chicago, advocated for postponing Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) testing as well as postponing the opening of school districts. She reported statistics that illustrate the struggles the community in Little Village has faced in relation to the pandemic as well as the struggles of the Latinx community at large.

Monica Espinoza, a leader from Logan Square Neighborhood Association as well as a parent, advocated against the administration of the ACCESS test. She explained how it will have inequitable impacts and how the results will have a lack of utility this year. She implored the Board to apply for a federal waiver and to postpone the testing as much as possible.

Judy Saurí, president of the Illinois Association of Multilingual Multicultural Education and treasurer of the National Association of Bilingual Education, asked that the Board provide an extension of the timeline for the ACCESS testing, as other states have done. There is a lot of worry for the health and safety of the students, their families, and their educators. It is possible that the new federal administration will allow more flexibility that will lead to a safer environment. The logistics are difficult to manage, and the results of the test will be questionable.

Erika Mendez, senior education policy analyst for the Latino Policy Forum, urged ISBE to apply for a federal waiver for all assessments in 2021 or to postpone the tests for as long as possible. She also urged the Board to submit a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) asking that the data from the tests not be used for accountability purposes.

Finally, she asked that Dr. Ayala contact members of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to investigate the possibility of writing a joint letter to ED.

Susan Feldman, Pete Shungu, and Emily Kerlin, representatives of Champaign Federation of Teachers Local 1925, spoke against the administration of the ACCESS test. They reported worrisome statistics regarding COVID-19 within their community, especially for the Latinx population. They expressed doubt in the safety of administering the test as well as the utility and validity of its results.

Elizabeth Campos Hamilton, a parent, spoke against administering assessments, particularly the ACCESS, and asked that they be delayed until safety can be guaranteed. She listed some of the specific risks involved in ACCESS testing, reasons why it would produce invalid results, and ways it will inequitably impact minorities. She made the point that her children's educators are already collecting useful data that will track their progress and help plan for growth.

Katherine Huete, a middle school teacher in the Bryant Park neighborhood on the south side of Chicago, spoke against ACCESS testing. She shared with the Board her experience attending a student's funeral and spoke on the high case rate in her community. She talked about the emotional toll the pandemic has taken on her, her colleagues, and her students.

Jazmin Cerda, a parent and member of the Bryant Park Neighborhood Council, spoke against ACCESS testing. She reported statistics of COVID-19 in Bryant Park and for the Latinx community, specifically. She expressed doubt in the utility of the ACCESS data.

Diana Alday, a bilingual teacher, urged the Board to apply for a federal waiver for the ACCESS assessment. She spoke of the inequitable impacts the pandemic has had and expressed doubt in the feasibility of administering the test safely.

Dr. Ayala thanked those who participated in public comment, specifically about ACCESS. As a former bilingual teacher, she said she understands the challenges that come with administering the test and she empathizes with the impacts the pandemic is having on the Latinx community. She clarified that the State Board does not have the power to decide whether or not to mandate the test without risking billions of dollars in funding; that power is in the hands of the federal government. She said that the agency is exercising all of its power to delay the testing for as long as possible.

## **RECOGNITION | 2020 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Ayala introduced Eric Combs, the 2020 Illinois Teacher of the Year. She spoke of the work he has done during the past year and how it was uniquely impacted by the pandemic. She thanked him for his optimism and inspiration and welcomed him to speak about his year.

Mr. Combs thanked Dr. Ayala and the Board and shared stories about his opportunity to meet with a variety of people across the country and around the world. He gave praise to teachers across the state for all their hard work and passion he's seen throughout this year and said that they all deserve this honor.

## **FISCAL YEAR 22 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT - COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY'S ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECAST: CLAYTON KLENKE AND JIM MUSCHINSKE, COGFA**

Clayton Klenke, executive director of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA), explained that COGFA is a legislative support agency that serves as an economic forecasting arm for the General Assembly. He stated that the pandemic has made economic forecasting more difficult than ever.

Jim Muschinske, revenue manager of COGFA, explained the state and national perspective on some of the economic variables that Mr. Klenke alluded to. He presented the performance history regarding General Funds in Illinois as well as estimates for the future.

