

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (05-26) 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 3, 2005

I. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Ms. Theresa Peña, and Mr. Lester Woodward. Mr. Kevin Patterson arrived at 5:17 p.m.

C. A ProComp Thanks

Mr. Woodward said that on Tuesday, November 1, 2005, the district had a very momentous occasion when the mill levy vote for the Professional Compensation System (ProComp) for teachers was passed by the voters of Denver. It is important to thank the citizens of Denver for providing this support to our teachers and schools.

He noted that there are special people that need to be thanked because without their leadership it would not have been possible to accomplish what we did: Kim Ursetta, Becky Wissink, the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA), and Brad Jupp. We had exceptional support from the community. The following special people deserve huge appreciation from the district: Phil Goring and the Rose Community Foundation stepped up with \$4 million of support; Bruce Benson displayed exceptional leadership; and Cal Frazier, former Executive Director of the State Board of Education became an enthusiast for ProComp.

II. Board Member Reports

There were none.

III. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennet expressed his appreciation to the citizens of Denver on behalf of the school district and all employees. We are very grateful for their confidence and their vote. During those long days of campaigning, he heard over and over from people around this city how much they want this system to work and grow and thrive. That is

something we all need to keep in mind as we go forward. He also thanked the Board of Education for all their work. He said that it was very clear during the Superintendent selection process that whomever ended up sitting in this chair was going to be an ardent supporter of ProComp.

IV. Agenda

A. Educational Services

1. Resolution #2953 – Deny the Charter School Application for the CP Charter School – A copy of this Resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-26, IV-A-1.

Rev. Guzman read Resolution 2953.

Mr. Hoyt said that the people who represented this charter proposal did so very well. However, he had a lot of questions brought about by staff's educational impact questions. State law is very clear on the need to have proven educational models.

Mr. Woodward said that the applicants desire to meet the needs of students has to be acknowledged and appreciated. The application clearly showed their care for kids. He wished them well as they move forward with the continuation of their present educational efforts.

Rev. Guzman moved approval of Resolution 2953. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodward acknowledged Student Board of Education member, Ian Ruskey from P.S. 1 Charter School.

2. Resolution #2954 – Deny the Charter School Application for the Global Village Academy Charter School – A copy of this Resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-26, IV-A-2.

Ms. Gantz Berman read Resolution 2954 and moved approval of this Resolution. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodward thanked the applicants for their innovative approach to the educational environment. He applauded them for their desire to add educational opportunity for Denver students.

3. Resolution #2955 – Approve the Charter School Application for the West Denver Preparatory School, with Conditions – A copy of this Resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-26, IV-A-3.

Mrs. Moss read Resolution 2953.

Mrs. Moss said that she supports this resolution and this school in southwest Denver. She has met with Chris Gibbons and he has done a good job working with students in southwest Denver over the last several years. She said that she sees a need for this kind of program in the southwest quadrant.

Rev. Guzman stated that she would not be supporting this recommendation. She expressed concern that this school will be established in an area where district middle schools are only at 70 to 75 percent capacity. There is lots of room in the middle schools in that area to have a larger student body. While this is an interesting and very well planned design, it should be the Board's responsibility to provide rigorous and relevant programs for these students.

Another concern she has had from the beginning is that 40 to 50 percent of the kids in this school are going to be English-language learners. She would have liked to see in their proposal a much greater priority in the planning placed upon the teaching of these kids. With up to 50 percent of the students in this school being English-language learners, she would have liked to see the majority of teachers credentialed and certified ELA teachers. She is aware that the school will be using many of the same English-language transition programs that have been used in another charter school. However, it took many years for that charter school to improve its English-language learners, and even though there has been some improvement, the scores of those English-language students are still not good. Therefore, she will be voting no on this proposal.

Mrs. Moss moved approval of Resolution 2955. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The following Board members voted "Aye:" Ms. Gantz Berman, Mr. Hoyt, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Peña, and Mr. Woodward. Board member voting "No:" Rev. Guzman. The motion passed six to one.

Mr. Patterson said he wanted to bring to his colleague's attention the fact that four district charter schools have not turned in their audit reports. The lack of these audits is holding up the district audit and has huge financial implications for us. The district has used a number of different ways as leverage, such as holding back their payments, but we still have not gotten complete compliance. He wanted to make sure that the Board was fully aware of this problem and that our charter schools are aware that we are taking a very serious look at this.

Ms. Gantz Berman asked the school attorney if there was a way to hold the charter schools accountable.

Mary Ellen McEldowney responded that it is grounds for revocation of the schools charter.

Ms. Gantz Berman reiterated that if charter schools do not turn in required audit reports the district could revoke their charter. She thanked Ms. McEldowney for the clarification and for helping to make that public.

Mr. Patterson said that they might want to think of a provision that actually has additional financial incentives, such as paying a late fee. We can start charging them by the day if they do not present their audit on time.

Mr. Hoyt moved that the Board move into Executive Session for purposes of discussions determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators, as authorized by CRS 24-6-402(4)(e). Ms. Peña seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodward recessed the Special meeting at 6:05 p.m. The Board went into Executive Session.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education