

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (07-01) OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1,  
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER AND STATE OF COLORADO  
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, 900 GRANT STREET  
4:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 4:15 p.m.**

Ms. Peña called for an Executive Session to receive legal advice from an attorney regarding a teacher dismissal recommendation pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(b) and to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f). Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. Voting “Yes,” Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Jeannie Kaplan, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Ms. Theresa Peña. Ms. Jill Conrad and Mrs. Michelle Moss had not yet arrived.

**I. Call to Order – 4:30 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

President Theresa Peña called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Jill Conrad, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Jeannie Kaplan Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Ms. Theresa Peña.

Motion

Rev. Guzman moved to amend the Agenda for tonight’s meeting so as to add the first Agenda item: Board consideration of a hearing officer’s recommendation to dismiss a non-probationary teacher. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hoyt moved for acceptance of the Hearing Officer’s findings regarding the matter of Denver Public Schools versus Kathy Wells for the reasons set forth in the Hearing Officer’s decision and hereby recommend dismissal from her employment with the School District. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**North High School’s Black Masque Performance**

JoAnn Truillo Hays, Principal of North High School, and Jose Mercado, Director of the Black Masque Group, introduced the students who presented monologues on the themes of tolerance and diversity..

## **II. Board Member Reports**

Ms. Conrad reported on the Student Board of Education's district-wide campaign to promote pride in the district by encouraging high school students to put effort into the CASP test.

### **District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) Charter Recommendations**

Leo Smith, member of the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) presented the report. A copy if this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

In response to a question from Rev. Guzman, Mr. Smith said the DSIAC members unanimously recommended granting initial charter applications a five-year contract and a majority of DSIAC members recommended that charter renewal applications also be granted for five years.

Ms. Peña noted that the Board would hold a special Public Comment Session on Thursday, January 25, 2007, specifically on charter renewal. On February 1, the Board will receive recommendations from staff on the charter renewals; and on February 15 the Board will vote on the charter renewals.

### **School Year 2007-2008 Calendar Update**

Joseph Sandoval, Executive Director of Educational Services, presented the report. A copy if this report is appended the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Peña said that the Board would vote on the 2007-2008 school calendar at their meeting next Thursday, January 25. Any further comments can be emailed to [board@dpsk12.org](mailto:board@dpsk12.org).

## **III. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Bennet stated that he did not have a report, other than to note that the Board has some teacher dismissals for action.

## **IV. Consent Agenda**

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the Agenda items. Mr. Patterson moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

## **Board of Education**

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 16, 2006 and Special Meeting of December 12, 2006 – Copies are appended to the minutes of this meeting.