**FISCAL YEAR 22  
BUDGET  
DEVELOPMENT**

Robert Wolfe, ISBE financial officer, presented the agency's budget recommendations and informed the Board that these recommendations will be proposed at the January meeting. The agency is seeking feedback in response to this presentation.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2022  
BUDGET  
RECOMMENDATION ON  
BEHALF OF PRE-K  
THROUGH 12TH GRADE  
EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE PROVIDERS:  
ROBERT WOLFE,  
FINANCIAL OFFICER**

He explained that preliminary recommendations call for approximately a \$412 million increase. These recommendations were developed in consideration of statutory goal language, topics presented at the budget hearings, and the Strategic Plan.

Chair Reisberg asked if the pandemic has had a significant enough impact on the transportation industry that would cause schools to have difficulty finding vehicles and drivers to hire. Mr. Wolfe said that the agency provided guidance to school districts regarding the ability to continue to pay bus companies even though services were not provided. The decision to do so is at the local level. He explained some of the fixed and variable costs involved and how they may shift. Dr. Leak provided her perspective at the local level and explained some of the ways her district has been continuing to use the buses.

Dr. Quinlan, as chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, explained that these recommendations reflect what has been discussed at committee meetings. She said that the main goals are to get the \$350 million for Evidence-Based Funding, get \$50 million for Early Childhood, and continue the programs that were started under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. She believes it's a fairly modest request, though possibly difficult to achieve.

Chair Reisberg requested that an update on the teacher mentoring program be provided at the next meeting. He also would like to hear a progress report on the Student Care Department.

Dr. Quinlan noted that some of the recommendations were given with the hope that the federal funding would be carried forward; she asked when the agency could be certain about that happening. Mr. Wolfe said that would not happen before the Board will have to act in January.

Dr. Leak requested that more specificity be provided regarding the funding for cultural responsiveness and inclusivity.

**ASSESSMENT  
DISCUSSION – STATE  
PERSPECTIVE**

Dr. Ayala began the discussion by reiterating that the Illinois State Board of Education cannot make a unilateral decision on whether or not to proceed with spring assessments. Assessments are federally required and, in the absence of a federal waiver, a decision to forgo assessments would put billions of dollars of federal funding for education at risk. Dr. Ayala has been invited to attend a CCSSO meeting with President-elect Joe Biden's Education Transition Team today after the Board meeting and is hoping to receive some news regarding the status of assessment waivers.

Dr. Ayala provided assurance that the agency is continuing to take the necessary steps to prepare for the administration of spring assessments. Assessment windows are being extended as much as possible and the agency is taking and exploring suggestions from the field as well as groups that represent students of the highest need.

Dr. Ayala concluded by saying that, ultimately, a national perspective, a state perspective, direction from ED, and the evolving impact of COVID-19 will be factors that will lead to a more definitive direction with respect to whether state assessments will be a reality in Illinois this spring.

Dr. Ayala introduced the first speaker, Dr. Jennifer Norell, superintendent of East Aurora School District 131, to speak to the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), Illinois' English language arts (ELA) and math assessment for grades three through eight.

Dr. Norell started by echoing the sentiments of speakers from public participation who requested that ISBE delay assessment as well as apply for a federal waiver. She reported her district's case rate in addition to the results from a parent survey that showed that 86% of students will not be participating in any level of in-person schooling in the coming quarter. This makes it unlikely that her district will be able to reach the 95% participation threshold. She also explained that administration of the IAR would take away from valuable instruction time for a majority of the students. Dr. Norell added that there is a significant limit in staff who are both licensed to administer the test and confirmed negative for COVID-19.

Dr. Ayala introduced the next speaker, Christine Dussault, English language performance test and dual language coordinator at Chase Elementary school in Chicago, to speak about ACCESS, a language proficiency assessment for English Learners.

Ms. Dussault gave an overview of the structure of the ACCESS test and what it involves. She outlined the preparation process she and her co-workers would have to go through for the assessment. The process usually takes about a month but is likely to take longer in the current setting. She listed access to technology and access to proctors as potential challenges. She also reported that there is a two-hour screening process that many students would need to go through. Testing would also likely take longer and take away valuable instruction time. She listed concerns for COVID-19, and, primarily, the social-emotional well-being of the students. There would also be limits for proctoring the test for students with special needs. Lastly, she reported that about 25% of students are planning to return for in-person learning next semester, which does not bode well for the 95% participation mandate.

