

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois**

**AGENDA AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS  
November 16-17, 2005**

NOTE: Staff presentations and detailed Board discussion take place during Committee meetings prior to the State Board taking action in the plenary session.

**Wednesday, November 16, 2005**

**Public Conference Call Access Numbers are listed below.** Note that Governmental Relations has a different confirmation number.

- 10:30 a.m. Finance & Audit Committee**  
Executive Board Room, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1
  
- \* Noon Lunch Break**
  
- \* 1:30 p.m. Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole**  
Executive Board Room, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1
  
- \* 2:00 p.m. Board Operations Committee**  
Executive Board Room, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1
  
- \* 3:30 p.m. Governmental Relations Committee**  
Meeting Rooms 4-7, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 1 9 4 4 2 5
  
- \* 3:30 p.m. Education Policy Planning Committee**  
Executive Board Room, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1

**Thursday, November 17, 2005**

**Public Conference Call Access Number for Thursday meeting:**  
1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 2

- 9:00 a.m. ISBE Plenary Session**  
Executive Board Room, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400

\* The meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.

Chairman Ruiz will call for a break in the Board Plenary Session on Thursday at which time the Board will go into closed session over lunch.

**November 18-20, 2005**

**State Board Members will attend IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency Chicago**  
**State Board of Education "Meet & Greet" Conference Attendees, Comiskey Room, Hyatt Regency**  
Friday, November 18 from 1:30 – 3:30; and  
Saturday, November 19 from 1:30 – 3:30.

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All State Board of Education meetings listed on this agenda 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.

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Executive Board Room, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, November 17, 2005  
9:00 a.m.

**Public Conference Call Number: 1-866-297-6391** (*listen only*); **Confirmation #: 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 2**  
The Plenary Session will also be audio broadcast via the Internet..

**NOTE: Staff presentations and detailed Board discussion take place during Committee meetings prior to the State Board taking action in the plenary session.**

**Plenary Business Meeting**

**A. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Public Participation**

**C. Approval of Minutes**

- a) October 20, 2005 (*pp. 3-9*)

**D. Announcements and Reports**

1. Superintendent's Announcements
2. Chairman's Report
3. Committee Reports
4. Members' Reports

**E. Superintendent's Report**

**\* Consent Agenda**

All action consideration items listed with an asterisk (\*) 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.

**Action Considerations**

- \*1. Rules for Initial Review
  - a) Part 401 (Nonpublic Special Education Facilities) (*pp. 10-35*)
- \*2. Recommendations from the Teacher Certification Board
  - a. Approval of Professional Education Preparation Programs
    - i. Loyola University – Secondary Science-Physics (*pp. 36-37*)
    - ii. McKendree College – Learning Behavior Specialist I (*pp. 38-39*)
    - iii. McKendree College – Secondary Health Education
  - b. Determination of Accreditation of Institutions (*pp. 40-45*)
    - i. Lincoln Christian College
3. Approval of Adjustments in WIDA Contract (*pp. 46-47*)
4. Approval of Adjustments in RFSP for Illinois Alternate Assessment (*pp. 48-49*)
5. Approval of Academic Early Warning List & Academic Watch List (*pp. 50-75*)
6. Revision of the 2006 Board Calendar (as needed) (*pp. 76-78*)

**Information Items**

1. Discussion Regarding Report Card Policy Issues (*pp. 79-92*)
2. Monthly Informational Reports
  - a) Monthly Status Report on Rulemaking (*pp. 93-98*)
  - b) SBE Fiscal & Administrative Monthly Reports (*pp. 99-114*)

**F. Adjourn**

**Illinois State Board of Education Meeting  
MINUTES  
November 17, 2005  
Executive Board Room, 222  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois**

<p><b>ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b></p>	<p>Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Jean Ladage, Assistant to the Board, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Dr. Randy Dunn, State Superintendent of Education, was also in attendance.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz announced that the Board meeting was being audio-cast live over the Internet.</p> <p><b><u>Members Present:</u></b>  Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman  Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman  Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary  Dr. Andrea Brown  Mr. Dean Clark  Dr. David Fields  Mr. Edward Geppert, Jr.  Ms. Brenda Holmes  Ms. Joyce Karon</p> <p><b><u>Members Absent:</u></b></p>
<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b></p>	<p><b>Janet Milkovich</b> and <b>Barbara Stone</b> representing Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&amp;D) Learning Through Listening spoke to the Board on their special needs service, that offers an educational library of books &amp; cd's for the blind and dyslexic. Ms. Milkovich gave several examples of students who have benefited and progressed in their studies with the use of RFB&amp;D books, CD's and software. Ms. Stone stated that they have 23,000 textbooks on CD that have been recorded by a human voice and that they are now in the process of producing Spanish-speaking recordings. They asked the Boards for its support by increasing the funding for the special needs services they offer and by making teachers and districts aware of their services. They thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked what components make up their funding? Ms. Stone stated that their funding comes from foundation, individual, corporate, state and city, and they also have received a small amount of funding from a CGBD grant. They will be presenting a financial request for funding to the Finance and Audit Committee on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The funding they are requesting will be designated to go directly to the schools to cover the cost of memberships, equipment and professional training for teachers.</p> <p>Dr. Vinni Hall stated that she is very familiar with the RFB&amp;D Program and that it has made a tremendous difference in not only the disabled but also those who are at-risk readers and she appreciates the service they offer.</p> <p><b>Sarah Solotaroff</b>, Director of the Arts Education Initiative from Chicago Community Trust was accompanied by <b>Sean Egan</b>, Principal of Kenzie School and <b>Alene Valkanas</b>, Illinois Arts Alliance Executive Director. Ms Solotaroff stated that in 2001, Chicago Community Trust launched an Arts Education Initiative, that initiative included the survey titled "Arts Education in Chicago Public Schools" she gave a copy of this survey to each Board member. The</p>

survey noted that the average time spent in the classroom on the arts a week is 40 minutes. That is the equivalent of one class per week and 14% of the elementary schools have no arts education at all. Sean Egan talked about the wealth the arts bring to education and children, such as motivation, improved test scores and better attendance. Ms. Salotaroff, Sean Egan and Alene Valkanas asked the Board to support arts funding and to ensure teaching of arts education by requiring it to be a state mandate. They thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them.

**Patricia Scherer**, President and Founder of the International Center on Deafness and the Arts and Mental Health Deafness Resources thanked the Board and Governor Blagojevich for restoring the funds to the Illinois Service Resource Center. The Illinois Service Resource Center services two hundred children and families a day and without these funds their futures would be uncertain. Ms. Scherer noted that there is a critical shortage of teachers of the deaf and there are only two institutions in Illinois that prepare teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing. There is a great demand for these teachers because of the development of the Cochlear implants (hearing device). Dr. Scherer, with the help of Dr. Mason of Development and Research at Illinois State University, and Oakton Community College have developed a partnership to help increase the numbers of individuals who are certified as teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing. Dr. Scherer stated that the partnership is university-based graduate level and in the future hopes to include undergraduate and in-service continuing education as well. Dr. Scherer read a statement on behalf of Margaret Lee, President of Oakton Community College who was unable to attend the Board meeting. Dr. Mason noted that Illinois State University is one of only two state universities that offer a deaf and hard of hearing bachelor's certification and they are very interested and committed to working with the partnership. The partnership has been working on developing this program and, with the help of Congressman Mark Kirk, has received some funding from a federal earmark grant. The partnership is asking the Board for permanent, continued funding of discretionary funds so that deaf and hard of hearing children can receive the kind of education they need and deserve. Dr. Scherer and Dr. Mason thanked the Board for their time.

**Judy Hackett**, Assistant Superintendent from Indian Prairie CUSD # 204 and President-Elect of Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) was accompanied by **Tim Thomas**, Superintendent of the North Suburban Special Education District and legislative chair for IAASE. Ms Hackett and Mr. Thomas, on behalf of Illinois State Flex Consortium, IAASA and their representative districts and cooperatives, strongly encourage the Board to be consistent with IDEA 2004 and permissive related to the use of Response of Intervention when identifying students having learning disabilities. They asked for the Board's support the recommendations for the proposed regulations. They thanked the Board and several staff members for the opportunity to meet and work with them.

Dr. Vinni Hall thanked them for their presentation on positive behavioral support at yesterday's Education Policy Planning Committee meeting.