**Gift Report** – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

## **Finance and Audit Committee**

Motion to Ratify a Construction Contract for Parent Project 3021 – A copy of this motion, a construction contract for facility upgrade projects at Denison, Knapp, Force, and Sabin Elementary Schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Construction Contract for Parent Project 3080 – A copy of this motion, a construction contract for facility upgrade projects at Brown, Columbian, and Edison Elementary Schools and Skinner Middle School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify the Final Design Competition Report and the Firm of the DLR Group for the Design of Green Valley High School – A copy of this motion, a report on the High School Competition and Architect and Schematic Design for Green Valley High School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify the Final Design Competition Report and the Luis Acosta Architect firm for the Design of Stapleton High School – A copy of this motion, a report on the High School Competition and Architect and Schematic Design for Stapleton High School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify the Institute for Educational Equity (IEE) Services Agreement between the Piton Foundation and Denver Public Schools – A copy of this motion, a program of the Piton Foundation to provide a comprehensive range of services for nine schools to improve student learning and achievement; the contractual amount of the agreement is \$344,873, expenditures will be paid from the Mill Levy Fund via the School Innovation Grand process, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Memorandum of Understanding between Denver Public Schools and the Hope Center – A copy of this motion, an agreement to provide preschool services to ninety-five (95) students; the contractual amount of the agreement is \$256,500, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Memorandum of Understanding between Denver Public Schools and Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers – A copy of this motion, an agreement to provide preschool services to one hundred and three (103) students; the contractual amount of the agreement is \$278,100, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Professional Services Agreement between Denver Public Schools and Summer Scholars – A copy of this motion, an agreement which will provide No Child Left Behind supplemental education services in reading and/or math to a total of 547 students at eight elementary schools (Ashley, Fairmont, Gilpin, Hallet, Harrington, Mitchell, Smith, and Swansea), is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Professional Services Agreement between Denver Public Schools and the GEO Foundation Education Services – A copy of this motion, an agreement which will provide No Child Left Behind supplemental education services in reading and/or math to a total not to exceed 193 students at two elementary schools (Castro, and Schenck) and Kepner Middle School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Professional Services Agreement between Denver Public Schools and John Corcoran Foundation – A copy of this motion, an agreement which will provide No Child Left Behind supplemental education services in reading and/or math to a total not to exceed 374 students at five elementary schools (Garden Place, Johnson, Knapp, Munroe, and Oakland), is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Professional Services Agreement between Denver Public Schools and Advantage Tutoring Services – A copy of this motion, an agreement which will provide No Child Left Behind supplemental education services in reading and/or math to a total not to exceed 269 students at two elementary schools (Ford and Gilpin), is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Professional Services Agreement between Denver Public Schools and A+ Grades Up – A copy of this motion, an agreement which will provide No Child Left Behind supplemental tutorial services to 208 students in two elementary schools and three local Boy's and Girl's Clubs, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Professional Services Agreement between Denver Public Schools and WAH Capital, LLC dba Club Z! In-Home Tutoring – A copy of this motion, an agreement which will provide No Child Left Behind supplemental tutorial services to 346 students in four elementary schools, two middle schools, and off-site in homes of 112 students, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Professional Services Agreement between Denver Public Schools and Education Station – A copy of this motion, an agreement which will provide No Child Left Behind supplemental tutorial services to 767 students in ten elementary Schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Contract between Community Colleges and Occupational Education and Denver Public Schools for the Carl Perkins Secondary Grant Funding  
A copy of this motion, grant funding for DPS to receive \$947,345 to provide services to high school students enrolled in career and technical programs, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Contract between Community Colleges and Occupational Education and DPS/Emily Griffith Opportunity School for the Carl Perkins Post-Secondary Grant Funding - A copy of this motion, grant funding for DPS to receive \$433,792 to expand and enhance post-secondary career and technical education, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify an Amendment between Office of Economic Development Division of Workforce Development and Denver Public Schools/Emily Griffith Opportunity School - A copy of this motion, an amendment to provide career and technical training to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) participants, the amended amount to the contract is \$90,142 for a total of \$360,569, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify a Contract between the City and County of Denver, Denver's Great Kids Head Start, and the Denver Public Schools - A copy of this motion, which will provide Head Start services for 255 students and their families in fifteen classrooms in eleven schools; the contract and amendment for these services total \$1,271,462 for the 2006-2007 school year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Issuing Purchase Orders to Dell Marketing LP - A copy of this motion, to replace and/or update enterprise servers, disk storage, management nodes, and archive software for the Department of Technology Services totaling \$1,522,279.25, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Award of BD1160 to Corporate Express/Faison Office Products LLC - A copy of this motion, to award a contract to Corporate Express/Faison Office Products so that schools and departments can purchase office supplies as needed; the estimated annual contract value is \$1,622,196.51, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Award of BD1176 to Northern Colorado Paper, Colorado Sales, Ohio Valley Converting, Andrews Food Service, All American Poly, and Saxet Marketing - A copy of this motion, to award contracts to the specified vendors so the Department of Food Services can purchase paper, plastic, foil, and foam products for warehouse stock; the estimated six-month contract value with Northern Colorado Paper is \$289,749.94, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Chief Financial Officer**

