

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL
Conference Room 16-503, James R. Thompson Center

This meeting will also be audio cast on the Internet at: www.isbe.net

November 16, 2018
9:30 a.m.

- 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. North Chicago, Superintendent John Price
 - IV. **The Public Inquiry, One Year Later (pp. 2-3)**
 - V. **Superintendent's Report – Consent Agenda**
 - A. *Approval of Minutes (pp. 4-12)
 - 1. Plenary Minutes: October 17, 2018
- End of Consent Agenda***
- VI. **Discussion Items**
 - A. District Oversight Update
 - B. Legislative Update
 - C. Budget Update
 - D. ESSA Update
 - E. Other Items for Discussion
 - VII. **Closed Session (as needed)**
 - VIII. **Announcements and Reports**
 - A. Superintendents/Senior Staff Announcements
 - B. Chairman's Report
 - C. Member Reports
 - IX. **Information Items**
 - A. ISBE Financial and Administrative Monthly Reports available online at <https://www.isbe.net>
 - X. **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; Fax: 217-785-3972.

NOTE: Chairman Meeks may call for a break in the meeting as necessary in order for the Board to go into closed session.

The Board will be hosting a Budget Hearing immediately following the Board meeting in Room 16-503 of the James R. Thompson Center.

Approved
12-12-18

Illinois State Board of Education Meeting

November 16, 2018

Conference Room 16-503, James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Cesilie Price (in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chair), called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Tony Smith was in attendance, and a quorum was present.

Members Present in Chicago

Cesilie Price, Board Secretary
Ruth Cross
Lula Ford
Mitchell Holzrichter
Susie Morrison
Kevin Settle

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Major Robert Stevenson, U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), discussed the non-compliance of school districts to provide student roster information required per section 8528 of ESSA. Major Stevenson thanked Jeff Aranowski, Executive Director of Safe and Healthy Climate, for his support in publishing the military recruitment access reminder to district superintendents. While this is a step in the right direction, there are many discrepancies throughout the state. The major's intent is to identify each district and corresponding high school to ISBE before seeking a congressional inquiry.

Captain Matthew Cetta, Executive Officer, USMC, invited Board members to an Educators Workshop. This opportunity would provide insight into how young men and women become U.S. Marines. A few seats have been allocated.

Jimmy Gunnell, Executive Director of A.E.R.O. Special Education Cooperative, spoke on ISBE's procedural changes regarding the allocation of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding. The A.E.R.O. Special Education Cooperative and its 11-member district superintendents and school boards respectfully request the State Board of Education to direct the State Superintendent and his staff to convene stakeholder meetings to address ISBE's goal and to allow for purposeful planning on the part of special education cooperatives.

Tarin L. Kendrick, Executive Director of Niles Township District for Special Education 807, spoke on behalf of nine area superintendents regarding an extension for the IDEA procedural changes to July 1, 2020. Impacts to operations with the current date of January 1, 2020, were described in detail.

Kathy Gavin, Director of Fiscal Services for Niles Township District for Special Education 807, pleaded for collaboration regarding the IDEA procedural

changes. Financial difficulties were highlighted while asking for an extension to July 1, 2020.

Brad Voehringer, Superintendent of Morton Grove School District 70, expressed concern with ISBE taking on the extra lift of grants when a backlog currently exists with other grants.

Margaret Clauson, Superintendent, Skokie-Morton Grove District 69, reiterated the messages above while stressing the need for the extension to July 1, 2020.

Dr. John W. Sparlin, Superintendent of Schools for Oswego Community Unit School District 308, brought attention to the lack of full funding for education per Public Act 100-465. For this district to reach adequate funding by 2027, current allocations would have to be doubled. Continued advocacy for full funding was requested to reach 90 percent adequacy for all districts by 2027.

Larry Frank, Illinois Education Association, and Cynthia Lund, Illinois Federation of Teachers, discussed the joint Illinois Education Association-Illinois Federation of Teachers (IEA-IFT) instructional day memorandum dated November 9, 2018. Both organizations will be advocating that legislators in both the House and Senate restore the definition of an instructional day that was inadvertently removed, as quickly as possible. Serious conversation during the spring session is welcome.

