

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Retreat
Crystal Room
Northfield Inn & Suites
3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois
August 22 – 24, 2007

NOTE: Times are approximate for planning purposes.

The Board may move to go into closed session as necessary for purposes allowed in the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Public Conference Call Number: 1-866-297-6391 (listen only); Confirmation #: 1 8 6 5 5 7 9 8

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

A. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

B. Illinois College and Work Readiness Partnership (*Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., State Superintendent*)

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Lunch Break

12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

C. Statewide Demographics and Diversity of Teachers and Administrators

(*Steve Tozer, Professor of Policy Studies, UIC & Jennifer Presley, IL Education Research Council*)

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. – Break

3:15 – 5:00 p.m.

D. Chairman's Discussion as to Board's Policy Role

5:00 p.m. – Recess for the day

Thursday, August 23, 2007

Reconvene

Public Conference Call Number: 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation #: 1 8 6 5 5 8 0 2

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

E. The Future of High Schools in Illinois

(*Susie Morrison and Dick Spohr, Retired Principal*)

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. – Lunch Break

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

F. Board Self Evaluation (CLOSED SESSION**)** (*Brenda Welburn, Executive Director, NASBE*)

Section c 16 for the purpose of self evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics while meeting with a representative of the National Association of State Boards of Education.

3:30 p.m. - Reconvene in Open Session

Public Conference Call Number: 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation #: 1 8 6 5 5 8 0 2

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

G. Board Operations Topics (*Chris Ward, Chair, Board Operations Committee*)

5:00 p.m. – Recess for the day

Friday, August 24, 2007

Reconvene

Public Conference Call Number: 1-866-297-6391 (*listen only*); Confirmation #: 1 8 6 5 5 8 0 5

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

H. P-20 Legislative Update: What's Next? (*Joyce Karon, Board Member*)

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

I. FY08 Budget Update (*Dean Clark, Chair, Finance & Audit Committee*)

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. – *Break*

10:15 – 12:30 p.m.

J. Closed Session with Superintendent Koch

Section c1 for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of an employee.

K. Adjourn

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**Illinois State Board of Education Meeting
MINUTES
Annual Board Retreat
August 22-24, 2007
Northfield Inns & Suites Conference Center
3280 Northfield Drive
Springfield, Illinois**

<p>WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22, 2007</p> <p>A. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</p>	<p>Secretary, Vinni Hall, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Hall asked Ms. Jean Ladage, Assistant to the Board, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent of Education, was also in attendance.</p> <p>The Board members, Dr. Koch and anyone who wished to join them faced the American flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman (Joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.) Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary Dr. Andrea Brown Mr. Dean Clark Dr. David Fields Ms. Brenda Holmes Ms. Joyce Karon</p> <p><u>Members Absent:</u> Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman</p> <p><u>Others Present:</u> Chris Koch, State Superintendent of Education Rene Valencenio, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning Marica Cullen, Division Administrator, Curriculum & Instruction Terry Chamberlian, Division Administrator, Data Systems Divisions Connie Wise, Division Administrator, Data Analysis & Progress Reporting Beth Hanselman, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education Services Matt Vanover, Director of Public Information Scott Norton, Division Administrator, Technology Support Jon Furr, Holland + Knight Elliot Regenstein, Holland + Knight Darren Reisberg, General Counsel Andrea Wingo, Student Advisory Council Liaison Marsha Moffett, Board Services Secretary Jean Ladage, Board Services Coordinator Debbie Meisner-Bertauski, Illinois Board of Higher Education Judy Erwin, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education Elaine Johnson, Vice-President, Instruction & Policy Studies, ICCB</p>
<p>B. ILLINOIS COLLEGE AND WORK READINESS PARTNERSHIP</p>	<p>State Superintendent Chris Koch opened the discussion by providing information regarding the progress of the standards and data elements. He shared a working draft of the proposed scope of work with ACHIEVE and an update on the Gates Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The purpose of Phase I of the MOU is to bring resources into the agency to complement our review and maintenance of the Illinois Standards, so that they can better withstand national scrutiny. Phases II and III of the MOU will help us implement quality data systems and assist with the interventions we provide to school districts.</p> <p><u>Board Members Questions, Comments and Concerns</u> There was much discussion and agreement that it is time that the standards be changed, but concern about a need for effective implementation. It was agreed</p>

that stakeholders need to be involved in the revision of the standards.

Dr. Koch stated that when standards are aligned, in place, and used they make a difference in terms of student achievement. He also noted that the Gates MOU is structured to deal with these issues simultaneously: the standards, the data and targeted interventions.