Dr. Ayala introduced the next speaker, Elizabeth deGruy, executive director of Special Education for Community Consolidated School District 59, to address the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) for students with the most significant intellectual disabilities.

Ms. deGruy began by saying that their district anticipates all students at the elementary level to be in-person within the current window of March 11-May 5 and planning is going as usual. Planning at the high school level is facing some complications, such as the fact that both seniors and juniors will need to be assessed, since the DLM-AA is a graduation requirement and current seniors were not assessed last year. Staff availability is a concern. The logistics of the exam would be difficult to plan, as many of the students are also medically vulnerable and many parents have said that they will not allow their students back in school until there is widespread vaccination. All of the students will also need individualized exams; their exams are only available to be downloaded one section of one exam at a time, creating a large time commitment for staff. The students who will be expected to take this exam are also the least likely to be able to tolerate mask-wearing. Lastly, many of the exams would require student-teacher engagement, which would be difficult to conduct safely at this time.

Dr. Ayala introduced the next speaker, Timothy Moore, principal of Bloomington High School, to speak about the SAT, which is an ELA and math assessment at the high school level -- specifically, 11th grade.

Mr. Moore began by saying that his school anticipates about 40% of students attending in a hybrid model in the spring and 60% going full remote. The district is currently planning to administer the SAT on April 13 for juniors and seniors, as it is a graduation requirement and current seniors were not able to take it last year. It intends to administer the PSAT on April 14 for freshman and sophomores. He listed spacing and staffing as potential challenges for administration of the exams. A large number of students would lose valuable instruction time. It would also be difficult to provide proper accommodations to students with special needs. Lastly, makeup exams would likely be necessary and would be similarly difficult to plan for.

Dr. Leak reiterated that the Board does not have the power to make a unilateral decision. She said she appreciates the unanimous sentiment that if, ultimately, the assessments are required, educators are in the process of preparing and figuring out the best ways to make it happen. She thanked Dr. Ayala for providing this perspective from the field.

Chair Reisberg asked what would happen for students who are meant to take the ACCESS if a waiver is granted. Ms. Dussault said that students would benefit from remaining in the program for an additional year.

Dr. Pacione-Zayas talked about the fact that students will be and are being assessed in other ways and are possibly being assessed more holistically than they ever have been. She also suggested that, in the event of a waiver, the agency provide focused support to the minority of schools that do not have local alternatives. She also spoke on the inequitable impact the pandemic is having on the Latinx community, the case rate being double than that of the rate for the White population.

Dr. Ayala affirmed that she would bring all of the information presented today regarding assessment to the CCSSO meeting. She also explained some of the state-level logistics that would need to be sorted out in the event that a waiver is not granted. She reported that 20% of districts do not have a local assessment that they administer. She also expressed concern about a low response rate to the agency request for local assessment data, particularly because it might mean that even districts that have local alternatives are not making use of them. Dr. Ayala concluded by expressing appreciation for the members of the today's panel.

Chair Reisberg expressed concern about districts making decisions to administer assessments early in the available windows and having families feel compelled to participate earlier than they would feel comfortable. He hopes that the agency is attempting not only to extend the windows, but to push the beginning of the windows back. Dr. Ayala affirmed that the agency is putting its effort toward that goal.

Dr. Leak echoed Dr. Pacione-Zayas' suggestion to provide focused support to the 20% of districts that do not have local alternatives and emphasized the importance of continuing to delegate pandemic-related decision-making to the local level.

Dr. Benson communicated that the general discourse regarding this topic has been tumultuous and she thanked Dr. Ayala for organizing this panel.

Dr. Ayala reported that several states applied for waivers and 100% were denied, the reason being that ED deemed it too early to grant them. She hopes to hear more definitive news soon.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 1:10 p.m. and resumed at 1:25 p.m.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mindy Sjoblom, dean of Relay Graduate School of Education (Relay GSE), and Rhonda Cohen, a teacher trained through Relay GSE, spoke on alternative licensure regulations. Dean Sjoblom listed ways of making access to licensure programs more equitable, such as eliminating the 3.0 GPA minimum, creating program supervision structures rather than weekly evaluations, granting access to Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Fund, and adjusting content course requirements. Ms. Cohen spoke of her personal experiences with Relay, the importance of increasing access to these programs, and how she has benefited from the availability of alternative licensure.

