

MINUTES OF THE MEETING (07-03) 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, FEBRUARY 15, 2007

**Ryan Brown, student at the Denver School of the Arts, presented her National History Day award winning documentary for the Best Individual Senior Entry: “Governor Carr and the Japanese Americans.”**

**I. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

President Theresa Pena called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Jill Conrad, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Jeannie Kaplan, Mrs. Michelle Moss, and Ms. Theresa Peña. Mr. Kevin Patterson arrived at 6:34 p.m.

**Board Member Reports**

Honoring Denver Public Schools Outstanding Female Athletes in Honor of National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Ms. Peña introduced Leslie Moore, Director of Athletics, and presented a Proclamation of Honor to the following student athletes: Ivory Allen, Thomas Jefferson High School; Chava Bobb, George Washington High School; Desiree Frierson, Montbello High School; Brenna Hokanson, East High School; Amy Kennedy, John F. Kennedy High School; Catherine Knoth; South High School; Anistasia Padilla, North High School; Rainy Santillanez, West High School; Phuong Tran, Abraham Lincoln High School.

Resolution to Recognize the Achievement of National Certified Board Teachers: Anna Holm, Julie Variot, Aileen Regan, Stacey LaConte, and Annetta Gallegos

Ms. Conrad read the resolution to recognize these National Certified Board Teachers and introduced Kim Ursetta, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA).

Resolution to Recognize Denver Public School Power Libraries – Gust Elementary School, Park Hill ECE - 8 School, and John F. Kennedy High School

Mrs. Moss read the resolution to recognize these Power Libraries. She introduced Jody Gehrig, Director of Educational Resource Services, and Gene Hainer Colorado State Librarian, who presented additional awards.

**Superintendent Report**

There was none.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the Agenda items by number and sequence. In accordance with Consent Agenda procedures, the following items were removed from the Consent Agenda and held for discussion:

Motion to Approve Resolution to Not Renew Life Skills Center of Denver Charter School

Motion to Approve Resolution to place Denver Arts and Technology Academy Charter School on Probationary Status

Motion to Approve Resolution to place P.S. 1 Charter School on Probationary Status

Motion to Approve a Grade Configuration Change for Westerly Creek Elementary School and William Roberts K-8 School

Mrs. Kaplan moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda not held be approved. 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 January 18, 2007; the Special Meetings of January 25, 2007, and February 1, 2007 – 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 E-Rate Structured Cable with Avant DataComm to Furnish and Install Cable at Maxwell and Green Valley Elementary Schools – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify Contract for Network and Communication Services with Qwest Corporation – A copy of this motion, to ratify the award to Qwest Corporation for network and communications services for all district sites for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify E-Rate Cisco Equipment Contract with Qwest Corporation – A copy of this motion, to ratify the contract for E-Rate Cisco Equipment 90 percent schools Year 10 to furnish and install Cisco equipment at eight district schools (Abraham Lincoln High School, Emerson Street School, Maxwell and McMeen Elementary Schools, and Merrill and Place Middle Schools), is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify E-Rate Cisco Equipment Maintenance Contract with MSN Communications – A copy of this motion, to ratify the award to MSN to provide maintenance at fifty-three (53) district schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Award the General Contractor Contract to Wilderness Construction Company for the Cheltenham Elementary School Fire Protection Project – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Construction Advisory Committee (CAC) Report for Green Valley III K-8 – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

### **Chief Academic Officer**

Motion to Approve Resolution to Renew Colorado High School Charter School – A copy of this resolution, to renew the charter contract for Colorado High School Charter School for a five-year term, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution to Renew Highline Academy Charter School – A copy of this resolution, to renew the charter contract for Highline Academy Charter School for a five-year term, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution to Renew KIPP Sunshine Peak Charter School – A copy of this resolution, to renew the charter contract for KIPP Sunshine Peak Charter School for a five-year term, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution to Renew Omar D. Blair Edison Charter School – A copy of this resolution, to renew the charter contract for Omar D. Blair Edison Charter School for a three-year term, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution to Renew Southwest Early College Charter School – A copy of this resolution, to renew the charter contract for Southwest Early College Charter School for a three-year term, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution to Renew Denver Connections Academy Charter School – A copy of this resolution, to renew the charter contract for Denver Connections Academy Charter School for a one-year probationary term, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution to Renew Skyland Community High School Charter School – A copy of this resolution, to renew the charter contract for Skyland Community High School Charter School for a one-year probationary term, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Grant Middle School Beacon Proposal – The Board of Education is asked to approve this motion based on the Beacon Advisory Committee's recommendation which affirmed that Grant Middle School's proposal successfully met all Beacon School criteria. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Chief Financial Officer**

