



Illinois State Board of Education

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www.isbe.net

Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 26, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Matt Vanover
217-782-4648

Illinois State Board of Education announces special meeting on Monday, March 2

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

Special Board Meeting via video conference Monday, March 2, 2009 4:00 p.m.

Chicago Location: ISBE Video Conference Room,
James R. Thompson Center
14th Floor, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

Springfield Location: ISBE Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

This meeting will also be audio cast on the Internet at: www.isbe.net

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call
- B. Public Participation
- C. Approval of Contract for Scoring 2009 ISAT Writing Assessment
- D. Update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- E. Adjourn

All State Board of Education meetings are 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
March 2, 2009
Special Board Meeting
(via teleconference)

ROLL CALL	<p>Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, called the Special Board Meeting of the Illinois State Board of Education to order at 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked Ms. Jean Ladage, Assistant to the Board, to call the roll. Dr. Chris Koch, State Superintendent of Education, was also in attendance in Springfield.</p> <p><u>Members Present via Teleconference:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">From ISBE Chicago Office Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman Dr. Christopher Ward, Vice Chairman Mr. Dean Clark Ms. Lanita Koster</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">From ISBE Springfield Office Ms. Brenda Holmes</p> <p><u>Members Present by Phone</u> Dr. Vinni Hall, Secretary Dr. Andrea Brown</p> <p><u>Members Absent</u> Ms. Joyce Karon Dr. David Fields</p> <p><u>Staff Present</u> Dr. Connie Wise Ms. Joyce Zurkowski Ms. Marcy Dutton Mr. Robert Wolfe Mr. Matt Vanover Ms. Mary Fergus Ms. Marsha Moffett</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> Mr. Daryl Morrison Mr. Dan Shomin Mr. O'Kema Lewis</p> <p>Chairman Jesse Ruiz announced that the Board Office has received a request from two members to participate by phone. Dr. Andrea Brown and Dr. Vinni Hall are unable to travel to the meeting sites due to business conflicts. These requests were received within 24 hours in advance of this meeting.</p> <p><u>MOTION</u> Mr. Clark moved that Dr. Brown and Dr. Hall be granted permission to participate by phone for today's meeting. Ms. Koster seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz noted that there are people attending the meeting in Chicago at the James R. Thompson Center, Conference Room A, V-Tel, 14th Floor and Springfield at the Illinois State Board of Education in the V-Tel Room, 3rd Floor, as well as by telephone. Board members in attendance today are participating via</p>
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	teleconference and phone from different locations.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	<p><u>Springfield Public Participation</u> None</p> <p><u>Chicago Public Participation</u> None</p>
Approval of Contract for Scoring 2009 ISAT Writing Assessment	<p>Chairman Ruiz indicated that the purpose of the meeting is to obtain contract approval for the scoring of the 2009 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for Writing.</p> <p>Superintendent Koch explained that there was a concern that had come to ISBE's attention in regards to an RFSP that was released, and whether there was enough time for vendors other than the most recent ISAT Writing vendor to adequately respond to a particular component of the RFSP. Dr. Koch stated that it took longer to get the RFSP out than expected due to staff limitations. In order to address the concerns and accommodate our needs at no additional cost to the state, the Agency is recommending an emergency contract for the 2009 scoring with our most recent ISAT Writing vendor—Measurement Incorporated. The deadline for the remainder of the RFSP was extended one week, with proposals due March 3.</p> <p>Dr. Koch commented that the issue of the writing assessment has also come up in the appropriations hearings—with legislators asking why we assess writing when federal law does not require it. Dr. Koch explained to the legislators that the writing assessment is a state mandate.</p> <p>Superintendent Koch noted that we would have increased cost this year because it has expanded to include another grade level. Dr. Wise stated that we would be testing 146,000 more 3rd grade students this year and the total tested will be 602,000. She also noted that the total can change with number of new students coming into a district. Measurement Incorporated reassured us that the work would be done properly in the time allocated. The assessment will cost approximately \$4.84 per student for FY09.</p> <p>Joyce Zurkowski indicated that the RFSP was posted for three weeks and when the decision was made to pull the 2009 scoring from the RFSP, the Agency extended that date from February 26, 2009 to March 3, 2009—thus allowing vendors five additional days to respond. The law requires that we post RFSPs for at least two weeks.</p> <p>Chairman Ruiz asked how many companies offered a bid on the RFSP in the past. Ms. Zurkowski stated four companies offered bids four years ago.</p> <p>Dr. Ward asked Superintendent Koch if he felt comfortable with the emergency contract and if he thought it was cost effective. Superintendent Koch responded by saying yes; he noted that Joyce Zurkowski has spent considerable time negotiating the cost.</p> <p><u>MOTION</u> Dr. Hall moved that the State Board hereby authorizes agency staff to approve an emergency procurement contract for ISAT Writing scoring services for fiscal year 2009 with Measurement Incorporated, for an amount not to exceed \$3,100,000. The contract will run from the date of execution through June 30, 2009.</p> <p>Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous roll call vote.</p>

<p>Update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009</p>	<p>Dr. Koch commented that we have received many calls from districts requesting information on the stimulus package and at this point we are advising the schools to continue with their budgets as if they were not getting the stimulus funding. Many school districts are planning for staff layoffs. The United States Department of Education has targeted this week for Secretary Duncan to get additional guidance and information out to the states.</p> <p>Superintendent Koch stated that he had been invited to Washington to meet with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Vice-President Joe Biden and Mrs. Biden. Secretary Duncan spent a lot of time talking about the incentive funds or what they call the "Reach To The Top Funds" and what we would need to do to be competitive. He also noted that states would be asked to address the following four criteria in the application process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detail description of uses of funds (obligated and unobligated). 2. Quarterly reports on both financial information and on program outcomes/results. 3. Estimated number of jobs created and retained. 4. Subcontracts and subgrants required to comply with Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. <p>Secretary Duncan also discussed other opportunities for states to apply for funds with other states.</p> <p>Vice-President Joe Biden let it be known that they would closely monitor the funds and that there would be federal rules to follow. Vice President Biden also commented that if there was any misuse of funds he would be the in the district where the funds were misspent to let the American people know.</p> <p>There were forty states present at the meeting.</p>
<p>Motion for Adjournment</p>	<p>Dr. Ward moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Vinni Hall
Board Secretary

Mr. Jesse Ruiz
Chairman