I. Call to order: Co-Chair Rep. Cynthia Soto called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 pm.

A. Roll call: The following Task Force members were in attendance: State Rep. Cynthia Soto, CEFTF Co-Chair; State Sen. Heather Steans, CEFF Co-Chair; State Sen. Iris Martinez; State Rep. Esther Golar; State Rep. John Pritchard (via phone conferencing); Cecile Carroll, Blocks Together; Rene Heybach, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Valencia Rias, Designs for Change; Andrea Lee, Grand Blvd. Federation; Interim representative of the Chicago Teachers Union, Norine Gutenkanst; Bill Gerstein, Alternate for Mr. Runcie, Chicago Public Schools.

B. Establishment of a quorum: There being 11 members present, quorum was established.

C. Welcoming remarks: Co-Chairs Soto and Steans, Sen. Martinez, and Rep. Golar all made Welcoming Remarks. Each thanked their fellow task force members for their hard work over more than 13 months, to solicit public input, pursue research, and develop reform recommendations that resulted in the passage of IL Senate Bill 0630. Each of the 4 legislators also thanked the members of the public for providing extensive input and insight into the struggles that neighborhood public schools and students were facing in the wake of CPS’ past School Actions; and identifying and submitting their facility needs at the task force’s public hearings and meetings. They all commended the educators, both principals and teachers who had provided their input; and expressed their commitment to work with the new Mayor and Chicago Public Schools administration to implement the reforms embodied in SB0630.

D. Approval of prior minutes: Minutes of the February 7, 2011; March 11, 2011; and special session March 28, 2011, were reviewed by the Task Force. Sen. Steans moved that the Minutes of these meetings be approved and accepted; Sen. Martinez seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

II. Explanation of SB 630: The Co-Chairs called on Task Force pro bono Advisor Jacqueline Leavy to assist with the PowerPoint presentation outlining the key provisions in SB0630, and the timetable for their implementation by Chicago Public Schools. Co-Chair Soto led off the presentation, Ms. Leavy assisted, and Rep. Soto concluded with a challenge to the members of the public and stakeholders in our public schools to be active participants in the more open decision making and planning processes provided in SB0630.

The PowerPoint Presentation is attached to these Minutes, and shall be posted to and made available to the public on the Illinois State Board of Education website, at: www.isbe.net/CEF.

The Continued Role of the CEFTF: Co-Chair Soto and other Task Force members joined together in explaining to the members of the public present at the meeting, that the CEFTF is re-authorized by SB0630; will continue to hold regular open meetings; conducts its own public hearings as needed, and continue to regularly solicit broad public input on CPS’ School Actions, facility planning and spending. Moreover as mandated in SB0630, the Task Force will monitor
CPS’ implementation of the provisions of the new law and issue an Annual Report on CPS’ progress.

III. **Public Comment:** The Co-Chairs then opened the meeting to Public Comment. Nine people requested to speak.

Four representatives of the faculty and administration of Avondale Elementary School testified about the consolidation of their school with Logandale: Dr. Ana Martinez Estka, Ana Cabrera, Maria Hurtado, and Dolores Reyes. Each attested to the confusion for students and teachers alike that the consolidation is causing. They also pointed out that the consolidation is resulting in lay-offs of classroom aides and teachers, without adequate notice or explanation. Sen. Martinez responded that she would like to meet with CPS officials to get more information on the situation.

Trina Hollingsworth testified about Schneider Elementary School, which was closed by CPS Board vote this Spring, with its students to be sent to Jahn Elementary in the Fall. This will result in hardship for former Schneider parents and students who are not receiving much information, and have not been offered or received any help with transportation plans so that their children will be able to get to Jahn when school resumes.

Cyd Langston, Grand Blvd Federation testified that members of the public now have to work hard to ensure there is a truly comprehensive and inclusive Facility Master Plan.

Alfred Rodgers, Latinos of the Southwest, Morrill Local School Council, testified that his concern is whether CPS will develop adequate new standards on what facility components and amenities all schools will get. For example, he pointed to the need for adequate facilities for Arts and Music, full auditorium facilities, science and math classrooms; and asked if all neighborhoods will get equal treatment.

Ms. Trish Abbott, a graduate student interning with Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, asked the Task Force whether the legislation gives the CEFTF any enforcement powers, in the event that CPS fails to comply with the new law. Senators Steans and Martinez both responded, along with Rep. Soto, that Chicago Public Schools “signed off” on (i.e., agreed to) the final draft of SB0630, and the Task Force is working on good faith that CPS is a collaborative partner and has recognized and accepted the need for the reforms. Sen. Martinez and Rep. Soto also pointed out that if there are major problems with collaboration and implementation, the General Assembly always has the option of amending and strengthening the law.

Robert Elchert, 3rd Ward Office, asked Task Force members to clarify the language in SB0630 regarding School Transition Plans: He expressed concern that the provision of transportation “when practicable” needs to be clarified. Co-Chair Soto said this concern would be duly noted, and further discussed with CPS.

Josephine Norwood, a public school parent of 3 children, and leader in the Parent Peer Empowerment Network in Bronzeville, testified that she was gratified that the General Assembly had taken action, as her children had suffered due to past CPS School Actions: They
went through 3 successive school closures as a family, and her children had been moved around among 4 different schools in 7 years. Ms. Norwood expressed her hope that other families and students would not have to go through such disruptions, and thanked the Task Force for their hard work.

IV. Conclusion: Upon hearing the input of the public, Task Force member Rene Heybach (Chicago Coalition for the Homeless) moved that the Task Force adopt a Resolution as follows:

“RESOLVED, BY THE ILGA CHICAGO EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES TASK FORCE, THAT THE TASK FORCE URGES THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO IMMEDIATELY implement all of the School Transition Plan provisions in SB00630 for students impacted by the School Actions approved by the CPS Board at in the Spring of 2011.”

The motion was seconded by Valencia Rias. After a brief discussion, the Motion was adopted by a roll call vote of 10 in favor, none opposed, and one abstention.

The Co-Chairs directed staff to send a letter to CPS’ recently appointed Board President David Vitale and CPS’ new CEO Jean Claude Brizard, notifying them of the CEFTF Resolution, and requesting a meeting with them to discuss the urgent need for school transition services for recently affected school.

There being no other new business, Rep. Golar moved to adjourn the meeting, with the CEFTF being in recess until further notice. Sen. Steans seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously by voice vote.