Motion to Adopt Resolution for the Supplemental Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2006, and Ending June 30, 2007 – A copy of this resolution, which identifies the specific adjustments to the revenues and expenditures of all funds, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Use of Beginning Fund Balance during the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2006, and Ending June 30, 2007 – A copy of this resolution, to authorize the expenditure, in accordance with SB 03-149, of the beginning fund balance of specified funds as anticipated in the supplemental budget, to state the purpose for which the expenditure is made, and to state the district's plan to ensure the use of beginning fund balance will not lead to an ongoing deficit, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Adopt Resolution for the Supplemental Budget Appropriation for Expenditures during the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2006, and Ending June 30, 2007 A copy of this resolution, to change the appropriation for all the funds based on the adjustments, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Adopt Resolution for the Identification and Filing of the Supplemental Adopted Budget and Appropriation Resolution and Copies Thereof - A copy of this resolution, to direct that the Supplemental Budget be labeled as such and signed by the Board President, and to cause the Board Secretary to have this Supplemental Budget on file for public inspection, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve an Appointment to the Denver School Facilities Leasing Corporation Board of Directors - A copy of this motion, to appoint Mike Langley to a

ten-year term on the Denver School Facilities Leasing Corporation Board of Directors, to succeed Thayne McKnight whose term expired September 30, 2006, 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.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Policy Review**

Revision to District Policy IJOC – School Volunteers and Service Providers – The Board of Education has been asked to review the revisions to district Policy IJOC to broaden the scope of the policy and align it with the Denver Plan.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Chief Academic Officer**

**Student Services**

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

**Chief Financial Officer**

**Information Presented to the Board Regarding the 2007-2008 Preliminary Budget**

The Board of Education will be asked to identify the portion of 2007-2008 projected revenues that is from the state for purposes of implementing Board of Education Policy DAB, Contingency Reserve. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Peña stated that since parents and community members have signed up to speak at the Public Comment Session regarding the Westerly Creek proposal the vote on the Westerly Creek motion would be held after the Public Comment Session.

Mr. Patterson will vote by telephone.

Motion to Approve Resolution 3010 to Not Renew Life Skills Center of Denver  
Charter School

Mr. Hoyt read Resolution 3010 and moved approval of this Resolution. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion.

Ms. Peña introduced Amy Friedman, Director of School of Choice, and Joe Sandoval, Executive Director of Educational Services, to update information relative to this resolution.

Ms. Friedman clarified that three students who attended Manual at the time of the closure last year are currently enrolled at Life Skills Center of Denver. However, all three students did not complete the year at Manual last year, for various reasons. Also attending are seven students, who never attended Manual, who live in the Manual neighborhood.

Mr. Sandoval explained that the process of transitioning currently enrolled Life Skills Center students will include: Training counselors and parent-family liaisons, beginning March 5 and ending April 16, to administer the My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP), a career academic plan for students; and conduct a credit analysis. Individual guidance counseling will be provided to these students after results have been finalized.

In response to a question regarding how many students would be involved, Ms. Friedman responded that enrollment at Life Skills Center fluctuates, but there are currently 279 students enrolled.

Ms. Conrad said Board members take their responsibilities very seriously and have considered all data presented. After much research on alternative education and visiting Life Skills Center, she has decided to support the staff's recommendation to not renew the charter.

Mrs. Kaplan stated that this has been a very difficult decision, and the bottom line is that this is a situation where adults have failed children. This whole process has given Board members and staff a real insight into what is needed to provide alternative education.

Rev. Guzman noted this school is located in the district she represents. She was on the Board when this school was proposed and she was one hundred percent supportive of the plan to address the issue of dropouts. She is deeply saddened that, for whatever reason, the needs of these students were not able to be fulfilled or embraced. She said she would be voting in support of the staff recommendation to not renew this charter.

Ms. Peña called for the vote. Voting "aye," Ms. Conrad, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Hoyt, Ms. Kaplan, Mrs. Moss, and Ms. Peña. Voting "no," Mr. Patterson. The motion passed. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution 3011 to place Denver Arts and Technology  
Academy (DATA) Charter School on Probationary Status

Mr. Hoyt moved approval of Resolution 3011. Mrs. Kaplan seconded the motion.