**Donna Baiocchi** from ED-RED spoke on special education funding. Ms. Baiocchi stated that the majority of the funding that special education receives comes from the personnel reimbursement line and the reimbursement amount has not changed in over 20 years. ED-RED recommends increasing personnel reimbursement for certified teachers. Ms. Baiocchi stated that is very difficult

	<p>for school districts to operate and deliver services and feels that it is time for a change. Ms. Baiocchi let it be known that she would soon be the former Executive Director of ED-RED and that she wanted to thank the Board, Superintendent Dunn, and staff for the opportunity and pleasure to work with them and the education community in her years at ED-RED. She also gave a special thanks to Dr. Chris Koch who has opened the doors for special education. Ms. Baiocchi introduced Ms. Erika Lindley, who will temporarily replace her at ED-RED until a permanent director can be found.</p> <p>Ms. Brenda Holmes thanked Ms. Baiocchi for her advocacy and support for Special Education and let her know that she will be missed.</p> <p><b>Jack Wuest</b> from A+ Alternative School Network thanked Governor Blagojevich, the Board and Superintendent Dunn for restoring funding to alternative schools. Mr. Wuest said that these funds have not only helped save children's lives but have given them a second chance and he would like the Board to continue to support and increase funding to alternative schools. Mr. Wuest was also accompanied by several students who attended alternative schools and wanted to personally thank and tell the Board their stories. Listed are the names of the students who spoke in support of alternative school funding:</p> <table data-bbox="630 877 1365 1178"> <tr> <td>Felipe Serano</td> <td>El Cuarto Ano</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Justin DeJesus</td> <td>Truman Middle College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael Teal</td> <td>Antonio Pantoja High School-ASPIRA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joshua Big Bear</td> <td>Lake View Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tiara Thompson</td> <td>Academy of Scholastic Achievemnet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kala Moore</td> <td>Community Christian Academy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atina Wheatley</td> <td>Bronzeville Academic Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yoninah Yisreal</td> <td>Sullivan House School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tyisha Williams</td> <td>Olive Harvey Middle College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jason Jones</td> <td>Prologue Learning Center</td> </tr> </table> <p>Chairman Ruiz thanked Jack Wuest and the students for making the time to come to the board meeting today.</p>	Felipe Serano	El Cuarto Ano	Justin DeJesus	Truman Middle College	Michael Teal	Antonio Pantoja High School-ASPIRA	Joshua Big Bear	Lake View Academy	Tiara Thompson	Academy of Scholastic Achievemnet	Kala Moore	Community Christian Academy	Atina Wheatley	Bronzeville Academic Center	Yoninah Yisreal	Sullivan House School	Tyisha Williams	Olive Harvey Middle College	Jason Jones	Prologue Learning Center
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<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p>	<p>Mr. Dean Clark asked that the minutes of October 20, 2005, be corrected to read Mr. Dean Clark and not Dr. Dean Clark under the roll call/members present. Ms. Joyce Karon moved that the State Board of Education minutes be approved (as corrected) for the meeting of October 20, 2005. Dr. Chris Ward seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p>																				
<p><b>ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:</b></p> <p><b>Superintendent's Announcements</b></p>	<p>Superintendent Dunn stated that it is American Education Week across the country and he wanted to make note of all the services that are provided each and everyday to our schools by paraprofessionals, professionals, noncertified staff and support staff. Superintendent Dunn noted that a tremendous amount of effort, caring and dedication is exhibited everyday and that and he would like to let them know how much they are appreciated. Dr. Dunn also noted that 10,000 school board members are in Chicago this weekend attending the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference. Superintendent Dunn acknowledged the dedication and leadership that these board members exhibit without compensation. Dr. Dunn also noted that the service and governance they provide to schools in this state is greatly appreciated.</p>																				

	<p>Superintendent Dunn indicated that he and Board Vice-Chair Chris Ward had the opportunity to visit two of the campuses in Joliet Township High School District.</p> <p>Superintendent Dunn noted that Secretary Spellings, from the United States Department of Education, would be making an announcement on growth models. Division Administrator Becky McCabe (Student Assessments) and Dr. Ginger Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services, will be looking at appropriate use of gain/growth models. Superintendent Dunn stated that as soon as the growth model information is available it will be shared with the Board.</p> <p>Superintendent Dunn commented that Dr. Chris Koch, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, and Senate President Emil Jones were honored guests at the Ray Graham Memorial Fund Benefit Dinner hosted by the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in October. Superintendent Dunn feels that this honor is an indication that CEC recognizes the leadership that Dr. Koch provides to special education and that we are all very proud of him.</p> <p>Dr. Dunn reported that Ms. Gwen Pollock, State Science Advisor from the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, had demonstrated tremendous leadership effort, as Chicago hosted the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Meeting this year. Dr. Dunn also stated that because of Ms. Pollock's involvement and hard work with NSTA it gave us the opportunity to shine as a state. Superintendent Dunn commented that both he and Chairman Ruiz were able to attend the opening meeting.</p>
<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz reported that he had participated in the following meetings since the last Board meeting:</p> <p><b>October 21</b> Spoke at League of United Latin American Citizens Council 5218 Annual Scholarship Banquet in Aurora</p> <p><b>October 27</b> Co-Chaired Principal for a Day at Chicago Public Schools</p> <p><b>November 2</b> Keynote speaker, Chicago Communities in Schools Annual Meeting</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz commented that he is looking forward to attending the Child Lures Prevention Program at Dawes School on November 18<sup>th</sup> and the Triple I Conference on November 18-20<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz also commented on a meeting he attended in Houston, Texas, called the American Bar Association (ABA) Pipeline. The ABA hopes to bring more ethnic and minority diversity into the legal system by pipelining students from kindergarten to law school. The Chairman stated that this has given him the opportunity to somewhat bring his worlds together; his job within the legal system and his experience with the State Board Education.</p>
<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p>	<p><b>Board Operations Committee of the Whole</b></p> <p>Dr. Chris Ward reported that he and the following committee members were in attendance: Dr. David Fields, Dr Vinni Hall, Ms. Joyce Karon, and Chairman Ruiz. Other members in attendance were Dr. Andrea Brown, Mr. Dean Clark, Mr. Ed Geppert, and Ms. Brenda Holmes.</p>

Dr. Ward commented that more detailed notes will be in the next committee packet, but in general, the committee discussed the following topics:

- Reaffirmed that the changes to the Board's meeting schedule will be approved in the plenary session later today;
- Reviewed resolution for Board recognition and will have recommendation at December meeting;
- Discussed and prioritized emerging issues.

#### **Education Policy Planning Committee**

Dr. David Fields reported that he and the following committee members were in attendance: Dr. Andrea Brown, Mr. Ed Geppert, Dr. Vinni Hall, and Ms. Joyce Karon. Dr. David Fields commented that the committee discussed the following topics. More detailed notes will be available in the next committee packet.

- The Committee approved the minutes for the October 2005 committee meeting;
- Reviewed and discussed the Charter School Annual Report, presentation given by Jo Price;
- Discussed information on Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) that the Committee had requested. Barbara Sims from Special Education supplied information;
- Discussed the process and timeline of Part 226 (Special Education) with Chris Koch and Darren Reisberg;
- Revisions were approved on Homeless Children & Youth Policy;
- Discussed and approved recommendations to Illinois Alternate Assessment.

#### **Finance and Audit Committee**

Mr. Edward Geppert reported that he and the following committee members were in attendance: Dr. Andrea Brown, Ms. Brenda Holmes and Mr. Dean Clark. Other members in attendance were Dr. Chris Ward and Dr. Vinni Hall. Mr. Geppert reported that the committee discussed the following issues and detailed notes will follow:

- Committee received a overview of the Illinois Purchase Care Review Board given by Tim Imler;
- Deb Vespa provided a draft document of potential changes to the Illinois Program Accounting Manual;
- Update on budget hearings by Linda Mitchell;
- Update on the Illinois School Purchasing Network by Karen Helland.

Mr. Geppert thanked P.E. Cross, Regional Superintendent for hosting the budget hearing in Mt. Vernon as well as Lake County Regional Superintendent Roycealee Wood and the Lake County Federation of Teachers for hosting the budget hearing in Gurnee.

Mr. Geppert also thanked the Chicago Teachers Union for the use of their facilities for today's board meeting.