Nick Elder, director of the Education for Employment (EFE) system in Champaign, spoke in opposition of the Part 1 Rule change, which has to do with EFE director qualifications. He outlined his responsibilities as director and explained that the change would negatively affect the applicant pool. He stated that this change would send a message that the Board is not supportive of career and technical education (CTE).

Rosetta Simmons, a parent of a student at Bronzeville Charter Academy, advocated for renewal of the school's charter. She spoke highly of faculty members in terms of their investment in the students' education and the schools' improvement.

Alvin Boutte, chief education officer of Bronzeville Academy, advocated for renewal of the school's charter. He was accompanied by Principal Simcha Baker-Dixon. They spoke of the school's achievements and growth and wanted to highlight the fact that the most recent data was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should not be considered indicative of the school's quality of education.



Carol Lee, chairwoman of the Board of Directors for Betty Shabazz International Charter Schools (BSICS), advocated for renewal of the organization's charter. She spoke of the strength of its education model, as seen by alumni returning to contribute to the community. She also cited culturally responsive pedagogy as the foundation of the work done at BSICS. Lastly, she informed Board members of a document that was shared with them in response to a public summary of findings by school staff.

Mindy McDermott from Cutting Edge Curriculum informed the Board of a resource that is helping agriculture and CTE teachers navigate remote learning. She informed them of a website that has an archive of materials as well as functionality that has been developed since 2005 in order to effectively teach and quiz students.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Ayala reviewed the items under the Consent Agenda. She noted that there is a minor change: Item 6.B Rules for Adoption – Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) Educator Licensure Department Changes will not be included in the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Robbins requested that policies and standards stay away from language that demonizes people. She thinks it would be better to highlight and celebrate the positivity.

Chair Reisberg asked the distinction in practice between the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards in Part 24 and the Illinois Teaching Standards in Part 24. Emily Fox, director of Educator Effectiveness, explained that they are separate because they were developed at different points in time. The Illinois Teaching Standards cover basics, such as assessment and structural planning. The Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards were developed during a time when the Illinois Teaching Standards were due to be renamed as “competencies” (and they still are). Dr. Leak stated that she appreciates that the culturally responsive standards are currently a stand-alone item, as it highlights them.

Dr. Leak asked what the new timeline of Part 1 would be. Dr. Ayala said that it would be brought back in January.

Chair Reisberg asked for clarification of who the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards would be taught to. Dr. Ayala explained that they will be integrated into teacher prep programs.

Dr. Pacione-Zayas expressed disappointment about the edits to the language in the standards for cultural responsiveness. She cited a report by the African American Policy Forum called “Truth Be Told,” which provides a thorough analysis of the implications of the executive order against the usage of critical race theory in federal trainings.

Dr. Benson moved that the State Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, with the removal of the Rules for Adoption – Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) Educator Licensure Department Changes.

Dr. Leak seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

The following motions were approved by action taken in the consent agenda motion:

### **Approval of Minutes**

Plenary Minutes: Nov. 19, 2020

The Illinois State Board of Education hereby approves the Nov. 19, 2020, meeting minutes.

### **Rules for Adoption**

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) Educator Licensure Department Changes

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and was not included in the action taken in the consent agenda motion.

Part 24 (Standards for All Illinois Teachers) *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards*

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to submit the proposed rulemakings for Part 24 (Standards for all Illinois Teachers) to JCAR for second notice.

Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical and non-substantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of JCAR.

Part 226 (Special Education) *Various Changes*

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to submit the proposed rulemaking for Part 226 (Special Education) to JCAR for second notice.

Further, the Board authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to make such technical and non-substantive changes as the State Superintendent may deem necessary in response to suggestions or objections of JCAR.

**Contracts and Grants Over \$1 Million**

Approval of 2020 State Board of Education Annual Report for the General Assembly

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to approve the 2020 Annual Report.