Kylie Spahn, concerned parent, spoke of her concern with school funding and future summative standardized testing related to tier distributions. Chronic absenteeism was also stressed concerning those students with chronic illnesses and the impact on the overall school rating.

Kerry Sloyan, concerned parent, voiced her frustration with the apparent lack of process in place for remedy for the Chicago Public Schools' (CPS) systemic special education violations. The request for the resources needed to provide remedy was made.

Chris Yun, Education Policy Analyst for Access Living, asked for the Board to consider hiring more support staff to monitor the CPS special education reform. With continued issues, current staff is inadequate.

Barb Cohen, Legal Counsel for Health Justice, requested that ISBE provide sufficient funding for the Chicago Public School Monitor's Office to hire sufficient staff to perform the functions ISBE outlined regarding CPS special education. Specific examples of inadequate special education were cited.

Terri Smith-Roback, concerned parent and Chair of the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS) Parent Advisory Council, thanked the Board for authorizing the inquiry into CPS special education. Despite good intentions, remedies are not being implemented properly. Communication with

parents outlining The Inquiry was insufficient and hard to understand with uneven distribution.

Cesilie Price also asked any regional superintendents to stand and identify themselves. Present were Regional Superintendent Mark Jontry and Assistant Regional Superintendent Carmen Bergmann from ROE 17 (*DeWitt, Livingston, Logan and McLean counties*).

PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

North Chicago, Superintendent John Price

John Price, Superintendent North Chicago Schools, presented an update on the progress and promise of North Chicago School District 187. Oscar Hawthorne, Deputy Superintendent; Dora King, Chair of the Independent Authority; and 15 students and advisors of the North Chicago Community Student Council joined in the effort. Long-term foundation for growth has been laid, facilities and staff master plans have been created as well as a comprehensive annual financial report and budgeting report. A research-based framework was utilized. Five core strategies emerged: 1) build the capacity of adults who serve our students, 2) build a team of educators who lead each of the initiatives, 3) build strong relationships within and between each school, 4) build a strong foundation focusing on routine and structures, and 5) build a continuous improvement cycle in belief. The ISBE Planning Grant made this possible.

Mr. Hawthorne stressed the importance of the district's foundation is to build the capacity to hire, develop, and maintain highly effective leaders. Building wide strategic planning has taken place to meet priorities of the district-wide strategic plan, and input from all stakeholders was key. Mr. Price and Mr. Hawthorne shared a presentation called *Laying the Foundation for Success*. (See handout from November 16, 2018, Board packet.)

Marisol Garcia, senior at North Chicago, shared that she is proud of the person she has become at North Chicago School District, as she has taken on many leadership roles that she would have never predicted. She also listed the various activities offered by the district in which she partakes as well as her personal struggles that were supported by the district to ensure success. Maria Fernandez, senior at North Chicago, spoke of her journey through education and obtaining college credit as a high school student. Lauri Arizmendi, senior at North Chicago, described her struggles through education and how teachers aided in her obtaining college credit as a high school student. Lenyia Weathersby, freshman at North Chicago, described teachers going above and beyond to help any and all students stressing the family atmosphere.

Mr. Price stated the district has adopted a new mission statement. ISBE has set ambitious goals to guide the district for the next four years: Third-grade achievement is set at national averages in reading and math; growth is to provide 120% of projected annual growth for every student in every school, increase graduation rate to 80% over the next five years, and help each student create his or her own post-secondary plan. Implementation and monitoring will

be key. Long-term financial issues were outlined, and Evidence Based Funding has aided the cause. ISBE support has been imperative, and there remains a lot of work to complete with optimism. The district's goal is to thrive and provide its students with the education they deserve.

Ms. Price recognized the students and administration for all of their hard work and vision leading them into the future. Ms. Cross asked if professional development was included in their efforts. Mr. Price stated a large portion of the \$1.2 million for curriculum was job-embedded professional development.

PUBLIC INQUIRY

The Public Inquiry, One Year Later

Stephanie Jones, General Counsel, and Laura Boedeker, Assistant General Counsel, presented an update regarding the implementation of corrective action in CPS. Activities highlighted were training of staff and parents, stakeholder collaboration, as well as continued planning regarding student-specific corrective action and the obstacles ISBE has faced in creating a system for student-specific corrective action that makes sense to all stakeholders involved. Some significant progress has been made, especially in the area of an electronic IEP system that was a large undertaking. There have been a lot of changes for the schools to digest. With large staff across-the-board, it will take time to get everyone on the same page. More than 7,500 staff were trained at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. Three ROE positions have yet to be filled to aid the Monitor. Trend data continues to be collected.

