

Illinois State Board of Education announces special meeting

State Board of Education Chairman Ruiz hereby calls a special meeting under the Open Meetings Act. The purpose of the meeting is reflected in the agenda below.

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board Meeting via teleconference
October 4, 2006
8:30 a.m.**

Conference Call Phone Number: 1-866-297-6391
Confirmation # 1 3 5 3 5 7 2 8

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call
- B. Public Participation
- C. Harcourt Contract Revision
- D. ISAT Administration Contract
- E. Adjourn

NOTE: Chairman Ruiz may call for a break in the Board Plenary Session on Wednesday at which time the Board will go into closed session.

The Board Operations Committee will meet via teleconference following the special meeting to discuss the October 18-19, 2006 Board meeting.

BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

- A. Review draft committee agendas for October 18-19
- B. Review agenda for October 19 plenary session
- C. Review schedule of meetings for October 18-19 based on committee agendas
- D. Additional Issues
- E. Adjourn

NOTE: Persons wishing to be present at these meetings may come to one of the following locations:

ISBE Conference Room A, 14th Floor, James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago

Board Conference Room, 4th Floor, 100 North First Street, Springfield

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 Meeting
MINUTES
October 4, 2006
Special Board Meeting
(via teleconference)

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	<p>Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, called the Special Board Meeting of the Illinois State Board of Education to order at 8:40 a.m.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Jean Ladage, Assistant to the Board, to call the roll. Dr. Randy Dunn, State Superintendent of Education, was in attendance in Springfield.</p> <p><u>Members Present via Teleconference:</u> 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. Joyce Karon</p> <p><u>Members Absent</u> Ms. Brenda Holmes</p> <p>Chairman Jesse Ruiz announced that Board members in attendance today are all participating via teleconference from different locations.</p>
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	<p><u>Springfield Public Participation</u> None</p> <p><u>Chicago Public Participation</u> Mr. Lonnie Johns addressed the Board on Part 226 (Proposed Illinois Rules for Special Education) and asked that we ask for written comments and public hearings. Mr. Johns urged the Board to take action on Part 226 at the October Board meeting. He recommended the Board withdraw Part 226 and revise the Illinois rules to comply with the final federal rules which were released in August. He hoped the Board would invite major public groups to participate in the revision of the proposed rules as well as take public comment and hold two public hearings. Mr. Johns thanked the Board for their time.</p>
CLOSED SESSION	<p>Ms. Joyce Karon moved that the Board enter into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois under <u>Section c 11</u> for the purpose of considering pending or probable litigation against or affecting the Board. Ms. Karon further moved that the Board may invite anyone they wish to have included in this closed session. Dr. Chris Ward seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p> <p>The Board went into closed session at 8:50 a.m.</p>
RECONVENED	<p>The Board reconvened for the open meeting at 9:10 a.m.</p>
HARCOURT CONTRACT REVISION	<p>Chairman Ruiz asked General Counsel Darren Reisberg to give the Board an overview of this proposed agenda item. Mr. Reisberg commented that the purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to approve the revision of the Harcourt Assessment, Inc. (HAI) contract for the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) development and administration services, so that the contract is</p>

reduced and HAI retains responsibilities primarily related to test development and scoring.

Mr. Reisberg explained that the transferring of the ISAT processing and production to a new contractor is in progress, and a reduction of HAI's ISAT responsibilities have been determined. Upon the reduction of HAI's contract, it will maintain the following ISAT services:

- Custom item development for reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and for science in grades 4 and 7;
- Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition (Stanford 10) test content in reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and for science in grades 4 and 7;
- Test forms construction (including embedded pilot items and Braille and large-print forms)
- Test booklet, answer document, and Test Administration Manual composition;
- Test Deck (mock data) verification;
- Test equating and scaling;
- Application of scoring algorithms for custom and Stanford 10 items;
- Item analysis reports by grade/subject (printed);
- Camera ready copy of released items;
- Research and development on computerized testing; and
- Final annual technical manuals (camera ready).

The term would continue to be FY 07 and FY08 and we would propose to add another year (FY09) onto that initial contract and five optional one-year renewal periods.

Mr. Ruiz thanked Mr. Reisberg and asked if Board members had any questions. There were none.