Motion to Approve the Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2006 – A copy of this motion, which presents for receipt, as required by federal law, the Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2006, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve First Amendment to Letter of Credit and Reimbursement Agreement – The Board of Education will be asked to approve the resolution to increase the current letter of credit amount and to allow extension for three additional years. The letter of credit is used to fund the district’s required TABOR emergency reserve. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Amendment to the Denver Public Schools Retiree Health Benefit Trust Agreement – A copy of this motion, approval of the amendment to amend the agreement to include IRS preferred language in anticipation of Private Letter Ruling of the Trust’s tax-exempt status, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

### **Human Resources**

#### **Chief Operating Officer**

Motion to Approve the Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

#### **Policy Review**

Motion to Approve Revision to District Policy DFA – Investment and Cash Management – A copy of this motion, revisions to reflect statutory changes, the role of an investment advisor, and staff title changes, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Policy Review**

Revision to District Policy IJOC – School Volunteers and Service Providers – The Board of Education has been asked to review for second reading, revisions to district Policy IJOC to broaden the scope of the policy and align it with the Denver Plan. The Board will vote on this policy at their February 15, 2007, regular meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Student Services**

##### **Chief Academic Officer**

Expelled Students Report - A copy of these reports are appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Peña adjourned the Regular Meeting at 5:18 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:18 p.m.**

Mr. Hoyt moved for an Executive Session for discussions regarding the retirement system and to receive legal advice from counsel as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(b)(e).

Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

John Kechriotis, General Counsel, certified that the portion of the Executive Session held January 18, 2007, from 5:18 to 6:30 p.m. was for legal advice.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION – 6:31 P.M.**

#### North High School

Hatton Littman, parent, speaking on behalf Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools, spoke in support of district staff's decision to make strong and dramatic changes for the redesign for North High School. She also supports the Beacon School Proposal for Brown Elementary School and encouraged Board members to approve their proposal.

Jennifer Draper Carson, Executive Director of Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools, said she applauds the district for listening to the community and embracing bold and dramatic changes for the schools in their district, specifically North High School.

Julie Gonzales, representing Padres Unidos, said she is a graduate of North High School attending the University of Denver, and supports the redesign of North and for all students to attend college. She introduced the following parent and student from northwest Denver. Spanish-speaking parent Dolores Valesquez spoke in support of the redesign of North High School, and a summer academy for North High School for incoming ninth graders. Spanish-speaking student Letita Mendoza, freshman at North High School, representing Jovenus Unidos, spoke in support of the redesign.

Lawrence Garcia, North High School teacher, spoke regarding a reform plan North teachers had tried to implement. Teachers have been the only constant at North; in seven years North has had five principals and ten assistant principals. Teachers and students share a bond, they are not on the opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to needs.

David Englegam, teacher and new DCTA representative at East High School, said everyone needs to be represented and teachers do not feel that they have not been listened too in an inclusive enough way to help form policy.

Cheri Wright, Career Education Center (CEC) teacher, said at the many forums and conferences she has attended on reform, the main idea has been to take change slowly and to involve all members of the community, parents, teachers, and students. North is part of their community and they would like them to be successful. She feels it would be very detrimental to change North too quickly without a lot of input from members of the community.

Student Aron Palma, Student Body President of North High School, said that North is his family and home, his refuge from the world; North is a safe place, a haven to many other single parent, urban household, low-income students, like him. North teachers are very important, they mold our thinking. There is not one teacher at North who has not stayed long hours after school reaching out to students.

### South High School Achievement

Bonita Miller, South High School English Language Acquisition (ELA) teacher, said her ELA classes are staffed at the same ratio as all other classes, beginning level classes of 35 students is common. They are getting more and more students who have extremely low literacy skills, students who can't read. South does not have a reading specialist, they do not have anyone to work one-on-one with these students; they have no help. She is concerned that people who evaluate CSAP scores will look at low scores and will not say they need help. She they need to help these students learn how to read. Let's change a life instead of just changing a teacher.

### Calendar

Joan Poston, School Improvement and Accountability Council (SIAC) member and a member of the Calendar committee, said she is a parent of a middle school child who has been baked. Which is the reason she speaking on behalf of adopting the draft Scenario 2A calendar, the draft that starts the day after Labor Day.