Stephanie Jones identified four major challenges:

- **Student Specific Corrective Action:** There are more than 50,000 special education students and all could potentially need specific action. The IEP team is the decision-maker and we need a clear system in place by second semester. There is a one-year statute of limitation on complaints, with the ability to extend, and we have made clear this will occur. Establishing a process has taken longer than anticipated and proved to be more complicated than originally predicted.
- **Teacher Shortage/Staffing Issues:** CPS is not immune to the teacher shortage. They are struggling to recruit staff, yet have more staff at this time versus last year, which is promising. There is a struggle to obtain substitutes and we do not have complete control over this, partially due to their collective bargaining agreement. We continue to promote innovative ways to attract substitutes. A differential in pay for substitutes has been established for hard-to-fill positions. This is an ongoing challenge.
- **Rogue schools:** There is a disparity in the way schools within CPS implement special education laws. We do have schools not listening to our directives and guidance. The difficulty is determining when and where that is happening. We are glad to receive parent comment to inform us about specific schools that need a visit from us. We have a process in

place to receive complaints. Both sides of the story are always taken into account, with collaboration taking place for a solution. Four legislative mandates aid in the effort. This has been tricky with many questions to field. Knowing where we need to provide support is the most difficult issue.

- Moving a Mountain: We are moving slowly and deliberately to ensure that the mountain does not move back. The urgency is understood, but moving a mountain quickly increases the risk of moving it back.

Ms. Morrison thanked Ms. Jones and Ms. Boedeker for the update and agreed they are taking the right approach to be slow and deliberate. Ms. Morrison asked if Ms. Jones has enough staff to do the work at the rate necessary. Ms. Jones stated that is a difficult question to answer and she and Superintendent Smith constantly evaluate staff needs, but there are processes in place for the staff we have now. We need eyes and ears in place to help, and the ROE positions will be key to fill. Dr. Smith reminded everyone this inquiry was initiated last year. We are focusing on hiring and collaborating with CPS on the issue. He thanked those in attendance and asked them to keep the communication coming as we do need to hear from both sides.

CONSENT AGENDA

Kevin Settle moved that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented. Ruth Cross seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote (Mr. Holzrichter abstained from vote due to absence at October meeting.)

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

Approval of Minutes

The State Board of Education approves the minutes for the October 17, 2018, Board meeting.

END OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Legislative Update

Amanda Elliott, Co-Director of Legislative Affairs, presented on current legislation at the General Assembly.

Veto Session began last week and continues next week for a total of six session days. The election resulted in significant turnover, with at least 37 new members and three elections still not determined. We anticipate other members may leave the legislature for the new administration. We look forward to building new relationships and helping the new members navigate their new positions.

The New General Assembly will be sworn in on January 9, 2019, with the Governor being sworn in on January 14, 2019. This marks the end of the 100th General Assembly and the beginning of the 101st.

The Senate Education Committee held a hearing on Early Childhood Funding and the process of allocating funds through the RFP. Questions arose around how equitable the funding process is versus Evidence- Based Funding. Statute currently drives the method and we look forward to engaging in dialogue with the Early Learning Council, legislators, and the Professional Review Panel to discuss any ideas for potential changes.

The General Assembly took action on a few override motions including the bill that created the Emotional Intelligence Social Emotional Learning Task Force. The House voted to override; however, both chambers have to act before the bill becomes law. Also, the new waiver process was overridden in the House, which will require all waivers of Article 17 (tax rates) to go directly to the General Assembly, which is a change in current process. Bills that have not been addressed as yet include minimum teacher salaries, physical education, and the grant program for safe & healthy learning environments.

Budget Update

Dr. Smith and Robert Wolfe, Chief Financial Officer, gave a brief budget update.

