

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (02-21) 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  
5:00 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2002

**I. Call to Order**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. James Mejía, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

C. Recognitions

Mrs. Edwards recognized the Cross Country Team from West High School as the new state champions in the 5A Division of Colorado Sports. Superintendent Jerry Wartgow joined her as she introduced and presented certificates to the team members and recognized the coaches and the athletic director. She read a proclamation declaring that the Board of Education, on November 21, 2002, expressed its congratulations to West for outstanding performance in athletics and sportsmanship, thereby bringing great honor and pride to the West community, the Denver Public Schools (DPS), and the City of Denver.

D. Approve Agenda

Mr. Mejía moved that the Board of Education approve the agenda for this meeting. Mr. Woodward seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**II. Board Member Reports**

There were none.

**III. Superintendent's Reports**

Dr. Wartgow said that he expected to be back next month with another team. For the first time in twelve years, Thomas Jefferson High School football team would be in the semifinals. He expressed his hope that others would join him at the All-City Stadium for the game against Columbine and wished the team and coaches well.

#### IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the consent agenda items by number and sequence, in accordance with consent agenda procedures. The following item was removed from the consent agenda and held for discussion:

IV-B-2 Motion – Lincoln Elementary Montessori Proposal

The following items were included under the consent agenda:

##### A. Board of Education

1. Minutes - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of August 8 and August 15, 2002. Copies of the minutes are appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV -1.
2. Policy Revision – It was recommend that the Board of Education approve a policy revision to GCBD-R Professional Staff Fringe Benefits. A copy of the revision is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-A-2.

##### B. Superintendent’s Office

1. Gift Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the gift report. A copy of the report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-B-1.

##### C. Administrative Services

###### 1. Human Resources

- a. Personnel Transaction Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Transaction Report. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-C-1a.
- b. Motion to approve Agreement between the Denver Public Schools and the Communication Workers of America - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Agreement between the Communication Workers of America and the Denver Public Schools, effective January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2006. A copy of the Agreement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-C-1b.
- c. Motion to approve Agreement between the Denver Public Schools and Building, Grounds, and Warehouse Service Personnel - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the revised salary schedules for the Association of Building, Grounds and Warehouse Service Personnel, effective September 1, 2002, a Benefit Allowance Supplement of \$43.00 per month

effective July 1, 2002, and a change to language in Article 30 regarding stipends. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-A-1c.

- d. Motion – Retiree Life Insurance Benefits. - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve elimination of retiree life insurance benefits for Denver Public Schools employees hired on or after July 1, 2003. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-C-1d.
- e. Motion – Amalgamated Transit Union – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve a 2% salary increase for the Amalgamated Transit Union effective September 2, 2002; a Benefit Allowance Supplement of \$41.00 per month effective for the period of July 1, 2002, to December 31, 2002, for full-time employees; a benefit allowance of \$274.00 per month as part of a cafeteria benefits plan effective January 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2003, for full-time employees and a benefit allowance of \$120.00 per month for part-time employees with five or more years of service as drivers and \$60.00 per month for part-time employees with one to four years of service as drivers effective for the period of January 1, 2003, to June 30, 2003. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-C-1e.

## 2. Facility Management

- a. Final Settlements – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Final Settlements for Contracted Services as described on the attached schedule. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-C-2a.

## D. Budget and Finance

- 1. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments and Expenditures – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2002, to October 31, 2002. A copy of this statement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-D-1.
- 2. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2002. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-D-2.
- 3. Single Audit Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2002. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-D-3

4. Redemption Fund – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing a Forward Delivery Agreement Relating to the District’s Bond Redemption Fund. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-D-4.

E. Denver Public School Retirement System

1. Amendments to the Retirement and Benefit Plan – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Amendments to the Retirement Plan to Clarify Plan Section 110.40 (7). A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, IV-E-1.

Mrs. Edwards moved and Mr. Mejía seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified under the consent agenda process. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

IV-B-2 Motion – Lincoln Elementary Montessori Proposal

Rev. Guzman stated that as a Board member she was proud that a school had listened to its constituency, looked at its design needs, and come up with a proposal to add another very interesting choice within the DPS.

Mrs. Edwards said that when she started on the Board one of things discussed was to take a look at programs in the DPS and replicate those that were successful for kids and to end programs that were not meeting student needs. She said the Montessori Program had proven to be successful throughout the district. In looking at student test scores and public demand for programs, the Montessori Program lead the pack of choice opportunities. She said that Lincoln had made a wise decision to implement a Montessori Program at their site.