	<p><b>Governmental Relations Committee</b></p> <p>Ms. Brenda Holmes reported that she and the following committee members were in attendance: Mr. Dean Clark, Mr. Jesse Ruiz &amp; Dr. Chris Ward. Ms. Holmes reported that the members of the committee received and discussed the following topics, and more detailed notes will appear in the next committee packet: Nicole Wills&amp; Mark Kolaz were present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed and reviewed policy for Physical Education Waivers for recommendations to the Board in December;</li> <li>• Committee was given a Veto Session legislative update by Nicole Wills;</li> <li>• Received a summary of the draft legislative proposals as well as a breakdown of the language for their review and discussion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Members' Reports</b></p>	<p>Ms. Brenda Holmes stated that she attended a New Teacher Graduates Assessment Symposium. Ms. Holmes shared some of the results of the 2005 Illinois Public Colleges Teacher Graduate Survey sponsored by the Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges and Universities, The Joyce Foundation, Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Education. Superintendent Dunn also commented that he had spoken with several of the organizations that conducted the survey and they feel that the message they are receiving about teacher preparation in Illinois is very good. (Jean Ladage will mail copies of the 2005 Illinois Public Colleges Teacher Graduate Survey to each of them.)</p> <p>Ed Geppert presented a Board Recognition Award to Holyeton Grade School Faculty on October 27<sup>th</sup>. He also attended the budget hearing on October 28, 2005 in Mt. Vernon.</p> <p>Ms. Joyce Karon attended a panel on No Child Left Behind where Gail Lieberman was the presenter.</p> <p>Dr. David Fields spoke at the Illini Division of the Illinois Association of School Administrators in Urbana.</p> <p>Dr. Chris Ward visited Joliet Township High School with Dr. Dunn. He also presented a Board Recognition Award in Will County and attended the budget hearing on November 15 in Gurnee. Dr. Ward addressed the Illinois Association of Teacher Educators in Charleston. The group was well represented by private schools as well as universities and they were very interested in our Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Dr. Vinni Hall attended the Ray Graham Memorial Fund Benefit Dinner hosted by the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children. The dinner honored Dr. Chris Koch and Senate President Emil Jones. Dr. Hall participated in Principal for a Day at Chicago Public Schools. She also invited the Board to participate in the tours at the December Board Meeting of El Valor Head Start and Orozko Elementary School.</p> <p>Dr. Andrea Brown reported that she had the opportunity attend a Senate Forum on Intergenerational Services.</p>
<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b></p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz commented that all items listed with an asterisk (*) on the agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and vote. Any board members who wishes separate discussion on any item listed</p>

<p><b>Consent Agenda Agenda Items and Motions</b></p>	<p>Dr. Dunn gave the Board members a brief summary of the following general consent agenda items his recommendation for action.</p> <p>General Counsel Jon Furr reported to the Board regarding the background on the rules for initial review and gave a general update on the status of rules streamlining.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked for a motion regarding the consent agenda items.</p> <p>Mr. Ed Geppert moved that the State Board of Education hereby approves the consent agenda items as presented. Dr. Vinni Hall seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. Dr. Andrea Brown abstained from the vote.</p> <p>The following motions were approved by action taken in the consent agenda motion:</p>
<p><b>Rules for Initial Review</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Rules for Initial Review</u></b> <b>Part 401 (Nonpublic Special Education Facilities)</b></p> <p>The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (23 Illinois Administrative Code 401), Including publication of the proposed amendments in the <u>Illinois Register</u>.</p>
<p><b>Approval of Professional Education Preparation Programs</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Approval of Professional Education Preparation Programs</u></b> <b>Loyola University – Secondary Science-Physics</b></p> <p>Provisionally approve the following program, thereby authorizing the institution to conduct the program and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution's next accreditation review.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Loyola University Chicago – Physics Program</p> <p>Further, the State Board authorizes the State Superintendent to inform the institution of the State Board's decision.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Approval of Professional Education Preparation Programs</u></b> <b>McKendree College – Learning Behavior Specialist I &amp; Secondary Health Education</b></p> <p>Provisionally approve the Learning Behavior Specialist I and Secondary Health Education programs, thereby authorizing McKendree College to conduct the programs and to recommend candidates for certification by entitlement until the time of the institution's next accreditation review.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Denial of Accreditation</u></b> <b>Lincoln Christian College</b></p> <p>Deny recognition of Lincoln Christian College, accreditation of the affected educational unit, and approval of the Early Childhood Education teacher education program, thereby prohibiting the conduct of the proposed program [IAC Section 25.155 (I) (3)].</p> <p><b>END OF CONSENT AGENDA</b></p>

<p><b>Approval of Adjustments in WIDA Contract</b></p>	<p>Brenda Holmes asked if these were in addition to what they are already spending in student assessment.</p> <p>Becky McCabe also stated that this was an adjustment/add on to the contract in hopes that it will be more efficient because they will not be duplicating efforts.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked about the cost and Becky McCabe responded that the cost this year would be \$4 million.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Dr. David Fields moved that the WIDA contract with the Department of Public Instruction for the State of Wisconsin be adjusted to include careful study and information regarding the use of ACCESS writing and reporting to districts for the purpose of meeting the state law requirements for writing assessment, and authorizes an increase in the maximum contract amount not to exceed \$250,000 to correspond to such adjustments. Dr. Chris Ward seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p>
<p><b>Approval of Adjustments in RFSP for Illinois Alternate Assessment</b></p>	<p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Dr. Andrea Brown moved to revise the Illinois Alternate Assessment Request for Sealed Proposals to include the development and reporting of writing in the new alternate assessment. With such revision, the contract amount will not exceed \$6.4 million for the initial three-year contract period. Dr. David Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz stated that because of time restraints they would skip Item E6 at this time and review later in the meeting.</p>
<p><b>Approval of Academic Early Warning List &amp; Academic Watch List</b></p>	<p>Dr. Connie Wise gave a brief summary on the number of schools that are on the Academic Early Warning Status List and clarification on how schools are removed.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Joyce Karon moved that the Illinois State Board of Education adopt the lists of schools in Academic Early Warning and Watch Status and the list of districts in Academic Early Warning Status. Further, the list of schools to be removed from Academic Early Warning status is approved. Mr. Dean Clark seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p> <p><b><u>Next Steps:</u></b> Chairman Ruiz stated that the Illinois State Board of Education will continue to provide technical assistance to schools and districts. Letters of congratulations will be sent to those schools being removed from status.</p>
<p><b>Information Items</b></p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz announced that normally, listings under "Information Items" do not require a presentation during the Board meeting. However Superintendent Dunn has a special presentation regarding Report Card Policy Issues for the Board's consideration.</p> <p>Dr. Connie Wise, Dr. Richard Yong and Dr. Andy Metcalf from Data Analysis &amp; Progress Reporting, gave a presentation on Illinois Student Demographics from the selected policy issues identified from an analysis of Report Card Data. (See Power Point presentation on pages 79-92 in the board packet.)</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked Dr. Yong that if the present trend continues is it likely for Hispanics to be the largest minority group? Dr. Yong affirmed that statement.</p> <p>Dr. Vinni Hall commented that the data was not very good news.</p>

Dr. Andrea Brown stated that if you look at it as a growth model, the news is better. Dr. Brown said that we will always have the diversity because we are trying to raise everyone up and it appears that our delivery system equally addresses the opportunity that results in growth.

Ms. Joyce Karon stated that groups on both ends are getting their fair share of resources but the students in the middle are being squeezed for resources. Class sizes are now bigger and the children at the bottom end will start falling off because they don't get those resources and the gap will get bigger. There does not appear to be any area where the student has grown in terms of achievement. The schools seem to be at a loss to provide for the students.

Ms. Brenda Holmes stated that the data does not look good at all and wanted to know if the information could be broken down by county to see if we can address the problem area by area. Staff will look into that possibility.

Dr. Andrea Brown commented that because we are such a diverse state, we have such a hard time getting results on our dollars.

Dr. Dave Fields stated that we need to look closely at what it is that makes the difference; is it poverty, level of leadership, etc. We need to identify what the factors are that make better schools.

Mr. Ed Geppert said that he lives in a high performing area and that he has talked with administrators who have left to go help schools that are having problems and find out they do not have the support to make the changes like they had at the high performing district.

Superintendent Dunn said that every school profile is different and that he agrees with Brenda that we need to break down the schools and data further to see if we can get more answers. We also have to rely on the local districts to help us correct this problem and meet us half way. We need to look at districts on a case by case basis.

Ms. Holmes said that we need to continue to pay attention to our less red tape and support Jon Furr and his staff in terms of the competency review of the School Code and the rules to help remove the barriers that stand in our way. We also need to talk with our local school districts for ideas. We have a good start on trying to assist students.

Dr. David Fields said there are models out there and we have a lot of data available to us and there are plenty of schools out there doing well.

Mr. Geppert stated that he believes that as far as the availability of best practices, it is pretty available. The issue is what you do in your own district about those things; you have to have the resources to make it better, parents, teachers and administrators.

Dr. Chris Ward commented that the call to action is there but the leadership needs to change with the trends.

Following the Report Card Policy Issues discussion, Chairman Ruiz announced that the **Monthly Status Report on Rulemaking** and the **State Board of Education Fiscal and Administrative Monthly Reports** are printed in the

	Board meeting materials each month and are for information purposes. There were no inquires this month regarding these reports.
<b>Revision of the 2006 Board Calendar</b>	<b><u>Motion:</u></b> Dr. Chris Ward moved that the State Board of Education's January 18-19 <sup>th</sup> , 2006, Board meeting be moved to Springfield; and that the date of the February 2006 meeting be changed to February 22-23 <sup>rd</sup> and remain in Springfield. Dr. David Fields seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.
<b>Closed Session</b>	Ms. Joyce Karon moved that the Board break for lunch and then enter into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:  Section c 1 for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of an employee; Section c 2 for the purpose of considering collective negotiating matters with Board employees or deliberations concerning salaries of employees; Section c 11 for the purpose of considering pending or probable litigation against or affecting the Board; and Section c 21 for the purpose of discussing minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act.  Joyce Karon further moved that the Board might invite anyone they wish to have included in this closed session.  Ed Geppert seconded the motion and it was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.  The open meeting recessed at 12:25 p.m. and the Board went into closed session at 1:30 p.m. The open meeting reconvened at 2.30 p.m.
<b>Motion for Adjournment</b>	Dr. Chris Ward moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Vinni Hall seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Dr. Vinni Hall**  
Board Secretary

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**Mr. Jesse Ruiz**  
Chairman

## Education Policy Planning Committee

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

3:30 p.m.

