Members Present:
Peg Agnos, Executive Director, Legislative Education Network of DuPage
Dr. Frances Carroll
Elizabeth Conran, The Menta Group
Charlotte Des Jardins, Director, Family Resource Center on Disabilities
The Honorable Charles Flowers, Regional Superintendent, Suburban Cook County
Elizabeth Hanselman, Designee - Illinois State Board of Education
Bridget Helmholz, Governmental Affairs Consultant, Illinois Association of Special Education Centers
Roxanne Kovacevich, Executive Director, Lockport Area Special Education Cooperative
The Honorable Kimberly Lightford, State Senator, District 4
Sally Masear, Director of Special Education, Tazewell Mason County Special Education Cooperative
The Honorable Sandra Pihos, State Representative, District 42
Dr. Sonya Whitaker, Director for Academic Improvement, Schaumburg School District 54

Staff Present:
Jason Hall, Budget Consultant
Tim Imler, Division Administrator, Funding and Disbursements
Linda Riley Mitchell, Chief Financial Officer
Shawn Rotherham, Legislative Liaison
Deb Vespa, Division Administrator, School Business Services
Toni Waggoner, Budget Consultant
Nicole Wills, Legislative Liaison

Opening Remarks
Elizabeth Hanselman opened the meeting and introduced the State Superintendent who gave brief remarks.

Ms. Hanselman distributed a list of members to those present. There are a few more to be added and ISBE hopes this is completed by the next meeting.

It was also reported that Representative Pihos has filed for a date extension in order for the task force to complete their work by August, 2009.

Illinois Funding
Jason Hall, Budget Consultant from the Illinois State Board of Education, gave an overview of Educational Funding including information on the property tax system in Illinois, the role of taxes in funding education, the role of the state, general state aid, general state aid funding formula, and education funding concerns/issues. There was also a brief introduction to the School Finance Redesign Project for Funding Student Learning.

After further discussion, it was determined that funding needs need to be studied, as well as how funding for special education can be increased. It was suggested that sub-committees be formed to look at various areas of interest.

Tim Imler provided the group with information pertaining to Claims for Mandated Categoricals. He explained the payment schedule:

1. September is the clean up time for claims from the previous year and also for 1st quarter payments
2. December - 2nd quarterly payment
3. March payment - 3rd quarterly payment
4. June payment - 4th quarterly payment

Tim also reviewed Chicago’s percentage of the categorical amount as follows:
   a. Excess-85% was ADA
   b. 15% Poverty = High Costs

Items for consideration when looking at funding are:
   1. What are we currently doing?
   2. Identify what are our emerging themes.
   3. Is there additional data necessary in going forth that will be needed?

**Funding Consultant Information**
Tom Parrish, Managing Resource Scientist from the American Institutes for Research will attend the next meeting on February 23, 2009.

Mr. Parrish will assist the task force in identifying emergent issues, sharing his research as to what we might want to think about, facilitating meetings, and writing the final report.

**Goals**
The task force goals are to:
   • identify what we need as a state going forth;
   • make recommendations to the General Assembly relative to issues in Special Education Funding; and
   • make recommendations on how our state might ease the burden to districts.