Rev. Guzman moved that the motion be approved, and Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Old Business**

There was none.

VI. **New Business**

A. Information Only

1. Report of Expelled Students – The Report of Expelled Students was submitted for information, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, VI-A-1.

## B. Issues Requiring Action Following Public Input

### 1. Adoption/Revision Deletion of Policies

- a. Revise JEC – Tuition Based Programs for Early Childhood – The Board of Education will be asked to approve revisions to Policy JEC. A copy of the revision is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, VI-B-1a.
- b. Revise – ACA-E – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex – The Board of Education will be asked to approve revision to Policy ACA-E. A copy of the revision is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, VI-B-1b.
2. Stapleton Boundaries – It will be recommended that the Board of Education approve the pupil assignment revision for the 2003-2004 school year. A copy of the motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, VI-B-2.
3. Recommended Textbooks – The Board of Education will be asked to adopt proposed Spanish Language Textbooks. A copy of the recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, VI-B-3.
4. Tuition Based Extended-Day Kindergarten and Montessori Programs – It will be recommended that the Board of Education approve 2003-2004 tuition rates for Academia Ana Maria Sandoval School, the Denison Montessori School, and the Tuition-Based Extended Day Kindergarten program. A copy of the recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, VI-B-4.
5. DSIAC Analysis of Charter School Applications – It will be recommended that the Board of Education consider the District School Improvement Council (DSIAC) recommendations for charter school applications. A copy of the report and recommendations is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-21, VI-B-5.

Ms. Gantz Berman recognized the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) and said she was aware they had formed into subcommittees and reviewed in great detail the charter school applications. She introduced Sherry Eastlund, the district's liaison with the existing charter schools and the groups that applied for charter school status. On behalf of the district, Ms. Eastlund thanked the volunteers for the tremendous number of hours they worked.

Pam Bisceglia, DSIAC, stated that the Charter Schools Act requires that the DSIAC review charter school applications. That function was delegated to a subcommittee.

She introduced members from the subcommittee and described some of the ways in which their expertise and experience were helpful in the review process. Ms. Bisceglia said that as of October 1, the district received nine charter school applications. She said that each member of the subcommittee was provided a copy of the application for individual review. As a committee they identified strengths, questions, and need for clarification. The applicants were notified of questions and interviews were scheduled for forty-five minutes, which allowed an opportunity for a lengthy discussion and clarification. After the interviews the subcommittee began the process of drafting the report to the Board. She said their subcommittee wanted to recognize Sherry Eastlund for providing her support and technical assistance.

Ms. Bisceglia noted that each year more and more applications were received. She said that the subcommittee identified some common deficiencies in the application procedures. She said that a number of applications are received that are grossly incomplete and that the report suggested recommendations for a review process.

Jesse Sutherland presented **Walsingham Academy Charter**. He briefly described the application and said that the subcommittee felt there were major problems. He said that they felt there was little peer review information to support the Bolles Learning System, there was concern about the academic credentials of Mrs. Bolles, and concern regarding financing. He said the subcommittee did not feel they could support the proposal.

Carolyn Conley reported on **Denver Big Picture High School #1 and #2**. She expressed some of the subcommittees concerns and noted the applicant's willingness to work with them. She said the DSIAC noted the success of the school in Rhode Island that was the model for this proposal and said they believe there is potential to achieve similar results. Accordingly, the District SIAC recommended granting the application for Big Picture High School #1 charter school, but denied the application for Big Picture High School #2 until there is evidence that the proposed type of school would prove successful.

Ms. Bisceglia informed the Board that the report discusses only eight of the applications. The ninth application was withdrawn.

Dorolyn Griebenaw discussed the **Compass Academy** application. The subcommittee commended the applicant or focusing on students who are at risk of not completing their secondary education. However, because of a number of concerns with the application the subcommittee could not support granting the proposed charter. The subcommittee recommended that Compass Academy be denied charter school status.