Ms. Holmes asked for clarification on the following questions:

- Who are the experts that approved the “exemplary standards”?
- Regarding the Scope of Work: Illinois under Focus: Who determines what the appropriate choices are for students to learn?
- Coherence: Do the standards and performance descriptors convey a unified vision of the discipline?
- Who determines what the united vision is and where is it coming from? Is Gates paying ACHIEVE to provide us with something we already know? We know that the standards are outdated, too broad and need to be revised. Ms. Holmes also wanted to know who the appropriate stakeholders are that the letter should go to.

Dr. Hall commented that she is opposed to universal standards in the United States.

Mr. Regenstein commented that on the national level, CCSSO and NASBE are discussing ways for the states to take ownership of the standards issue rather than having it evolve to national standards. If states work together to raise the level of state standards across the nation that's a better solution. If this is the direction that the standards go in regards to the Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, then all of the work we are doing is extremely necessary and very valuable. If all states agree there is a need, the report will help the states to galvanize the people that need to be involved. The report could also provide a roadmap for the process of revision or a good starting point for discussion. Ms. Holmes stated that she would be curious to see the 33 states' standards that ACHIEVE has reported on to make sure that they do not have the same standards which Dr. Hall is opposed to, which is national standards.

Dr. Koch commented that when NCLB was passed, it was inevitable that the question of nation or even global standards would be raised. Each state is investing a lot of money to ensure their assessments align to their standards. There are many similarities among state standards This is why national standards are being discussed. States with lower standards are rewarded by having LEAs making AYP with greater frequency than those with high standards.

Many in the field feel that that the standards are one of the few things that have been consistent in the last few years, that they can identify with what the State Board wants. Updating the standards and how we implement them could signal to the field that there is a whole new game; we would lose credibility, which is critical for interacting with our educators. No matter how we communicate the standards to the field, those schools that have been performing will continue to do so, and the struggling schools will struggle even more.

Districts and staffs have been working very hard to implement the standards that are now out there. It will take the development of a good marketing and communication plan in order to implement the revised standards.

	<p>It was noted that the presence of representatives from ICCB and IBHE is a positive step and that, perhaps, it would be good to add student representation.</p> <p>Following a request for a definition of P-20, the following responses were given.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P-20 is PreKindergarten (Age 3) through Graduate School. • P-16 was the completion of school but we now know through research that is not the case. Skills need to be updated through our lifetime, and that is how it has gone from P-16 to P-20. <p>It was noted that, most importantly, there is a connection from one level of education to another and there is expectation of the introduction and mastery of a subject.</p> <p>Dr. Koch stated that given the P-20 legislation and the obvious need for being able to follow students after high school, we are prioritizing work for this linkage with college readiness and data enhancements. We have also been working with the Board of Higher Education to develop and implement a high school feedback report using the ACT template, which we feel will provide high school administrators and teachers more relevant data about their students. Keep in mind that such ideas didn't come from pursuing a Data Quality Campaign target unto itself, but in response to what high school practitioners have said would be useful to their work. This must remain the focus of our data efforts.</p>
Lunch Break	<p>There was a short recess at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and the meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m.</p>
C. STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS AND DIVERSITY OF TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS	<p>Jennifer Presley of the Illinois Education Research Consortium (IERC) presented a Power Point presentation on Illinois Teachers: Where They Are Teaching And Which New Teachers Are Leaving. The presentation reviewed a study of teacher retention data, dispelling myths about the attractiveness of the teacher profession. The study was conducted by the IERC following an analysis of 35 years of teacher data.</p> <p>Steve Tozer of the University of Illinois Chicago presented a Power Point presentation titled High-Leverage Policy For Improving Student Learning In Schools With High-Poverty, High Minority Enrollments. The presentation pointed out the importance of principal leadership and how school culture leads to student success in schools.</p>
D. CHAIRMAN'S DISCUSSION AS TO BOARD'S POLICY ROLE	<p>Chairman Ruiz stated that the presentations by Jennifer Presley and Steve Tozer were very informative; he now asked the Board for their input and comments on what they can do as a Board to move forward on the information and make changes or policy initiatives.</p> <p>Dr. Hall replied that an article she recently read reflected on what a school board can do to improve. The article stated that those decisions fall into one of these three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.How do we maintain what we have? 2.Monitoring: overseeing the advocacy of programs and policies that work. 3.Sustainability: What is it we can put in place that will support the people we are responsible for? <p>Dr. Hall also questioned, what are the things we make decisions on that are really going to affect the field? Are we monitoring or sustaining, and coming up with new ideas?</p>

Chairman Ruiz stated that he felt a good place to start would be with Brenda Holmes and Nicole Wills by creating our own bills. The Burnham Plan was an example of how the agency often gets left out. We could have been doing a lot of what was mentioned in the plan or we could have proposed the ideas. But we do not always have the help and capacity in the agency. We, as a Board, need our own plans to designate what we are going to strive for and we as a group need to decide how we will do that.