Approval for one-year grant extension for Facilitating the Coordination of Agricultural Education

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to enter into a one-year grant with Parkland College for fiscal year 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$1.08 million for the Facilitating Coordination of Agriculture Education project.

Approval to release and award a request for sealed proposal for the Illinois CTE Improvement Project

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to approve the release and award of a Request for Sealed Proposals for the CTE Improvement Project and award a one-year contract with three renewals to one entity to develop and manage the CTE Improvement Project for a maximum award of \$3.95 million.

Approval of Special Education Data Reporting and Training Contract with ROE 20

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to execute a five-year intergovernmental agreement with Regional Office of Education 20 for FY 2022-26 not to exceed \$4.18 million for the five-year coordination of the Special Education Data Reporting and Training Contract.

Approval of Implementation of PA 101-643: District Intervention Funding

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes agency staff to prepare and submit a report to the General Assembly by January 2, 2021 affirming that East St. Louis SD 189 and North Chicago CUSD 187 have met the criteria for District Intervention Money to be added to the districts' Base Funding Minimums. The report shall further determine that, if approved, \$6,050,000 shall be added to the Base Funding Minimum of each district for a total of \$12,100,000.

Approval of Elevating Special Educators Project – IDEA Part D: State Personnel Development Grant – IGA with ROE 9

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to execute a five-year intergovernmental agreement with Regional Office of Education 9 for FY 2021-25 not to exceed \$9,459,560 for the five-year coordination of the Elevating Special Educators project.

**UPCOMING BOARD ACTIONS**

Rules for Initial Review - Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) Time Out and Physical Restraint

Molly Uhe-Edmonds, director of Student Care, provided a summary of the rules being proposed.

Rules for Initial Review - Part 380 (Student Online Personal Protection) New Part

There were no questions for this item at this time.

Approval to Release a Request for Proposals and to Award Nita M. Lowey 21st Century  
Community Learning Centers Grants

There were no questions for this item at this time.

Approval of Preschool Development Grant Birth – Five

Dr. Pacione-Zayas asked why the chart the Board received listed an amount much smaller than \$13 million, which is what the grant is meant to award annually. Carisa Hurley, director of Early Childhood, explained that the figure referenced is for a particular project under this grant. Dr. Pacione-Zayas asked if the Board would receive information on what the remaining amount would be used for. Ms. Hurley explained that many of the projects are continuations and are of small enough amounts that they are not required to be approved by the Board. She offered to provide that list of information, if desired.

Approval of Renewal Decision for ACE Amandla Charter School

There were no questions for this item specifically, though there was discussion of all three charter school items, noted below.

Approval of Renewal Decision for Bronzeville Academy Charter School

There were no questions for this item specifically, though there was discussion of all three charter school items, noted below.

Approval of Renewal Decision for Betty Shabazz International Charter Schools

There were no questions for this item specifically, though there was discussion of all three charter school items, noted below.

Dr. Leak asked if the statute does not allow for the charter schools to apply to be part of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) district as opposed to being under ISBE. David Turovets, director of Charter Schools, explained that the statute allows that, but all of the schools decided to remain with ISBE. Dr. Leak asked how ISBE is effectively managing these schools. Mr. Turovets explained that ISBE makes use of the Charter School Commission's accountability framework and its compliance requirements, and he outlined some of what this entails. Dr. Leak asked how this compares to CPS' process. Mr. Turovets explained that they are very similar, though CPS' might be more rigorous. Dr. Leak asked if the schools have Northwest Evaluation Association data. The answer was that some of them do, but not all of them. ISBE is looking for alternatives. Dr. Leak made note that it is concerning that the schools would choose to apply to ISBE as opposed to attempting to rejoin their district, since it may imply that the schools do not feel confident that they are in compliance with the district's standards.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Accountability in 2021 Addendum, Timeline and Next Steps

Rae Clementz, director of Accountability, provided information on this item. She explained the aim to secure all flexibility possible and use them as needed. There is also the aim to provide maximum context around 2021 designations and mitigate consequences. She outlined some of the possibilities and the staff's proposed changes and their rationale. She also presented the timeline that her department is attempting to follow.

Dr. Leak asked how the participation rate for the 5Essentials Survey is expected to be the same. Ms. Clementz explained that this survey has always traditionally been administered online, so it is expected that doing it online should produce similar results. However, the changes are up for public comment and able to be edited. Dr. Leak noted that there are still significant limits in student access to technology at home.