Ruth Montoya-Starr reported on the **Life Skills Center of Denver** application. She said the application contained a "trigger clause" wherein once the campus reached capacity a second charter site would automatically be authorized. DSIAC does not recommend adoption of this clause. She described positive aspects of the charter,

but said that the shorter school day would not meet state standards or align with those of DPS. Also, there was concern that completion of the program would not be comparable to requirements to receive a DPS high school diploma. Therefore, they recommended that potential enrollees should be made aware of that fact before enrollment. With the condition as to the status of any completion certificate granted by the school, DSIAC recommended that the application for charter school status be granted, but only to the proposed school of 400 students.

Mr. Leo Smith described the Summit Academy Charter School application. He said that, essentially, it is the same as the DATA Charter School that had already been approved by the Board. He said the comparison of the application and the DATA Charter School caused some difficulty for the subcommittee. They liked the curriculum of DATA; however, the results of that school were not as high achieving as wished for and caused concern. He described other areas of concern related to the management by Mosaica Education, Inc. The majority opinion of the subcommittee was recommendation of the application with the recommendations and caveats specified in the report as conditions to any charter contract.

Ms. Pam Bisceglia discussed Cole and Clayton Neighborhood Learning Centers. The subcommittee found that in the application components that were required by the Charter School Act were missing or incomplete. Since so many of the components were missing, the recommendation was that the Cole and Neighborhood Learning Centers application for charter school status be denied.

Ms. Bisceglia spoke to the Northeast Academy application. She stated that it was one of the most comprehensive applications they had reviewed. She described the proposal and complimented the applicants on the work they did on the application, as well as the work they did to gain support of the community. DSIAC strongly recommended that the Board offer the Northeast Academy charter school status.

Mr. Mejía said that in regard to Summit Academy he was curious that they would follow the same curriculum as DATA, yet DATA was rated as a low school. He wondered how a majority of the subcommittee would respond.

Mr. Smith responded said it was not a consensus decision. He said that some thought that DATA may have had reasons for not achieving their goals, but now had what was hoped to be a stable administration. Since the DATA curriculum was adopted by the Board, it was felt by a majority of the committee that it still had merit.

Rev. Guzman said that when DATA was being presented there was concern about the site and it did not end up in the area where they described the greatest need. She said it seemed that to have a successful school there needed to be community and parental involvement to select a site. She questioned if any information regarding community involvement was provided.

Ms. Bisceglia said that the applicants provided a list of signatures that were gathered. The signatures did not indicate whether the individual was a parent expressing intent to enroll their child in a charter school. Rather, the statement at the top of the signature page was fairly vague asking if the individual would support a charter school.

A member of the DSIAC said that the program targeted at-risk population that may have been out of school for a number of years. Another member added that the curriculum described the core content area, electives were not included, and so does not align with the DPS curriculum. She said they felt this was okay because they wanted to target the student who had left a high school setting and was looking at different options. She said they felt the instruction and core content areas combined with the life skills training were a valuable educational experience. They were reluctant to say the diploma should be stamped DPS, rather Life Skills Center could develop their own diploma as other charter schools have.

Rev. Guzman said she thought the vision for the school was to educate dropouts who wanted to finish their education. By this, she thought they meant the dropout would come back, go through the program, and graduate from a high school and get a diploma. She stated that her position was that she would like someone knowledgeable about curriculum to evaluate the application and planned curriculum before a determination was made whether or not it is comparable.

Mr. Woodward said that when the applicants made their presentation to the Board they talked of Emily Griffith Opportunity School (EGOS) as a model. At EGOS many students get high school diplomas, many take courses seeking skills to obtain certificates in a variety of areas. He asked if that was what they might do, or if they might develop their program in such a way that it would have that same approach.

A DSIAC member responded that he viewed the group as dropouts, age 16-21, who were through with their academic education unless they got into a school like this. Starting at that level, it was unlikely that they would get back into a high school program and complete it.

Ms. Gantz Berman stated that the applications would be voted on next month. She said that at the conclusion of the meeting in the Board Room, the Board would go upstairs to hear staff recommendations and have more discussion on the applications.

Dr. Wartgow said that the prior evening at South High School there was a southeast regional event on Choice. He expressed his appreciation to Irene Jordan and Beth Biggs and dozens of principals, teachers and staff, and to hundreds of parents who turned out to hear about the options.

Mrs. Moss spoke of an event at South High School the previous Saturday, the All City Choir for middle and high schools. She said the students performed wonderfully, and she thanked the choir teachers who participated.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced that the East Constitutional Scholars won the regional competition and would go on to state and offered the Board's congratulations.

**VII. Adjournment**

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary  
Board of Education