(This meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.)

Executive Board Room  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois

**Public Conference Call Access Number:** 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)  
Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1

### AGENDA

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of the October Education Policy Planning Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-4**)
3. Charter Schools Annual Report (Jo Price) (**pp. 5-28**)
4. Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) Presentation  
(Chris Koch and Barb Sims) (**pp. 29-65**)
5. Process and Timeline for Revising Part 226 (Special Education)  
(Chris Koch and Darren Reisberg) (**pp. 66-68**)
6. Review of Education of Homeless Children and Youth Policy  
(Darren Reisberg) (**pp. 69-75**)
7. School Improvement Plans/District Improvement Plans Revamping  
(Jon Furr, Myron Mason, Irma Snopek, and Carol Diedrichsen) (**pp. 76-98**)
- \* 8. Discussion of Amending the ACCESS Agreement with WIDA to Incorporate Writing Reporting  
(Becky McCabe) (**pp. 99-100**)
- \* 9. Discussion of Adding a Writing Component to Illinois Alternative Assessment (IAA) Request for  
Sealed Proposals (Becky McCabe) (**pp. 101-102**)
10. Additional Items

\* Items listed with an asterisk (\*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

## EDUCATIONAL POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 16, 2005  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Executive Board Room  
Chicago, Illinois

### Committee Members Present

Dave Fields, Chair  
Andrea Brown  
Ed Geppert  
Vinni Hall  
Joyce Karon

### Other Board Members

### Others

Jon Furr  
Ginger Reynolds

### Board Members Absent

The Education Policy Planning Committee convened at 3:15 p.m.

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** CHAIRMAN FIELDS asked if there was anyone that wished to speak to the committee for public participation. No one came forward.
2. **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER EPPC MEETING:** The Committee approved the minutes for the October EPPC Meeting.
3. **CHARTER SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT: (Jo Price & Donna Luallen)** Jo Price began by stating that she had put together this year's Charter Schools Annual Report in the same format as previous years but at the Committee's request, she has included the schools on whether or not they made AYP and their status (both federal and state status). She added that we have the same statutory amendments suggested as they did not get approved last year and it is critical this year as we will be getting an audit exception.

Further, the report provides information on the performance of charter school pupils, reviews charter school reactions to being released from many regulations and policies and includes suggestions for changes in state law to strengthen charter schools. In addition, the report covers the 27 schools that were in operation during the 2004-05 school year, including four new schools which opened in the fall of 2004: ACE Tech, Chicago Math and Science, Lincoln Charter and Namaste.

Jo then added that charter schools are public schools of choice and parents choose to enroll students in a charter school. If there are too many requests, a lottery is instituted. The selection process means that a school's demographics may not match that of the host district. Student selection cannot discriminate on the basis of disability, race, gender, etc. or the need for special education services.

Next, there is a cap on the number of charter schools allowed in Illinois. 30 in Chicago Public School District 299, 15 in the remainder of Cook County and collar counties and 15 in the remainder of the state.

In addition, Jo spoke about some issues for the State Board to consider regarding possible legislative changes. They include: amending response timelines to allow adequate time for the agency to review charter school proposals; setting a deadline for submission of all charter proposals to the local district for the 2006-07 school year in order to ensure the approval process is finalized prior to the start of the following school year; requiring background checks for all employees and board members of the charter school, not just the instructional staff; and a conflict of interest clause; and limit proposal submission for a new charter school to one time per school year.

With regard to the discussion of the ISBE's Charter Schools Annual Report, the Committee moved to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation to adopt the amendments to be included in the final report.

4. **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION & SUPPORTS (PBIS): (Chris Koch & Barb Sims)** Chris Koch briefly stated that the Committee had previously requested information on this topic. Chris Koch introduced Barb Sims who is an expert in deaf, autism and social/emotional problems.

Barb began her presentation by addressing basic information about PBIS and to share evaluation data from individual schools and the project to demonstrate the impact of PBIS. She further stated that PBIS is not a special education initiative but a school-wide initiative and that research has shown that behavior and discipline are major issues in our schools. She added that if we provide a safer climate to our students, learning does increase in our students and schools. The National Center for PBIS researched 59 schools in Illinois that do not have PBIS in place and compared those schools with 59 schools who do have PBIS in place and the reading levels were quite different in those schools. PBIS has also been recognized in Illinois by USDE.

The PBIS process is a year-long process. The process begins by holding an informational meeting. The district has to make positive behavior support one of the policies for the district. The district then needs to appoint a person to be their in-house coach who will then be trained by the ISBE. We hold about one training a month and we have regionalized the training, but at some point, the districts will have to come to us. In addition, the district needs to identify a team of school staff and parents, hold an initial meeting to voice and categorize their concerns. We need to establish behavior expectations, collect the data and look at the times, places and discipline issues. The team then continues to meet about every two weeks and uses the data at the next meeting to determine their next step. Barb then added that kids should get incentives for good behavior. She also stated that PBIS looks different in every school in which it is implemented because of the data and each school has a different approach. Barb continued by stating that as of June 2005, 535 schools implemented PBIS, the largest number in any state. Our goal is to have 40% of our schools in Illinois implementing PBIS. She further stated that for those districts with a significant number of behavior problems, we are going to be providing a requirement that they use PBIS.

Barb briefly spoke about if we want to make PBIS a commitment, it needs to be more than just special-education funded. This year, the cost is \$2.2 or \$2.3 million for the 535 schools.

5. **PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR REVISING PART 226 (SPECIAL EDUCATION): (Chris Koch and Darren Reisberg)** Chris Koch made a recognition to Andrew Eules, Due Process Coordinator, for his help in this process of revising the rules.

Darren Reisberg, Deputy General Counsel for ISBE, began his presentation by apprising the Committee of our strategy of revising the Part 226 rules of the Illinois Administrative Code. We are also working on some legislation to deal with due process hearing issues which was sparked by the reauthorization of IDEA. The State Board intended to get some legislation through in the veto session but was unsuccessful, so we will be trying to do so in the spring session. Darren further stated that they have done some restructuring of the due process legislation to make it more user friendly and more efficient. In addition, our efforts are somewhat complicated, due to the fact that we thought federal rules under IDEA were going to be finalized by December 2005, it looks as though it might now be in the spring of 2006, but we have nothing in writing at this point. Our goal would be to get our Part 226 rules as ready as possible basing them on post federal rules so that the federal rules are finalized so we can be quick to act.

Chris Koch added that we want to be correct on the timing because we have committed that we would have these in place by June, which is the latest date we could have the regulations in the statute, otherwise we become in noncompliance as a state with the new law.

Darren continued by stating that the statutory language from IDEA 2004 is in this summary. It is also indicated in this summary that we do intend to go beyond the federal law.

Chris Koch also stated that we do get input from many of whether we want to go beyond federal law. We are prepared to give justifications and this is prior to rulemaking. We will be coming back to the Committee with this. Chris further stated that about a 1 ½ years ago, we had a task force and the consensus among the group of what administrators, parents, wanted to do with this. They talked about the area of expanding the definition of general education classroom and to define class size and case load.

6. **REVIEW OF EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY: (Darren Reisberg)** Darren introduced Reni and Patricia (last names??) of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless who have been involved with this. Both have been instrumental in this process and commend them for their help. Darren then provided the Committee with a brief background of how we came about revising this policy. The agency, including Rich DeHart, who is the ISBE's Coordinator for homeless issues, felt that the Homeless policy needed to be updated, so we began working with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) and provide more detail than the current policy and make it more user-friendly.

Darren then continued by giving a couple of the substantive changes to the policy. First, in the definition of "homeless" there is a concept mentioned about "doubling up" which is found in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act which involves and includes those people sharing housing or have economic hardships or some other similar reason and many districts were unaware that people in a "double up" situation was considered homeless. Secondly, we include the duties of a homelessness liaison. Under the Act, every district is required to have a local educational agency liaison and that liaison has a number of duties.

Finally, with regard to the summary, we included the detailed homelessness dispute procedures that are required by the Act as well as our state homelessness laws. These procedures set out the process of how homelessness-related disputes need to be handled. The State Board has drafted a state-level appeal procedure on to the homelessness dispute procedures. ISBE will first be made aware that there may be a homelessness dispute at a district level when the district actually sends the letter to the parent/guardian/youth letting them know they dispute the claim of homelessness. Darren further stated that we, the State Board, need to be copied on those letters so we know there is a dispute happening. Then, the parent/district can ask the ISBE to review the decision.

The Committee approved the recommendation of the State Board of Education to approve the revised policy on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

7. **DISCUSSION OF AMENDING THE ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH WIDA TO INCORPORATE WRITING REPORTING: (Becky McCabe)** Becky McCabe stated that last month, Student Assessment presented a proposal for a writing RFSP to include writing in IAA, ISAT and IMAGE. Student Assessment suggests an adjustment be made to where ELL students were assessed in writing through the ACCESS test (which already includes writing) rather than adding writing to the IMAGE test. Student Assessment requests an adjustment in the contract with WIDA and have one contract. With this new requirement for writing, Student Assessment proposes that ELL will not be tested twice in writing.

The Committee approved the recommendation to adjust the WIDA contract to include careful study and information regarding the use of ACCESS writing and reporting to districts for the purpose of meeting the state law requirements for writing assessment.

8. **DISCUSSION OF ADDING A WRITING COMPONENT TO ILLINOIS ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT (IAA) REQUEST FOR SEALED PROPOSALS: (Becky McCabe)** Student Assessment would also like to request an adjustment in the RFSP for the IAA to include writing. The development of writing would use the same process as the other content areas and will make for a more appropriate and efficient process in developing items for students who will be included in this assessment.

The Committee approved the recommendation to revise the IAA RFSP to include the development and reporting of writing in the new Alternate Assessment.

- 9. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS/DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS REVAMPING: (Jon Furr, Myron Mason, Irma Snopek and Carol Diedrichsen) (Informational Only Item)** Jon Furr and Irma Snopek updated the Board Members on the e-Plans system which was launched November 9, 2005 via the Interactive Illinois Report Card site. The e-Plans system will aid data-informed decision-making at the building and district levels. It will assist principals and superintendents to undertake evaluations for school improvement and it will directly support the goal of expanding data-informed management and support practices.

The e-Plans toolkit is available through the Interactive Illinois Report Card website for schools and districts that significantly streamline the process of submitting required plans to local boards and ISBE. The toolkit also includes a School Improvement Plan Template and an accompanying Guide and Peer Review Tool to assist districts and schools in revising and submitting school improvement and restructuring plans. A District Improvement Plan Template and accompanying Guide will follow in the next few weeks.

The e-Plans School Improvement Template may be used by Illinois schools in school improvement status and academic watch status to incorporate the contents of a revised school plan as required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Section 2-3.25d of the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d. The template may also be used for schools that must submit a restructuring plan. The use of the template is not required. Schools and districts may continue to use a format that complies with the statutes cited above.

The template includes:

- Board Approval and Assurances
- Plan Development, Review and Implementation
- Data and Analysis
- Action Plan
- Restructuring Plan (if applicable)

The template and accompanying guide are to be used together to ensure that users include all requirements of state and federal law for revised school improvement plans and restructuring plans.

The Illinois e-Plans system is user friendly and a welcome addition to Illinois' system of support to schools and districts. Districts and schools will have multiple years (including 2005) of School Report Card data and information at their fingertips automatically populating the screens at the Interactive Illinois Report Card website.

- 10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:** There were no additional items.

**ADJOURN:** The Educational Policy Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

## **Finance & Audit Committee**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2005**

**10:30 a.m.**

Executive Board Room  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois

**Public Conference Call Access Number:** 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)  
*Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1*

### **AGENDA**

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of October Finance & Audit Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-3**)
3. Illinois Purchase Care Review Board (Special education care facilities rate approval process) (Tim Imler and Chris Koch) (**pp. 4-15**)
4. Illinois Program Accounting Manual (Linda Mitchell and Deb Vespa) (**pp. 16-34**)
5. Update on Request for Plans from School Districts Certified as in Financial Difficulty (Linda Mitchell and Deb Vespa) (**pp. 35-36**)
6. FY 2007 Budget Update (Linda Mitchell and Ronny Wickenhauser) (**pp. 37-42**)
7. Illinois School Purchasing Network Update (Linda Mitchell and Karen Helland) (**pp. 43-44**)
8. Additional Items

\* Items listed with an asterisk (\*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

## **FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**

November 16, 2005

Chicago Teachers Union – Executive Board Room

Merchandise Mart Plaza

Chicago, Illinois

### **Committee Members Present**

Ed Geppert, Chair  
Dr. Andrea Brown  
Dean Clark  
Brenda Holmes

### **Staff Present**

Dr. Randy Dunn, Superintendent  
Linda Riley Mitchell  
Dr. Chris Koch  
Debbie Vespa  
Tim Imler  
Ronny Wickenhauser  
Karen Helland (via phone)

### **Other Board Members Present**

Dr. Chris Ward  
Dr. Vinni Hall

#### **1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chairman Geppert noted that the Board received a letter from Dawn Weinberg, Agriculture Literacy Coordinator for Hancock and McDonough Counties, thanking the Board for their support of the Agriculture Education line item. Chairman Geppert then asked if there was anyone wishing to address the committee. No one came forward.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Chairman Geppert asked if anyone had objections or corrections to the October meeting minutes. No objections or corrections were stated and the minutes will be placed on file.

#### **3. ILLINOIS PURCHASED CARE REVIEW BOARD**

Linda Mitchell introduced Tim Imler to present information on the Illinois Purchased Care Review Board. Tim Imler, Division Administrator for Funding and Disbursements, provided the committee with an overview of the Illinois Purchased Care Review Board (IPCRB). Mr. Imler walked the committee through the structure of the IPCRB, the rate setting process IPCRB follows in setting rates for private special education facilities, potential factors driving the increased cost of private facility placements (claim amounts), the rules governing the IPCRB rate setting process, and the volume of rates set by the IPCRB. Mr. Imler also noted that ISBE is the primary rate setter for tuition rates for the state. Committee members discussed out-of-state rates, wrap services and their relationship to cost controls, rate setting in different areas of the state, and prorated amounts for the special ed private tuition line item with Mr. Imler, Ms. Mitchell and Dr. Chris Koch.

#### **4. ILLINOIS PROGRAM ACCOUNTING MANUAL**

Linda Mitchell introduced Deb Vespa to present a draft document with potential changes to the Illinois Program Accounting Manual (IPAM), which Ms. Mitchell noted had not been changed since 1994. Ms. Vespa noted that there are revisions necessitated by changes at the state and federal level, as well as other general recommendations. The plan is to bring the recommended changes back to the Board in January or February for approval.

- State drivers:
  - PA 93-1036 – asked ISBE to streamline rules. One proposal in revising IPAM is to put all of the rules related to activity funds in one place.
  - PA 93-0234 – requires ISBE to define a “balanced budget.” Ms. Vespa is working with constituent groups to come up with a definition. One idea is to look at districts that are deficit spending and comparing it to fund balances (i.e. deficit spending versus 3 times the fund balance and deficit spending versus 4 times the fund balance). If a strict expenditure versus revenues approach is taken, 398 districts would have to submit a deficit reduction plan. Using a 3 times comparison, 128

- districts would have to submit a plan, while at 4 times 169 districts would have to submit a plan
    - HB3480 – requires accounting for revenues and expenditures from vendor contracts.
  - Federal drivers:
    - Every 5 years USDE approves an indirect cost calculation for federal grants. ISBE has submitted the same rate for the last 15-20 years. USDE want termination costs pulled out of these rates (i.e. severance payments of unused sick and vacation time).
    - The federal government updated their accounting handbook and each year we have to submit financial data to the federal government and we want to bring our data in line with theirs.
  - Other suggestions:
    - Revise the structure of IPAM. Rename and redefine local funds. Create a capital improvement fund for major projects. Change financial reporting for GAAP purposes.

Committee members discussed the cost of changes to IPAM to the school districts, software packages, the burdens on districts of complying with the new rules and gathering data by attendance centers..

#### **5. UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR PLANS FROM SCHOOL DISTRICTS CERTIFIED AS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY**

Linda Mitchell stated that at the last meeting the Board certified two districts – Harrisburg and Divernon – as being in financial difficulty. Formal notification and a request for a financial plan were sent to the districts. She indicated that the district financial plan will be forthcoming. Mr. Geppert questioned whether Divernon had issues borrowing for payroll. Deb Vespa replied that there were no issues.

#### **6. FY2007 BUDGET UPDATE**

Linda Mitchell reported on the budget hearings held to date. Ms. Mitchell also reported to the committee that ISBE has had an initial budget meeting with the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget. Ronny Wickenhauser added that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability will be providing a revenue presentation at the December board meeting. Mr. Clark asked about FY06 GSA numbers not being finalized. Mr. Wickenhauser reported that ISBE is still waiting on data from Cook County and that there is some concern about not having the data.

