

February 12, 2004

BOARD STATEMENT CONCERNING RAMOS HEARING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

BOISE - In response to Hearing Officer Chas McDevitt's recommendation that Angel Ramos be reinstated as the superintendent of the School for the Deaf and the Blind, Executive Director of the State Board of Education Gary Stivers issued the following statement:

"Removing a sitting superintendent of a state agency is not something the State Board of Education undertakes lightly. To offer a fair and thorough process, Dr. Ramos was able to offer his opinions to the allegations brought against him to a hearing officer," said Stivers. "Mr. McDevitt's findings are a recommendation and will be forwarded to the Board. State Board members will ultimately make the decision to reinstate Dr. Ramos or to find new leadership for the school. I do have the option to ask for Mr. McDevitt to reconsider his recommendation and/or file exceptions to the recommendation with the Board and offer additional arguments. If I choose not to ask for reconsideration or file exceptions, I expect that this issue will be on the agenda at an upcoming board meeting."