

Board of Directors Minutes — February 28, 2004

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois
February 28, 2004

Present:

Raymond Zimmerman	President	Flanagan
Marie Slater	Vice President	Wheaton
Christy M. Coleman	Immediate Past President	Geneseo
Joseph Alesandrini	Central Illinois Valley	Pekin
Lowell Beggs	Northwest	Amboy
Fred Blue	Starved Rock	Utica
Sara Brown	Egyptian	Carmi
Tariq Butt	Chicago Board of Education	Chicago
Fred Clatfelter	Wabash Valley	West York
Roger Edgecombe	Abe Lincoln	Maroa
Carol Farnum	Kishwaukee	Aurora
Thomas Hannigan	Treasurer, Lake	Mundelein
Steve Hawk	Blackhawk	Erie
Cheryl Jackson	Corn Belt	Bloomington
Kent Kistler	Kaskaskia	Brownstown
Debra McCleary	Three Rivers	Coal City
Helen McClelland	South Cook	Country Club Hills
Mark Metzger	DuPage	Aurora
Roger Pfister	Shawnee	Murphysboro
Michelle Skinlo	Illini	Charleston
Barbara Somogyi	North Cook	Elk Grove Village
Wesley G. Stellhorn	Southwestern	Baldwin
Gerald White	Western	Colchester

Absent:

David Barton	Two Rivers	Nebo
Donna Cech	West Cook	River Forest
David Henebry	Service Associates	LZT, Peoria
Ronald Szabo	IL Assn. of School Trustees	Oak Forest

Flip Chart Recorder	Mark Metzger
Timekeeper	Tom Hannigan
Process Observer	Roger Edgecombe
Recording Secretary	Patricia Culler

Call to Order

President Raymond Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., Crystal C Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Additions to/Approval of Agenda

Action: Joe Alesandrini moved, seconded by Fred Clatfelter and carried unanimously, that the agenda for the February 28, 2004 Board of Directors' Meeting be approved with the addition of two items—No Child Left Behind and the Alliance.

Approval of November 20 and 23, 2003 Minutes

Action: Mark Metzger moved, seconded by Helen McClelland and carried unanimously that the minutes for the November 20, 2003 Board of Directors' Meeting be approved as distributed and placed on file with a correction to the Sunday minutes to read November 23, 2003 rather than November 22.

Action: Wesley Stellhorn moved, seconded by Cheryl Jackson and carried unanimously, that the minutes for the November 23, 2003 Board of Directors' Meeting be approved as distributed and placed on file.

Consent Agenda

Action: Roger Pfister moved, seconded by Debora McCleary and carried unanimously, that Items 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Consent Agenda be accepted as printed and distributed in the meeting packet.

Monitoring Reports

ENDS/Mission, Pages 21-25

Action: Lowell Beggs moved, seconded by Fred Clatfelter, that the Mission statement as printed and distributed in the meeting packet is in compliance and the Association activities support the Ends.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS/Financial Condition, Pages 27-36

This policy is in compliance at this time with the updating of item 2, page 27, requiring a reserve of 3 months expenses in the amount of \$1,566,626 for fiscal year 2003-2004.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS/Communication and Counsel to the Board, Page 37

This policy is in compliance at this time.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS/Relationship with Suppliers, Page 39

This policy is in compliance at this time.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS/Treatment of Member Districts, Page 41

This policy is in compliance at this time.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/General Governance Commitment, Page 43

This policy is in compliance at the time.

Barbara Somogyi requested that any suggested changes to policies be given to the President in time for the Executive Committee to review them prior to advising the Board of same at least two weeks prior to a Board of Directors' Meeting.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/Governing Style

This policy is in compliance at this time.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/Board Job Description

This policy is in compliance at this time.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/President's Role

This policy is in compliance at this time.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/Annual Board Planning Cycle

This policy is in compliance at this time.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/Board Members' Code of Conduct

This policy is in compliance at this time.

Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Assumptions Preview

The Executive Director reviewed the 2005 budget assumptions:

- Staffing—Additional part-time staff and consulting services may be required to fulfill membership services.
- Electronic Delivery—May require equipment upgrades and consulting services.
- NCLB—A grant to provide support for 180 school districts developing NCLB school improvement plans will require 2-4 part-time contract staff members and 2 temporary support positions at the present time and may require 2 full-time staff members in the future. (He noted that the consideration of a wife and a husband of full-time staff for the part-time positions were not in violation of our staff employment policy since they would be on a contractual basis for a specific period of time.)

- New Programs—Consideration of new pooling and program endorsement programs will be continually considered.
- Budgetary Goal—A balanced budget continues to be the goal. The focal point of budget discussion remains “What services shall be provided to school boards and at what costs?”

2004-2005 Membership Dues

The Executive Director prefaced a discussion on membership dues by noting there has been no change in the dues, based on district enrollment and budget, in the past nineteen years. The caps on yearly dues increases resulting from these two factors are limited to \$85 for small districts and \$300 for large districts. He suggested:

Inflationary Cap Adjustment. Some type of yearly inflationary percentage be set on the caps which would allow them to keep pace with current growing budgetary costs. It was noted that although a district’s enrollment may not be growing, its yearly budget is. A three percent inflationary figure would result in a yearly increase of three dollars for a small district and nine dollars for a large district.