Mr. Geppert thanked P.E. Cross, Regional Superintendent, for hosting the budget hearing in Mt. Vernon and the Lake County Federation of Teachers for hosting the budget hearing in Gurnee and updated the members of the committee on the presentations.

#### **7. ILLINOIS SCHOOL PURCHASING NETWORK UPDATE**

Linda Mitchell introduced Karen Helland to provide an update on the Illinois School Purchasing Network. Ms. Helland reported that 420 school districts are registered with U.S. Communities. Ms. Helland continues to answer district questions about participation with U.S. Communities. It was noted that districts benefit from the purchasing network because everything has already been bid so the districts do not have to go through the bidding process. Ms. Helland reported on contacts from other vendors asking about joining U.S. Communities. Ms. Helland stated that ISBE is approaching a point where a decision needs to be made on the direction of the program and noted potential areas of expansion. Ms. Mitchell reported on some of the areas of potential expansion and asked for the Board’s thoughts. Committee members expressed that services are more challenging than commodities as it relates to defining quality, terms, and expectations. There was a brief discussion concerning Illinois firms participating in U.S. Communities and the cost of the purchasing network. Although there are no Illinois headquartered companies in the program currently, many of the firms have business operations in Illinois and employee people residing in the state in stores and distribution centers. There is no cost to participants in the program.

#### **8. ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

There were no additional items.

Mr. Geppert thanked the Chicago Teachers Union for the use of their facilities.

**Adjourn:** The Finance and Audit Committee adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

## **Governmental Relations Committee**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2005**

**3:30 p.m.**

(This meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.)

Meeting Rooms 4-7  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois

**Public Conference Call Access Number:** 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)  
**Confirmation #** 1 3 1 9 4 4 2 5

### **AGENDA**

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of the October Governmental Relations Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-3**)
3. Discussion of ISBE Policy for P.E. Mandate Waiver Requests (**pp. 4-14**)  
(Jon Furr, Winnie Tuthill, Shelley Helton, Pam Stanko)
4. Wrap-up of Veto Session (**pp. 15-20**)
5. Potential ISBE Legislative Proposals (**pp. 21-119**)
6. Additional Items

\* Items listed with an asterisk (\*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

## GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

November 16, 2005

Chicago, Illinois

### Committee Members Present

Brenda Holmes, Chair  
Dave Fields  
Jesse Ruiz  
Dean Clark

### Other Board Members

N/A

### Board Members Absent

N/A

### Others

Randy Dunn  
Jean Ladage  
Winnie Tuthill (phone)  
Jon Furr  
Pam Stanko (phone)  
Shelley Helton (phone)  
Karen Williams, IFT  
Darrell Morrison, IEA  
Donna Baiocchi, ED-RED  
Mark Kolaz  
Nicole Wills

### 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Chairman Brenda Holmes asked if there was anyone that wished to speak to the committee for public participation. No one came forward.

### 2. INFORMATION ITEM

Brenda Holmes referenced the 2006 Legislative Calendar.

### 3. 2001 BOARD POLICY ON PE WAIVERS

The Board has had a policy in place since 2001 which requests that school districts submit assessment data when supplying applications for waivers for physical education. A look at this policy was prompted by a Senate staff member who asked whether or not the State Board thought that the policy should be codified into law.

Shelley Helton, Winnie Tuthill and Pam Stanko joined the discussion via phone. Shelley Helton explained that according to the policy, ISBE asks schools requesting P.E. waivers or P.E. modifications to provide two types of information: a description of the assessment for how districts gauge their students progress/achievement as provided in goals 19, 20, and 21 (physical development goals) and a description of what other opportunities will be afforded to students not participating in P.E. on a daily basis to achieve those standards. After the policy was adopted in 2001, an addendum was added to the application to reflect these requests. In practice, however, the type of descriptions about a district's assessments typically mirrors the language used in the standards. For Goal 20, districts typically indicate they use some sort of standardized assessment like FitnessGram or the Presidential Fitness Test. This information can be difficult to obtain from districts because the ISAT Test no longer has questions relevant to fitness standards (as a result of legislative change). Modifications are approved by the State Board of Education via the State Superintendent after being reviewed. This past session, a bill was passed to eliminate the need for a modification waiver for block scheduling.

Brenda Holmes indicated the process ahead of the Committee is two-fold: discussing the policy and to present some type of recommendation to the full board in December.

Chris Ward asked if the Board has ever communicated what is acceptable data to use in determining physical fitness to school districts. Shelley Helton indicated that there are no specific guidelines, though there were general guidelines in the 2001 memo sent to school districts by Superintendent McGee informing them of the new policy. Essentially ISBE has looked at the data provided by the district and assumes if it is being transmitted, then it is so.

Brenda stated that she believes the Board must decide if the policy is something it wants to support if translated into legislation.

Shelley Helton described the process that would be in effect without the policy. The law requires the district provide a rationale that addresses one of two areas to waive a section of the school code: stimulating innovation or improving student performance. Districts often indicate *how* performance will be improved in *other areas*. For example, districts will ask to substitute other courses, exempt individuals struggle in another subject, etc. Without the policy, the Board's only responsibility is to make sure that the district has provided proper documentation and followed proper procedure on the application and transit it to the General Assembly. However, in 1995, the Board also decided they wished to make comments on certain waiver requests from time to time.

Dean Clark commented with continued discussions of high school reform, the topic of daily physical education will continue to be a factor. He also cautioned taking any action that could step back from Illinois' position as a national leader with regards to the daily P.E. requirement. He also stated that he believes that the State Board is currently seeing more requests for P.E. waivers and modifications and the requests are for more compelling reasons than in past years; due in part to complying with NCLB and schools dropping periods from the day because of financial considerations.

Brenda Holmes stated that ISBE has a database that describes every waiver request and what grades are effected. Currently there are 175 school districts that have a P.E. waiver in effect. Brenda also stated that she is concerned about the flexibility issue brought up earlier by Dr. Ward, as well as the increase of Type II diabetes and childhood obesity. She believes the Board must be very careful with any type of recommendation given those facts.

Additionally, Brenda stated that even if there is a test that experts agree upon that measures the physical education goals, there is a question of who pays and is the assessment reliable and valid.

Brenda Holmes asked Shelly Helton to provide Jean Ladage the data by district types for all the committee members.

Brenda Holmes asked Jon Furr if the legislation currently in effect makes the 2001 Board policy moot. Jon Furr stated that it does not with respect to waivers. Even with the removal of the option to use the ISAT to provide the assessment data, the policy still requests districts to provide some type of assessment.

Shelley Helton stated that if the 2001 Board policy was codified into law requiring the assessment data, the only thing the Board would do differently would be to send the application back to the district if the assessment information is provided. Even if the Board makes recommendations for legislative denial, the Legislature doesn't necessarily follow the Board's recommendations. Shelley also stated if the policy were codified, the Board would have to define what would constitute a valid and reliable test.

Jon Furr suggested that staff look at some alternative framework for evaluating the requests.

Brenda Holmes requested that the waivers staff look to see if there is any middle ground to the problem.

Dean Clark stated that the Board needs to avoid taking an action that will severely increase the number of waiver requests.

#### **4. VETO SESSION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Nicole Wills indicated that there was very little activity on legislation that would impact education during the fall Veto session. The General Assembly did act on a few pieces of legislation, however:

HB 806- The All Kids initiative, which was signed into law November 15.

SB 92- Legislation that created the Juvenile Justice Authority. ISBE's primary interest in this legislation was because of School District 428. Staff's initial concerns with the legislation was alleviated when the bill was amended. Originally juveniles in the adult facilities were not accounted for to receive funds. It

would have been loss of federal funds to help educate these students. This legislation was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor.

SB 293- (HB3480-Kosel) SB 293 contained parts of HB 3480 that was passed during the Spring. ISBE had requested an Amendatory Veto (AV) on the effective date of the legislation so that we could work on something that would not be so erroneous on school districts. SB 293 was introduced instead and contained satisfactory language. The AV for HB 3480 was not acted upon, so the bill is now dead. This legislation was passed by the General Assembly.

SB 852-This legislation increased the debt limitation for a school district meeting certain specifications. At this time, the only school district that would be affected is Triad. This legislation was passed by the General Assembly.

HB 3095- This legislation was vetoed by the Governor because it increased taxes without voter approval. This legislation was written specifically to apply to Gavin School District, but in an attempt so as not to be seen as special legislation. The General Assembly had the requisite number of votes to override the Governor's veto.

SJR 52- This is the waiver resolution, which contained the two recommendations for denial that the Board made for Clay City and Beach Park School Districts.

HR 509- This resolution promotes the Democracy in Schools initiative and was passed by the House.

ISBE staff had hoped that two pieces of legislation, SB 1856 (the Obsolete and Duplicative Sections of the School Code) and HB 2011 (Clean up for the Grown Your Own Teacher Program) would move during veto session but neither did. We will continue to pursue these two pieces of legislation during the Spring Session.