Motion

Dr. Chris Ward moved that WHEREAS, in November 2004, the Illinois State Board of Education entered into a Contractual Agreement with Harcourt Assessment, Inc. to assist ISBE in the development and implementation of enhanced versions of ISAT and state-developed components of the PSAE, and

WHEREAS at the May 2006 meeting, the State Board authorized the State Superintendent to negotiate and develop a revised contractual framework for the ISAT and PSAE which would provide for:

1. Harcourt Assessment's continuation of ISAT test development;
2. Transfer of ISAT processing and production to a new contractor in a manner that ensures the schedule of the 07 assessment;
3. Transfer of PSAE responsibilities to ACT, to the extent deemed feasible by ISBE and ACT; and
4. Harcourt's assumption of responsibility for damages resulting from its failure to perform.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on this 4th day of October, 2006, the Illinois State Board of Education hereby moves to amend Harcourt Assessment, Inc.'s contract to reflect the reduced services and costs outlined by staff through September 30, 2009, with the option to renew for five additional one-year periods. Mr. Ed Geppert seconded the motion and it passed with a

	<p>unanimous roll call vote.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz announced that the next step will be for staff to complete the final negotiations necessary to amend and execute the contract.</p>
<p>ISAT ADMINISTRATION CONTRACT</p>	<p>Chairman Ruiz asked Mr. Reisberg to give the Board an overview of the next agenda item.</p> <p>Mr. Darren Reisberg explained that the purpose of this next agenda item is for the Board to award the ISAT Administration Services contract to Pearson Educational Measurement (PEM), a business of NCS Pearson, Inc., as the winning bidder of the Request for Sealed Proposals, subject to successful negotiations.</p> <p>The proposed terms of this agreement are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term: Effective October 11, 2006 through September 30, 2009. Agreement will automatically renew for five additional one year periods unless (a) ISBE notifies the Contractor within 180 days, or (b) Contractor notifies ISBE within 365 days. • Contract amount: FY 2007, \$8,917,913; FY2008, \$10,820,790; FY2009, \$11,002,065; and FY10, \$2,191,814. The maximum amount payable under the Agreement's initial Term (including travel) is \$32,932,582. • Scope of Services: The primary tasks for the administration contractor, with the requirement that quality processes exist throughout, include-- ISAT printing (layout, proofing, and printing), including ISAT assessment, administration manuals, informational bulletins, technical reports and reports to schools and students; providing online assessment enrollment services for districts; providing student, school, district labeling; providing school testing rosters; test distribution; monitoring and auditing secure assessment administration; test retrieval and accounting; providing range-finding and validation sessions for open response questions; scanning of multiple choice and open response answers; scoring multiple choice and open response answers; providing Raw Scores from multiple choice and open response test questions to Harcourt Assessment Inc. for final scoring; providing on-line services for review for demographics data and score review; preparing electronic and printed reports of assessment results for students and schools; providing coordination between the development and administration contractor; integrating data from all assessment program (ISAT, IMAGE, PSAE and IAA); and providing data disks reporting results to school districts. <p>Mr. Reisberg indicated that although this is not an all-inclusive list of the scope of the agreement, staff is available should there be any questions.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked Mr. Reisberg what protections are in place to ensure that we do not encounter the same problems we have had in the past year. Mr. Reisberg indicated that the procurement process was modified such that all the terms in the agreement were spelled out when the RFSP was released. Another difference is that there is no cap on the overall amount of liquidated damages.</p> <p>In addition an oversight body has been incorporated to ensure that the administrative contractor and any subcontractors agree to fully cooperate with any third-party oversight contractors that ISBE may designate.</p> <p>Mr. Ruiz asked if there were any issues with Pearson when they handled the</p>

	<p>contract prior to Harcourt. Mr. John Craig responded that there have always been problems that arise, but never have there been problems similar in scale to what occurred with the Spring 2006 assessment.</p> <p>Mr. Ruiz asked if there were any further questions. There were none.</p> <p><u>Motion</u> Dr. Vinni Hall moved that the Illinois State Board of Education award the contract for the ISAT administration services, including scanning and editing, to Pearson Educational Measurement, Inc., with the contract not to exceed \$36,000,000.00 for the initial term. Dr. David Fields seconded the motion and it passed with the following roll call vote.</p>
<p>Motion for Adjournment</p>	<p>Dr. Chris Ward moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Ed Geppert seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary

Mr. Jesse Ruiz
Chairman