Bill Berger, parent of two daughters at George Washington High School in the International Baccalaureate Program, spoke on their behalf and on behalf of their classmates in support of calendar draft Scenario 1A.

### DCTA

Kim Ursetta, President of the Denver Classroom Association (DCTA), spoke on the redesign decisions made this past week. A copy of her comments is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

### School Redesign

Roxanne Rhodes, Abraham Lincoln High School teacher, said that teachers at North and other schools should not be humiliated and belittled through a process that questions their commitment, professionalism, and ability. Teachers in these schools are the professionals who can most effectively implement redesign. Problems that plague the Denver Public Schools, as well as urban school systems around the US, are complex and multi-dimensional. Each time the district severs the relationship between students and teachers, they lose students.

### Concern about Approach to Redesign

Carsten Engebretsen, John F. Kennedy High School teacher, expressed his hope that when redesign occurs the administration will be open to teacher input and collaboration. It is important, not just should the community be heard but also teachers.

### Time to Teach

Becky Rosenau, Samuels Elementary School ESL teacher and Instructional Issues co-chair with Dr. Jaime Aquino, Chief Academic Officer, noted that in November 2006, Kim Ursetta, President of the DCTA, brought a petition with over 3,000 teacher signatures asking for action regarding time to teach. Issues included return of teacher's discretionary time, smaller classes sizes, time to complete testing and paperwork, teacher-led-professional and developmental opportunities, development opportunities, and time to teach. After the holiday break, the Superintendent and Dr. Aquino presented information to elementary school faculties which addressed changes in response to this petition. These changes demonstrate good faith effort by the Board and administration to respond to our petition. There is still much more work ahead.

### Omar D. Blair Charter School Renewal

Kelly Leid, Executive Director of the Foundation for Educational Excellence; Michael Hancock, Parent; Tim Pilkington and his son Logan; Debbie Blair-Minter, Principal of Omar D. Blair spoke in support of the renewal of Omar D. Blair Charter School.

### Colorado High School Renewal

Cyndi Bush-Luna, Principal/Founder of Colorado High School; Lizbeth Mendez, former student; night school students; and Sandy Douglas, Board member of High School Charter spoke in support of the renewal of Colorado High School Charter School.

### P.S. 1 Charter School

Liz Aybar, Principal of P.S.1; Students Jan Miller and Attradees Futrell, also Student Board of Education members spoke in support of the renewal of P.S. 1 Charter School.

### Skyland Community High School

Arthus Baraf, Principal of Skyland Community High School; Parent Heather Holtz and her daughter; Naomi Zamora, former Manual student; Parent Manual Zamora; Parent Kay Teel spoke in support of the renewal of Skyland Community High School Charter School.

### Connections Academy Contract Renewal

Gail Klapper; Sarah Ault, Principal of Connections Academy; Randy Freitik teacher spoke in support of the renewal of Connections Academy Charter School.

Highline Academy Charter School Renewal

Kim Easton, President of the Board of Directors for Highline Academy; Alyssa Whitehead-Bust, Principal spoke in support of the renewal of Highline Academy Charter School.

Life Skills Center Charter School Renewal

Ada Diaz Kirby, President of the Board of Life Skills Center; Peter Drogge, Member of the Board and Vice President of Daniels Fund; Benjamin Valdez, District Superintendent; Santiago Lopez, Principal; Ronald Wooding, Pastor and Member of the Board spoke in support of the renewal of Life Skills Center Charter School.

Southwest Early College Charter School Renewal

Chris Garboth, Principal of Southwest Early College spoke in support of the renewal of Southwest Early College Charter School.

Mrs. Moss noted that several members of the District School Improvement and Accountability Committee were still in attendance, and expressed her gratitude to these volunteers for the district. Their recommendations are very important to the Board.

Ms. Peña adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Jeanne S. Kaplan, Secretary  
Board of Education