## **5. ISBE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

Approximately ten legislative proposals have been made by staff at this point. A excel document summary of the proposals as well as a legislative proposal sheet and breakdown of the language was included in the Governmental Relations Packet.

Brenda Holmes asked if there were any questions about the legislative proposals. She indicated that she had certain questions about the proposal to change the General State Aid Payments to 22 instead of 24. Questions arose from Committee members as to whether we were going to reduce the number/monetary amount of the payments to school districts. Nicole Wills indicated that the proposal would take whatever the total state appropriation is for General State Aid and divide that amount by 22 payments instead of 24 payments. There is no intention to decrease the amount of funds to school districts. Nicole continued to explain that payments are made twice a month from August to July. By shortening the number of payments by eliminating the July payments, school districts would be sure to receive all of the payments in their operating fiscal year. Concerns were expressed over the possibility that districts could be out additional money if a decision is made by the State to skip the final payment as has been done in years past. Nicole Wills stated that staff had written in the proposal that the State Board, Legislators and the Governor's office receives numerous calls every year to find out if the final two payments will be advanced and this change would eliminate the need for those calls.

Brenda Holmes asked about the Due Process Legislative Proposal from the Special Education Division. Nicole responded that as part of the reauthorization of IDEIA, Illinois has to come into compliance by July 1, 2006. The legislative proposal is the attempt to do so. Brenda Holmes asked if a breakdown of the legislation could be provided at the next Board meeting.

Brenda Holmes stated that she had some questions about the legislative proposal from the Nutrition Division concerning the School Breakfast Program and would speak separately with Nicole about the issue.

A discussion ensued over the legislative proposal from the External Assurance Division. Brenda Holmes asked why couldn't situations addressed by the legislative proposal be considered Act of God exceptions. Nicole Wills stated that there was still some flushing out of the legislative proposal to be done.

Mark Kolaz suggested having Division Administrator Robert Wolfe available by phone at the next Board meeting to discuss this issue.

Nicole Wills stated that the adjournment date has been schedule for April 7<sup>th</sup>. Because of such an early adjournment date, staff has been told that House members will only be allowed to advance three pieces of legislation. Furthermore, she stated that for whatever legislation the State Board pursues, there will need to be a an agreement from the legislator that he or she will move that piece of legislation as one of his or her top three.

Brenda Holmes stated that the Committee is comfortable with the staff members deciding which legislation should be introduced.

Nicole Wills stated that in December there will be several more proposals for the Board to review – six from certification and several from assessment.

**6. ADJOURN:** The Governmental Relations Committee meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

## **Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2005**

**1:30 p.m.**

(This meeting will begin at the conclusion of the previous session.)

Executive Board Room  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois

**Public Conference Call Access Number:** 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)  
*Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1*

### **AGENDA**

1. Public Participation
2. Minutes of the October Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the Whole Meeting (**p. 2**)
- \* 3. Discussion of Rules for Initial Review
  - a) Part 401 (Nonpublic Special Education Facilities) (**pp. 10-35 Plenary Packet**)
4. "Common Rules" for PA 94-0600 School Safety Drills (**pp. 3-13**)
5. Informational Update: Less Red Tape (**pp. 14-21**)
6. Additional issues
7. Adjourn

\* Items listed with an asterisk (\*) will be discussed in committee and action may be taken in the plenary session.

**AD HOC RULES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

1:30 p.m.

Executive Board Room

222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400

Chicago, Illinois

**Members Present**

Jesse Ruiz  
Andrea Brown  
Dean Clark  
Ed Geppert  
Dave Fields  
Vinni Hall  
Brenda Holmes  
Joyce Karon  
Chris Ward

**Others**

Randy Dunn  
Jon Furr  
Sally Vogl  
Deb Vespa

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Jonathan Furr asked if there was anyone that wished to speak to the committee for public participation. No one came forward.

**2. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER AD HOC RULES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING (P.2)**

The October minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. DISCUSSION OF RULES FOR INITIAL REVIEW:**

**a) Part 401 (Nonpublic Special Education Facilities) pp. 10-35 Plenary Packet)**

Sally Vogl explained the proposed revisions to Part 401. Part 401 is being streamlined to the extent possible and updated as needed. Specifically:

- The title of Part 401 is being revised to acknowledge that not only nonpublic entities may establish facilities under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code. Part 401's applicability also includes public out-of-state schools as well as facilities owned or operated by public authorities such as regional superintendents of schools. Numerous uses of the word "nonpublic" throughout the rules are therefore being struck.
- A number of provisions are being streamlined by referring to statements in Part 226 of the rules (Special Education), and in other cases language is being added for purposes of clarification, such as to distinguish between providers, the programs they offer, and the facilities where the programs are offered.
- Specific provisions are being added to express the approach to be used in approving out-of-state programs.
- A two-year approval cycle is being instituted for purposes of efficiency.
- The timeframe for notification regarding changes in personnel is being liberalized in cases where the changes do not affect compliance with the relevant requirements.

These proposed amendments were reviewed with the State Advisory Council on the Education of Children on November 8. No issues or concerns were raised in the course of that discussion.

Deb Vespa described to the Board the proposed “common rules” developed by ISBE and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in response to PA 94-600. ISBE, OSFM and the Illinois Terrorist Task Force (ITTF) have been meeting with several months to draft the rules. ISBE hopes the draft rules will be completed by March 2006 so district boards can use the rules in their review of school safety plans over the summer.

Deb Vespa indicated that the rules were as limited as possible, focusing primarily on the required annual review of emergency and crisis response plans and a description of the objectives for specific drills. After Deb Vespa had left the meeting, Dr. Ward raised a concern with respect to Section 1500.30(d)(2) (requiring evacuation drills to “Instruct teachers, students and school employees that anyone who discovers fire or smells smoke or gas shall sound the fire alarm without seeking permission from school authorities”). Dr. Ward questioned whether the language should be more narrow, to avoid false alarms due to smoke or gas from normal school activities (e.g., chemistry labs). Jonathan Furr indicated he would raise this concern with staff.

**5. INFORMATION UPDATE: LESS RED TAPE (PP. 14-21)**

Jonathan Furr informed the Board that the agency continues to respond to comments received through the lessredtape e-mail address.

**6. ADDITIONAL ISSUES**

No additional issues were discussed.

**7. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

## Board Operations Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

2:00 p.m.

Executive Board Room  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois

**Public Conference Call Access Number:** 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*)

*Confirmation # 1 3 1 8 3 3 3 1*

### AGENDA

- 1 Public Participation
- \*2. Discussion Items
  - a. Minutes of the October Board Operations Committee Meeting (**pp. 2-3**)
  - \*\* b. Review of 2006 Calendar (Chris Ward) (**pp. 4-6**)
  - c. Review New Resolutions of Recognition (Chris Ward) (**pp. 7-8**)
  - d. Review, Define and Prioritize Emerging Issues (Chris Ward) (**pp. 9-11**)
  - e. Additional Items
3. Decision Items
4. Additional Items
5. Adjourn

\* At the conclusion of any discussion item in which the committee is ready to make a decision, a discussion item may be immediately moved for a decision.

\*\* Items listed with a double asterisk (\*\*) will be discussed in committee and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.

**BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 2005**  
**2:00 p.m.**

Executive Board Room  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois

**Committee Members Present**

Chris Ward, Chair  
Dave Fields  
Vinni Hall  
Joyce Karon  
Jesse Ruiz

**Other Board Members Present**

Andrea Brown  
Dean Clark  
Ed Geppert  
Brenda Holmes

**Staff Present**

Randy Dunn  
Jean Ladage  
Jon Furr  
Marsha Moffett  
Ginger Reynolds

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Chairman Chris Ward asked if there was anyone that wished to speak to the committee for public participation. No one came forward.

**2.a. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Joyce Karon moved that the minutes of the Board Operations Committee on September 20 be approved. Ed Geppert seconded the motion and it passed with voice vote approval.

**2.b. REVIEW OF 2006 CALENDAR**

Chris Ward reviewed two dates that have potential conflicts.

- The January 18-19, 2006 meeting is currently scheduled for Chicago. The State of the State address is also scheduled for that day in Springfield.
- The February meeting dates need to be changed due to a conflict with staff needing to make presentations at the agency's NCLB Conference in Chicago.

Vinni Hall moved to change the location of the January 18-19, 2006 meeting to Springfield. Joyce Karon seconded the motion and it passed with voice vote approval.

Ed Geppert moved to change the dates of the February 2006 meeting to February 22-23, 2006 and it will remain in Springfield. Dave Fields seconded the motion and it passed with voice vote approval.

**2.c. BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Chris Ward indicated that Chicago Public Schools submitted a candidate for recognition by Board resolution. The nomination is for an employee at Corliss H.S. Vinni Hall moved to recommend a resolution for Board approval in December. Dave Fields seconded the motion and it passed with voice vote approval.