IL-EMPOWER 2.0 Update

Dr. Jason Helfer, deputy instructional education officer, and Krish Mohip, deputy operational education officer, presented information on the differences between this iteration of IL-EMPOWER and the last, the Illinois Quality Framework, the partnerships for support, the IL-EMPOWER coordinators, what the agency is working on right now, and what the next steps are.

Dr. Ayala left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Ms. Morrison asked who would be performing the diagnostic reviews and how. Mr. Mohip said that the Illinois Quality Framework (IQF) would be the base of the reviews. Coordinators and Regional Offices of Education will be responsible for conducting the reviews, with the agency providing any necessary support. Ms. Morrison asked if the agency would be providing training for this. The answer was yes, especially to ensure interrater reliability.

Ms. Morrison noted that the pandemic has put many schools into survival mode, and there is a lack of interest in engaging in these improvement plans. She asked what the participation rate was for the agency's initial outreach. Dr. Helfer said that 70 districts were contacted, and 35 responses were received. Specifics about which districts chose which service will be provided at the Education Policy Planning Committee.

Ms. Morrison noted that Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) would no longer be receiving federal funding and asked if the agency is providing additional funding. Dr. Helfer said that the agency is using IDEA discretionary funding. He also reminded the Board that a reimbursement model is being used, so if services are not provided, the partners do not get paid.

Ms. Morrison asked if there was an external evaluation done for MTSS. Dr. Helfer said he would follow up with that information later.

Chair Reisberg asked for confirmation that schools are not required to make use of partners and that they will have access to the 103A funds to spend as they see fit. Dr. Helfer affirmed this with the exception that the expenses are required to be within the allowable expenses of the federal grant.

Chair Reisberg suggested that, in the event a school is not showing progress, there be steps before four years have passed where the agency becomes more prescriptive about how to spend the grant money.

Dr. Pacione-Zayas asked if there is flexibility for schools to repurpose their money if circumstances change and make them unable to use it as they had originally planned. Mr. Mohip affirmed that schools will always be allowed to make amendments to their budgets. Dr. Pacione-Zayas noted that the process of amendment was quite laborious when she was an administrator and she asked if there have been any provisions to improve that. Mr. Mohip and Dr. Leak affirmed that the process has improved.

Dr. Pacione-Zayas asked if unused money can roll over to following years. The answer was yes.

#### Spring Legislative Agenda Update

Legislative Affairs Director Amanda Elliott provided an update regarding the many uncertainties pertaining to the veto session. If and when the General Assembly reconvenes, the agenda will include:

- Remote learning opportunities for students
- Educator misconduct bill
- Licensure bill
- Cleanup bill

Ms. Robbins noted that there have been complaints that licenses have been very categorized and that there is not an opportunity for broader certification. She asked if that is being addressed in the bill. Ms. Elliott and Dr. Jennifer Kirmes of Teaching and Learning explained that it is not, but the agenda is still under review. Ms. Robbins' suggested the topic be taken into consideration and urged the agency to prioritize this.

Chair Reisberg asked if Ms. Elliott anticipates any of the bills facing serious resistance. Ms. Elliott said that the educator misconduct bill often gets closely scrutinized, but she does not expect pushback on the edits being made this year. The remote learning opportunities may face pushback from districts that are still struggling in the current setting.

Dr. Pacione-Zayas asked if it was intentional not to include birth in the State Education Equity Committee. Ms. Elliott said that it could be edited to include it.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND REPORTS**

Superintendent/Senior Staff Announcements

There were no announcements at this time.

Chair of the Board's Report

There were no announcements at this time.

Member Reports

Dr. Pacione-Zayas provided an update on the National Association of School Boards of Education Early Childhood project that she has been a part of. It is coming to a close. A report with recommendations will possibly be coming before the Board in January.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

ISBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports  
Freedom of Information Act Monthly Report  
ISBE Quarterly Staff Demographics Report

**MOTION FOR  
ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Robbins moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Ms. Morrison seconded the motion, and it passed with a seven-person majority roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas**  
Board Secretary

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**Darren Reisberg**  
Chair of the Board