Mr. Wolfe shared that ISBE has been modeling universal funding for quality pre-K. This will be discussed further at the December meeting when information and a summary of advocate testimony regarding the budget proposal will be ready for the Board's review. More than 90 attendees were at each of the first two budget hearings, with discussion regarding Early Childhood, Evidence-Based Funding, and we have heard from students who presented on the impact of their education on their lives. Following the Board's discussion and direction in December, staff will prepare a budget recommendation for Board action at the January meeting. Mr. Wolfe indicated the application period for the Property Tax Relief Grant (PTRG) has been opened, which provides tax relief to the highest-taxed school districts. This is not only a one- time grant, but the amount allocated would be embedded in their EBF base minimum going forward. Ms. Elliott and Mr. Wolfe will be talking with districts starting Monday to field questions related to PTRG. With \$50 million being allocated for the PTRG, if we have requests larger than this amount, they will not be prorated. Any information collected will be public knowledge. Dr. Smith reiterated this will be a transparent process. The longer the list is, the more it will allow us to have discussions with the General Assembly for a greater need.

Every Student Succeeds Act Update

Ralph Grimm, Acting Chief Education Officer, informed the Board that the Illinois Report Card was released on-time on October 30, 2018. This is a much-improved representation of our school and school districts. Comments from the field have been very supportive and positive, with a few critics. Mr. Grimm acknowledged the entire ISBE team in making this a reality. He stated the new designation system allows for equity to be addressed for the first time he is aware of, and there are two distinct and powerful systems of support driving resources to schools and students who need them the most. IL-EMPOWER initiative is up and running and moving forward quite well. School Support

Managers and Storytellers have conducted four webinars for the field in the last month. Six additional webinars were conducted with national/state IL-EMPOWER approved Learning Partners to orient them to the IL-EMPOWER systems of support. ISBE and CPS are working collaboratively to support CPS-designated schools within CPS support structures. Leadership meets routinely to ensure the release of the second round of applications for Learning Partners will be at the end of November or beginning of December. The release of the application for Exemplary and Commendable Schools to Become Learning Partners is slated for the end of November. The Fine Arts Workgroup will submit its recommendation to ISBE no later than December 31, 2018.

Dr. Smith stated he was at a CCSSO conference this week and the Illinois Report Card came up repeatedly. There was considerable conversation that Illinois is looking at multiple measures as indicators of school success. Growth is an added indicator this year and allows more schools to be recognized who have improved achievement annually, though we also know proficiency matters, too. We are still transitioning in to this new system. It is a different approach than what we've used in the past. We need to keep reviewing the system, but the first step is having a quality rubric. This is complicated work, but have taken a big step forward.

Ms. Price stated communication is essential. Constituents need to know for what purpose.

The guidance for the Instructional Day and the extension for IDEA funding were asked to be added to the agenda for the December meeting. A Teach Illinois update was also requested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Superintendent's Reports

By statute, full funding for education is needed by 2027. We have advocated for that and the General Assembly has not come through. Collective advocacy is imperative. I appreciate public testimony at our Board meeting, but I encourage the public to come to Springfield to the General Assembly to voice your concerns. We are not only advocating for the Illinois State Board of Education budget, we are primarily advocating for children and families in the State of Illinois. We need your voice and your presence in the legislature.

Dr, Smith thanked Lindsey Jenson, Teacher of the Year 2018, for hosting a visit to her school in Dwight.

Member's Reports

Ms. Cross thanked the Board for sending her and Ms. Ford to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Meeting in October. Ms. Cross indicated she was a panel member and presented very clear suggestions for state agencies to promote social & emotional learning. She and Jeff Aranowski, Executive Director Safe & Healthy Climate, both attended a five-state workshop on the social emotional ESSA plan, which was very informative.

Lastly, Ms. Cross shared that she has agreed to serve on the editorial board at NASBE.

Ms. Ford reported on her attendance at the NASBE 60th Annual Meeting. Participants were impressed by ISBE's webinars regarding equity and excellence, wherein we sincerely listened to our stakeholders and continue to advocate for education. Ms. Ford added she was pleased to participate and thanks were extended to Jaclyn Matthews, External Communications, and her staff for preparing her presentation.

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

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

**MOTION FOR
ADJOURNMENT**

Lula Ford moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ruth Cross seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Cesilie Price
Board Secretary**

**Mr. James T. Meeks
Chairman**