**2.d. REVIEW, DEFINE AND PRIORITIZE EMERGING ISSUES**

Chris Ward indicated that the Board has had several conversations over the past year in terms of identifying emerging issues they wish to study as a board or that the agency seeks Board input. The materials in the committee packet attempt to summarize the issues that the Board has discussed and Superintendent Dunn's suggestions. Dr. Ward suggested that the Board discuss the lists and attempt to define each one of the issues listed.

Dr. Ward asked Superintendent Dunn to comment and to elaborate on each of the issues in the agency's list. Dr. Dunn indicated that he feels the first three on his list are of the highest priority for the agency.

1. What do we want school restructuring and district corrective action to look like under the NCLB requirements? Dr. Dunn feels that we may want to have more wide-ranging discussions about what restructuring could entail. We may want to discuss with outside organizations what our role is, as well as district corrective action. There are a full range of options that we might want to discuss.
2. What is needed in terms of high school reform and how do we go about achieving this as a state with widely varying capacity across districts? This could be capacity issues; it could be an extension of the discussion around high school course requirements. Those discussions are not unrelated.
3. How do we integrate compliance monitoring and oversight within our most chronically dysfunctional districts while differentiating oversight functions with districts which have a long record of full compliance? We are currently putting out “brush fires” as they approach, and we need to have an approach that is integrated.

Dr. Dunn briefly went through the other issues in the agency’s listing: e-learning/technology infrastructure, other systems to measure district effectiveness beyond assessments, wrap-around services, and ways to reward success/funding schools achieving results. Dr. Dunn indicated he would be glad to discuss any of those or answer any questions.

Ed Geppert commented that he feels that numbers district corrective action and dealing with chronically dysfunctional districts (numbers 1 & 3) are related. Dr. Dunn responded that the leverage to do something with chronically dysfunctional districts may come through corrective action. Jon Furr commented that #1 is a subset of #3. If we need to take corrective action, how we would do that. To a certain extent, there are districts that could get into corrective action in certain areas, but are not chronically dysfunctional, or non-AYP areas. Ginger Reynolds commented that when we think about #1 (school restructuring & corrective action), we need to think about the staggering numbers. We’re talking hundreds of schools this year. What are we going to do to help them in their quest to improve?

Ed Geppert also mentioned the inevitability of all of them moving to the same place. The reason he related #3 to the “bad actors” is what he sees as a great deficiency in the federal statute about who they harm when they take these actions. Classroom teachers are the least empowered in the process, except in what they can do with some students in some circumstances. Andrea Brown commented that the system managers at the local level are getting their drive, their initiative and their direction from the State Board through the System of Support (for schools on watch/warning status). At some point we need to reflect the change in staff, change from the feds, and change in philosophy.

Joyce Karon asked Ginger what we are looking at in projecting for the two categories. Dr. Dunn commented that when we talk about “chronics” he is referring to districts; and not necessarily NCLB, but problems all across the agency. Special Education, grants, all agency divisions are having problems with some 20 districts. Ginger Reynolds indicated that we can run the numbers, but it’s going to continue to increase. Andrea Brown asked whether or not we see any indicators that we’ll get some relief? Dr. Brown hears we’re going to get Value-Added... Dr. Dunn commented that he understands that Secretary Spellings may be doing some announcement to the chiefs regarding allowable use of growth models. Ginger Reynolds added that she hasn’t seen anything that indicates that they are going to change the 100% requirement by 2013. Dr. Dunn said that since Secretary Spellings hasn’t announced, we don’t know what that’s going to entail.

Dr. Dunn indicated that in looking at restructuring & corrective action, one approach is to tweak the approach that we’re already taking. We could decide that we will provide technical assistance (through the RESPROs, etc.) all the way to provider fairs... having schools come in to take a look at a range of providers and we would somehow qualify the providers. We need to make a

determination on where we want the state to fall on this continuum. Vinni Hall expressed an interest in the option of provider fairs.

Dr. Ward commented that we won't solve those problems now, but the purpose of this conversation is to determine two or three issues. Dr. Dunn agreed and suggested that a white paper could be written for the Board's consideration outlining the various approaches that might be taken and the Board's discussion, along with outside organizations, would be to determine what the best approach might be. Joyce Karon suggested that a scenario might be to see what other states are doing. Dean Clark responded that we have to see what other states are doing, but we have to temper that with the reality of the State of Illinois. He likes the idea of a white paper to suggest some options. Dave Fields commented that no matter what the options are, a solution won't be sustained unless we can address #6 (engage true collaboration around all aspects of student learning, wellness and development) in some way.

Dr. Ward indicated that a case has been made that this (school restructuring & district corrective action) will be on our agenda.

Dr. Ward indicated that we can see from some of the other issues that there is a linkage between our high school reform issue and #2. As we flush these out, they will prioritize themselves and we will need to engage in what our capacity and the agency's capacity to get them addressed. He then took the members' attention back to page 9, the listing of topics that the Board has discussed over the last year. The funding issue has been discussed and we certainly understand those implications, especially as it relates to #7 (fund schools achieving results/reward success). There is a linkage between the Board's second issue with the superintendent's #2 (high school reform). He commented that he would expand those comments to also include the rules and regulations that govern the high school templates that guide us. We are facing new issues with the same "ten commandments."

Dr. Ward also mentioned the Board's conversations regarding staff and administrators of color. Ed Geppert commented that he would like to see some information regarding that. Yesterday in the Gurnee budget hearing this issue came up regarding the Grow Your Own initiative; especially staffing of males in African American neighborhood schools. Dr. Ward commented that last month in the School Report Card information we saw that only 23% of certified teachers are males. He agreed there is a connection to the Grow Your Own initiative.

Dr. Ward reviewed some of the other issues the Board has discussed over the past year: student performance, Board/agency relationships with regional agencies, wrap-around services, school district reorganization, parental support, reshaping schools, support for students with abhorrent behavior, and teacher shortages.

Dr. Ward also pointed out the issues on page 10 of the committee packet: the Board's role in the budget development process, increasing the capacity of the agency, etc.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Dr. Ward suggested that perhaps before moving forward we need to know what our capacity is over the next several months. Based on this conversation there will be a phone conference among the committee chairs to discuss which committees would take on the issues. Joyce Karon asked how these new issues will work with those in the Strategic Plan. Dr. Dunn commented that the agency is worried about capacity as well, but in the three goal areas in the Plan, there are defined steps that are lined out. In these issues, we need to define those steps. The discussion in these issues will be much more exploratory. Dr. Ward added that we do need to be sensitive that if we're going to look at high school reform, we need to be mindful of the relationship to the Literacy Goal, etc. Brenda Holmes suggested that we limit our study to two issues. Dr. Ward responded that we need to continue to look at the list of issues and revise it, so that as our capacity increases we can delve into some of the other issues. Joyce Karon commented that a significant number of the issues overlap and can be combined. She added that we should do two things really well, rather than 10

things haphazardly. Dr. Brown commented that if we do one of these things, it will impact some of those other issues. Dr. Ward commented that we may redefine the specifics of what our intent is as we study the issues further.

Board Chairman Jesse Ruiz commented that his feeling that the Strategic Plan is not a static document. This kind of work gets us ahead of the curve in planning for the next version the Plan.

Dr. Ward summarized what he thought was agreement reached in today's discussion.

1. **School restructuring and district corrective action:** We need to provide time to deal with restructuring as part of NCLB. Brenda Holmes indicated that she would like to know what impact, at the implementation level, this will have on the agency, the impact it will have on the budget, and the impact it will have at the district level. Dr. Ward commented that there will be a lot of mining of the data. Dr. Brown added that we need to study what has been done at RESPROs and in System of Support in the past few years.
2. **How do we increase the learning capacity of high school age students?** Dr. Ward commented that in listening to the Board's conversation today, this issue would be on our list. Recent legislation has also brought this to the forefront. Dr. Dunn mentioned that nothing will be done without going very slowly and being very thoughtful. Some of the things that we need to discuss are what should the capacity of high schools be around foreign language for how many years? Should a student that is not in a college-prep program should be taking a language; if so which language? What is the nature of co-curricular programs, should there be service learning as part of high school curriculum, for credit, or just graduation requirement? We want to look at the next generation of what the high school experience is; systemic change.

Dr. Ward will follow-up on the next step, scheduling a conversation with committee chairs and get Randy involved in that conversation.

### 3. **DECISION ITEMS**

Some decisions have been made during this committee meeting, and they were acted upon during discussion.

### 4. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Jesse Ruiz mentioned that NASBE is asking for Board members interested in serving on a NASBE Commission on Financing Education. Dean Clark indicated he would be interested, but would then need to withdraw from the NASBE Government Affairs Committee.

Committee Chair Chris Ward asked Jon Furr to discuss Board Member ethics training. Mr. Furr indicated that materials are in the committee packet and when Board Members have reviewed those materials they are to sign the last page and return it to him.

5. **ADJOURN:** The Board Operations Committee meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.