Call to order and welcome: Task Force Co-Chair Soto called the meeting to order at approximately 9:50 AM.

A. Roll call for attendance was called by Mr. Keigher, ILGA staff to the Task Force. Present: Rep. Soto; Sen. Steans; Rep. Golar; Clarice Berry, Chicago Principals and Administrators Assoc.; Robert Runcie, Chicago Public Schools; Xian Barrett, Chicago Teachers Union; Cecile Carroll, Blocks Together; Andrea Lee, Grand Blvd Federation; Rene Heybach, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Sen. Martinez, Rep. Pritchard, and Don Moore, Designs for Change. Also in attendance: John Keigher, ILGA staff to the Task Force, Office of the Speaker; Jacqueline Leavy, Pro Bono Advisor to the CEFTF.

B. Establishment of a quorum: With 11 Members present, quorum was established.

Approval of Prior Minutes (February 7th, 2011 Meeting)
In consideration of the limited time for review and discussion of Task Force recommendations, the Co-Chairs tabled the item until the next meeting.

Overview Presentation: Findings and Preliminary Recommendations
Ms. Leavy, Pro Bono Advisor to the Task Force, then presented a PowerPoint Presentation (attached to these Minutes and to be posted to the ISBE website). The presentation summarized the public input the Task Force received from a wide array of stakeholders; as well as the analysis of CPS data on capital spending, facility needs assessment, and building utilization. The PowerPoint laid out how all of this input led to the formulation of the Task Force’s preliminary recommendations for reforms.

Public Input Report: Preliminary Recommendation Hearings
Ms. Lee, Co-Chair of the Task Force Subcommittee on Public Input then distributed a subcommittee report providing additional details of the results of focus groups, public hearings, written statements submitted to the Task Force, and a summary of the public comments made in Task Force meetings. The Subcommittee report also summarized the input gathered at 3 public hearings held in February 2011, subsequent to the posting and dissemination of the Task Force’s Preliminary Recommendations. During this round of public hearings, stakeholders provided feedback on the Recommendations.

Discussion on Modifications to the Preliminary Recommendations
Mr. Runcie commented upon the Preliminary Recommendation to establish an independent arbitration process in the event that school community members objected to CPS proposed School Actions. As CPS’ representative to the CEFTF, Mr. Runcie proposed that this recommendation be revised, to more clearly define who constituted a “majority” in such cases that would trigger arbitration. He also questioned the necessity of an arbitration process, and expressed concern about potential delays or impasses to CPS’ ability to finalize a School Action decisions. Additionally, Mr. Runcie posed the question about the future role of the Task Force Subcommittee on Facility Master Planning (FMP) and whether it would be appointed to serve a continuing role. Ms. Carroll responded
that the Preliminary Recommendations call for the establishment of a Facility Planning oversight body, and that members of the FMP could contribute to continuity in efforts to develop a long-range master plan. However it is probably premature to presume that would be the case. Mr. Runcie also described in some detail CPS’ recently established “Community Action Councils” that were created in several community areas, to work with stakeholders on planning for schools in those areas. Mr. Runcie suggested that the CPS CACs could play a larger role in implementing the Task Force recommendations. Dr. Berry raised questions about the standing of the CACs, and whether they have any real decision making authority, and suggested that specifically including the CACs in the Task Force Recommendations might be premature, until CPS can clarify their status.

Following discussion, there was consensus to re-work the language of this recommendation, i.e., a majority of currently enrolled students’ parents/guardians would have to request such arbitration.

No other revisions to the Preliminary Recommendations were made.

VI. Final Recommendations
The Co-Chairs called for the question. Mr. Barrett made the motion, and Ms. Lee seconded it, to adopt the Preliminary Recommendations as revised (see above, arbitration discussion) as the Final Recommendations of the Task Force to the Illinois General Assembly; and to serve as the key recommended provisions of legislation to be introduced to the 97th Session. The motion to adopt the Final Recommendations was approved on a roll call vote, 9 “Yeas” – 1 Abstention.

VII. Public Comment – Co-Chair Soto said that the Public Comment period would be limited due to time constraints. Two members of the public spoke:

Ms. Lauriel Hinton, a student at the CHI-ARTS High School, testified that students were told that their school would be re-located to a new building. To date, this has not occurred, and she expressed that she and other students felt this was unfair to them, and that their learning suffered from the limitations of the current facility.

Ms. Emma Lawrence, a student at South Shore High School, told the Task Force about the poor condition of the current facility, which includes rodent infestation in the school library, and a lack of adequate heat. The classrooms are very cold. Ms. Lawrence also stated that the current students are very disappointed that they will not be attending the newly constructed high school building, which was initially described to students and their families as a replacement facility for the sub-par building in which the students are currently located. She expressed great disappointment that she will not be going to school in the new facility.

Co-Chair Soto thanked the speakers for the input, and explained that these are the kinds of situations that the Task Force wants CPS to address better in the future.

VIII. Conclusion
Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn. Dr. Berry seconded the motion; and the motion was approved by voice vote. The CEFTF meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 pm.