Mr. Hoyt said that out of the district's nineteen charter schools, there is only a few that under-perform; Denver Arts and Technology Academy (DATA) is one that has chronically under-performed. However, last year, for the first time, DATA made notable improvement and progress as measured by CSAP. Based on the significant improvement of DATA, he would support the staff recommendation to put DATA on probationary status for another year.

Ms. Peña called for the vote. Voting "aye," Ms. Conrad, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Hoyt, Ms. Kaplan, and Mrs. Moss. Voting "no," Mr. Patterson and Ms. Peña. The motion passed. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Resolution 3012 to place P.S. 1 Charter School on Probationary Status

Ms. Conrad moved approval of Resolution 3012. Mrs. Kaplan seconded the motion.

Mr. Hoyt said that P.S. 1 is in its third year of close scrutiny and third year of poor performance. He feels it is the Board's job to hold schools to a certain standard of quality. He believes that P.S. 1 has continually failed to meet this standard despite continued negotiation by the Board and probationary status. Based on these facts and seeing no progress for three years, he will not support the staff recommendation to renew P.S. 1.

Ms. Conrad said that P.S. 1 is in the middle of a three-year renewal process. She values P.S. 1 as a culture, a community, and as a school. She is confident that under Principal Liz Abyar's leadership and commitment to achievement the school will show different results next year. Therefore, she will support the staff recommendation for probation.

Ms. Peña called for the vote. Voting "aye," Ms. Conrad, Rev. Guzman, Ms. Kaplan, and Mrs. Moss. Voting "no," Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Patterson, and Ms. Peña. The motion passed. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Peña noted that the community still has time to comment on Policy IJOC. Also, the Board has accepted the report on expelled students; and the Chief Financial Officer has presented information to the Board regarding the 2007-2008 Preliminary Budget.

Ms. Peña recessed the regular meeting at 6:33 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION – 6:44 P.M.**

DCTA

Kim Ursetta, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers' Association, presented the results of their 2007 Bargaining Survey. A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

### Changes at Valdez Elementary School

Yolanda Reyes, parent, said she had come to present the voice of parents at Valdez Elementary School against the redesign of Valdez. They do not want to be a clone of Anna Marie Sandoval Academy. They feel their children are well taught at Valdez. They are offended that no one has given them the opportunity to voice their opinion regarding the education of their own children. They want to be part of the voice of the new Valdez.

Spanish-speaking parent Anna Veleon's comments were translated as follows. In the new program imposed at Valdez parents will have to pay tuition, at the meeting she attended they were told if they can't pay their children would have to attend another school. She does not think it is right that they would have to leave. She asked the Board to find a solution where they don't have to pay for ECE and kindergarten education.

### Westerly Creek/Bill Roberts Proposal

Brian Weber, representative from the Stapleton Foundation, and Meg Yoder, Vice President of the Westerly Creek Elementary School PTA, spoke in support of this proposal.

Kathy Epperson, parent and Stapleton resident, expressed concern regarding the new school that will be going into the original Westerly Creek building. They do not know what kind of program will be offered at that school.

Jennifer Souse said she represents eight Stapleton families with 18 children at four different grade levels that do not support the part of the proposal that will result in Westerly Creek not serving its intended population. They want Westerly Creek to continue as an ECE through 5th grade school and Bill Roberts ECE through 8th grade.

### East High School – Building Bridges for Peace in Denver

Melodye Feldman, Executive Director and founder of the organization Seeking Common Ground, spoke about the Building Bridges for Peace Denver program. Celeste Archer, East High School teacher, is at the helm of this program. Students Noah Kaplan, Mia Lewis, and Yo Benbiss spoke about the program. A copy of the information on this program is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Peña adjourned the Public Comment Session and reconvened the regular Board meeting at 7:29 p.m.

### Reconvened Board of Education Meeting

Motion to Approve a Grade Configuration Change for Westerly Creek Elementary School and William Roberts K-8 School

Mr. Patterson moved approval of the motion. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. Voting “aye,” Ms. Conrad, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Hoyt, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson, and Ms. Peña. Voting “no,” Mrs. Kaplan. The motion passed. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Peña adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Jeanne S. Kaplan, Secretary  
Board of Education