Dr. Brown commented that it was not just the Burnham Plan we were left out of, but the Health Plan, too. She added there were things in it that she wished had started with the Board. She feels that our committee structure has been more informational than building. She hopes that some of our staff and new staff will identify more of these needs to the Board.

Chairman Ruiz said he would be grateful if staff would come forward with recommendations to the Board. We could start a process by which these recommendations could be considered and potentially move forward.

Mr. Clark stated the process needs to start at the committee level so that the committees are used effectively, then possibly go to legal for review. The process should start with the committees. Dr. Fields recommended that we put a template in place to start the process.

Ms. Holmes commented that the Governmental Relations area does have a process in place that is similar to what they are discussing.

Ms. Karon added that the Board does not give themselves credit for the things they have accomplished. She is concerned that we have limited staff and are duplicating processes in different areas of the agency.

Darren Reisberg and Jean Ladge agreed to review the Governmental Relations template and create a template to present to the Board for their review. It was agreed that the template steps would be as follows:

1. The template will be created. It will include sources and research information.
2. The template with the suggestions will be presented during the board meeting New Business session.
3. The Board will decide if the suggestion is worth pursuing.
4. The Superintendent will decide what committee it should be assigned to.
5. The Superintendent will take the template with suggestion back to staff within the second month.

The Board determined the following to be issues they should further explore and the Board members designated have agreed to present them on a template:

- Teacher and Administrator Diversity: Vinni Hall
- Overall Student Performance: Andrea Brown
- Waivers: Brenda Holmes & Joyce Karon
- Restructuring: Andrea Brown
- Type 75 Certification: Jesse Ruiz

<p>RECESS FOR THE DAY</p>	<p>Motion Joyce Karon moved that the Annual Board Retreat recess until 8:30 a.m. Thursday, August 23, 2007. Dean Clark seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.</p> <p>The Board recessed their Retreat at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 22, 2007 and announced that they will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, August 23, 2007.</p>
<p>THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2007</p> <p>RECONVENE</p>	<p>The Annual Board Retreat reconvened on Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 8:34 a.m.</p>
<p>E. THE FUTURE OF HIGH SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS</p>	<p>Susie Morrison and Dick Spohr of the Illinois North Central Association did a presentation on the Future of High Schools in Illinois. Ms. Morrison stated that she hopes that ISBE can move this high school conversation, from conversation to action. Mr. Spohr commented that he hopes the ideas that were presented leave the Board with a clear policy direction to improve the outcomes for all Illinois youth. They concluded with a number of recommendations including:</p> <p>Recommendation #1: Define specifically what all students must know and be able to do to achieve college and workplace standards.</p> <p>Recommendation #1: Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and provide high schools mid-term and end-of-term assessments for Illinois Core Classes. • Encourage enriched opportunities such as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate at high school level. • Establish accountability standards for high schools that reward those schools whose graduates achieve college and workplace readiness standards. <p>Recommendation #2 Articulate an aligned, seamless system for P-12 education and build a bridge to post secondary education and employment.</p> <p>Recommendation #2: Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with post secondary educators and the private sector to define and publicize clear expectations for success in college and the workplace. • Evaluate and realign ISAT and PSAE in order to achieve a developmentally appropriate sequence of standards and expectations. • Advance innovations in support of the 9th grade. • Expect and encourage every student to complete a well defined plan for graduation and career. • Create opportunities for maximizing the senior year through acceleration and remediation at college level. • Support the development and use of a pre-K to 16 longitudinal data system.

	<p>Recommendation #3 Support schools with research and best practice information</p> <p>Rec. #3: Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and disseminate best practice information on a regular basis. • Encourage and support innovative practices at the local level. • Identify Illinois schools demonstrating improvement and share their strategies. <p>Recommendation #4 Provide schools a comprehensive system of assessment resources.</p> <p>Rec. #4: Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide EPAS assessments, linkages and related resources to all Illinois High Schools. • Examine other Workkey measures as means to assess workplace readiness. • Develop benchmark assessments and make available to schools and teachers. • Provide meaningful data analysis for school and classroom use. • Expect and reward the use of PSAE results as a basis for expansion and remediation during the senior year. • Develop a partnership with the private sector to systematically assess and use workplace readiness standards. <p>Recommendation #5 Commit to a course of action and stay the course. <i>“In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.”</i> Eric Hoffer</p>
RECESS	The open meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and the Board went into closed session at 12:35 a.m.
F. CLOSED SESSION	<p>Motion Dr. Hall moved that the Board enter into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section 16c for the purpose of self evaluation, practices and procedures of professional ethics while meeting with a representative (Brenda Welburn, Executive Director, NASBE) of the National Association of State Board of Education</p> <p>Dr. Hall further moved that the Board might invite anyone they wish to have included in this closed session. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p>
RECONVENED	The open meeting reconvened at 3:50 p.m.
G. BOARD OPERATIONS TOPICS	Chairman Ruiz noted that Jean Ladage has provided the Board with a summary document on how other states process board meeting information to their Board members. The Board discussed the option of a secure website for Board members to access preliminary information. Scott Norton stated that it would be possible to secure a website for the Board members to access and

	<p>that he and Jean will continue to pursue the issue and report back to the board. Board members also agreed to organize the board packet by committees instead of plenary and committees. They agreed to keep the committee meetings as they are now and they will do committees of the whole as they feel are needed. Ms. Holmes asked that the Ad Hoc Committee be put on the agenda at the end of the meeting. Dr. Fields asked that all committees observe the time restraints and stay within them.</p>
RECESS FOR THE DAY	<p>The Board recessed their Annual Board Retreat meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2007 and announced that they will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. Friday, August 24, 2007.</p>
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2007 RECOVENE	<p>The Annual Board Retreat reconvened on Friday, August 24, 2007 at 8:32 a.m.</p>
H. P-20 Legislative Update: What's Next?	<p>Ms. Karon reported that she attended the Education Trust Conference which was centered on high school standards and reforming high schools around the country. There are a lot of things taking place that we need to be aware of.</p> <p>The Education Trust has recommendations for NCLB that involve graduation requirements. Highly Qualified Teachers is another issue that will be included in the reauthorization of NCLB. Ms. Karon stated that P-20 will be included in the recommendations going to NCLB and she agreed with the statement Brenda Holmes made earlier that all education stakeholders need to have a common definition for P-20.</p> <p>Dr. Koch assured the Board members that he has staff working with the ICCB and IBHE to make recommendations and advise on the issues. Ms. Karon noted that she would like an agency person to attend the IBHE Master Planning Sessions when we are invited to share input.</p> <p>Dr. Koch shared with the Board an update that Melina Wright received from the USDE.</p> <p>Ms. Wills updated the Board on state legislation noting recent legislation will establish a P-20 Council requiring greater collaboration between the Illinois Community College Board, Board of Higher Education and ISBE. Issues regarding governance and tasks to be undertaken by the council were discussed.</p> <p>Debbie Meisner-Bertauski, Illinois Board of Higher Education, stated she is pleased to see ISBE, ICCB and IBHE working together on P-20 issues.</p>
I. FY08 BUDGET UPDATE	<p>Ms. Mitchell stated if we think about where we were when we started in the budget process, we can see we are now in a very good place. It is a very positive budget but there are still details to be worked out. Staff will be working to get clarification on the budget when the legislature returns.</p> <p>Mr. Wickenhauser shared a budget chart. He commented that staff would be paying close attention to funding for Early Childhood Education and how the COLA will be used. Teacher Mentoring and Principal Mentoring will also be two areas to pay close attention to. The textbook loan program funding cycle will change from two years to three years. Growth Model money is included in the budget and they have reinstated the Gifted Education Program and Fast Growth Grants.</p>

	<p>New funding includes three programs: Targeted Interventions, Technology Initiatives and Hard to Staff Schools Incentives.</p> <p>The budget for the ADA Block Grant added funding for private schools, however, the Governor vetoed the increase. If the language remains the same in the BIMP bill, all others schools will receive a decrease in their funding for ADA and the Block Grant. Additionally, we do not collect ADA for private schools. The numbers are to be based on the previous year, and we have no way to audit the numbers they give us, so that is a concern.</p> <p>Mr. Wickenhauser stated that the Arts and Foreign Language grant funds were completely vetoed. The Board asked for \$1.5 million for increasing our operational budget to pay for our contractual obligations we have with the unions. About \$600,000 of the request was vetoed and staff are still assessing the impact on the agency. Ms. Holmes stated that perhaps the field needs to be aware of the impact the budget has on our resources.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz commented that every year we are expected to do more with less, and do it better. There is a physical limit, and you have to reach out and determine what that limit is. Mr. Ruiz commented that he believes we are very close to being there.</p> <p>Dr. Fields noted that we can only go so long before it starts to have an impact. Chairman Ruiz said that we need to talk about a strategy plan to get the staff we need for next year's budget.</p>
<p>J. CLOSED SESSION WITH SUPERINTENDENT KOCH</p>	<p>Ms. Karon moved that the Board enter into closed session under the exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section c 1 for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, performance or dismissal of an employee;</p> <p>Ms. Karon further moved that the Board might invite anyone they wish to have included in this closed session.</p> <p>Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz announced that there will be no further action taken after returning from the closed session other then to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>The open meeting recessed at 10:00 a.m. and the Board went into closed session at 10:15 a.m. The open meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m.</p>
<p>K. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Dr. Hall moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Fields seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary

Mr. Jesse Ruiz
Chairman