Equity Issue Addressment. The equity issue be addressed. There can be two districts with the same budget and same number of students—one a new district growing and one an established district not growing. There are presently 259 districts paying less than eighty percent of what their dues should be and twenty-three districts paying less than one-half of what their dues should be under the current dues schedule. Perhaps institution of a surcharge would bring the issue closer to equity over a ten-year period.

The Executive Director stated his goal is not to grow reserves, but to add more services and at the end of his tenure still leave the Association in as good as shape as when he came. He would like to see three-quarters of revenues put back into membership services. Presently Field Service Directors are serving approximately one hundred districts each. He would like to see this cut to fifty. It currently costs \$72 per person to furnish publications to each district board member. The dues paid by the smaller districts do not even cover this cost. At present, the larger portion of the Association budget is coming from entrepreneurship. Dues are providing less and less of the costs. The dues should be a revenue base. Income needs to be diversified; it is not prudent to have it coming from one major source.

The major themes of the ensuing discussion centered around: 1.) Mailing a list of what districts receive for their dues with the yearly dues statements. 2.) Increasing salesmanship connecting the value of services to dues. 3.) Placing an inflationary percentage on caps is realistic and equitable due to current circumstances, including the State Board controversy. Schools will be looking more and more to the Association for assistance and services.

Although there was support agreement for an adjustment to the present dues schedule, it was requested that actual action be delayed until the Board had been provided with written background information for consideration prior to taking official action. It was determined that the staff would prepare and mail this information to Directors and any problems/comments should be directed to the Executive

Director or the President prior to the May meeting. In the meantime, staff was instructed to prepare a 2004-2005 budget based on the proposal.

Action: Tom Hannigan moved, seconded by Carol Farnum and carried unanimously, that further discussion and any action be tabled until the May 14-15 Board of Directors' Meeting.

2004 Annual Conference Registration Fees

Action: Tom Hannigan moved, seconded by Michelle Skinlo and carried unanimously, that the 2004 Annual Conference Registration Fee be established at \$280 prior to the conference and \$300 onsite. (This is in accordance with Board action of May 16, 1998, that each year the fee be increased 4 percent, rounded to the nearest \$10 amount.)

Committee Appointments and Re-appointments

NSBA Delegate Assembly Appointments—Barbara Somogyi will replace Debora McCleary as an alternate to the 2004 NSBA Delegate Assembly. All other delegate/alternate assignments remain as reported at the November 23, 2004 Board of Directors' Meeting.

2004 Leadership Conference Discussion

The Executive Director requested Board reaction to the Leadership programming over the past two years that has been structured around the newly developed LeaderShop programs. Discussion consensus supported this programming pattern as a means for the division leadership to experience this educational exposure as a group and to interact and share ideas with one another. It was suggested that Field Services survey division leadership not in attendance to ascertain the reason and what they would come to hear and learn.

FRN Report and Legislative Update

Federal Relations Network. Associate Executive Director for Governmental Relations Ben Schwarm noted that a summary of the 2004 NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference, February 1-3, was distributed in the meeting packet. Illinois was represented by ten school board members/administrators who attended for two days of briefings on federal education issues and spent a day on Capitol Hill with legislative staff members discussing special education funding and reauthorization, NCLB, and school lunch reauthorization.

Legislative Update. Schwarm passed out and discussed a listing of the Governor's initiatives, bills on which action had been taken during the week and bills scheduled for committee for the following week. He discussed the upcoming Senate discussions of Governor Blagojevich's proposal to eliminate the State Board of Education agency and to create a brand new State Department of Education under the direct control of the Governor. The proposed new department would be headed by a Secretary of Education picked by the Governor. The Senate will meet as a "Committee of the Whole" on Wednesday, March 3. Chairman of the Governor's Education Accountability Taskforce Michael Bakalis will provide testimony on behalf of the Governor in support of the plan and State Superintendent of Schools Robert Schiller will address the Senate in opposition to the plan.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

In light of the 2003 Delegate Assembly's strong position on the No Child Left Behind legislation, Mark Metzger requested that staff compile and disseminate information on what is required of school districts. The Executive Director responded that the staff has tried to clarify what the rules will require schools to do and will offer assistance to district requests. He noted that at the high school level districts should be doing exit interviews with every student who leaves school, the only time you really have a drop out is where someone is getting no training, and if you turn down Title I money the sanctions do not apply.

Alliance PAC

Mark Metzger stated that we are coming into an election cycle, and PAC membership recruitment/funding needs to be stepped up. Fund disbursement decisions will be reviewed by Joe Alesandrini, Dave Barton, and Mark Metzger.

Adjournment

Action: Joe Alesandrini moved, seconded by Mark Metzger and carried unanimously that the meeting be adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the IASB Board of Directors will be held May 14-15, 2004, Springfield Hilton Hotel, Seventh and Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois.