

MINUTES OF THE MEETING (07-04) 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, MARCH 15, 2007

Fifth Grade students from Fairview and Steele Elementary Schools gave a presentation on the Balarat Outdoor Education Program

Recognition of Denver Public Schools' East High School basketball team, 5A State Basketball Champions; and Abraham Lincoln High School basketball team, 4A State Basketball Champions

I. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

President Theresa Pena called the meeting to order at 5:05 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 5:15 p.m.

Board Member Reports

Mrs. Moss reported that former Board of Education member, Naomi Bradford, recently passed away. Ms. Bradford served on the Board of Education for 18 years, 1975-1995, and was principal of the district's Northeast Academy Charter School at the time of her death.

Student Board of Education Presentation on Pride/CSAP Campaign

Ms. Conrad introduced Student Board of Education members Joe LaFollette from the Denver School of the Arts, and Brian Fitch from the Denver School of the Arts and representative of the Youth School Reform Institute, to report on the Student Board's Pride/CSAP Campaign.

Denver Public Schools' Retired Employees Association Scholarship Foundation Update

Ms. Peña introduced Don Giseburt, Larry Corsa, and Anna Peña-Wickard representatives from the Denver Public Schools' Retired Employees Association Scholarship Foundation to report on their program.

Superintendent Report

SAR Recognitions.

Mr. Bennet congratulated the following principals and schools for improving their School Accountability Rating (SAR) this year. The following Instructional Superintendents introduced principals:

Tracy Dorland	Jonathan Wolfer, Bromwell Elementary School
Anita Gallegos-Theriot	Diana Howard, Polaris at Ebert Elementary School
	James Metcalf, Holm Elementary School
	Connie Cornelius, Bradley International School
Brett Scott	Charles Raisch, Steck Elementary School
	Karti Lyons, Teller Elementary School
Robert Woodson	Julia Shepherd, Cory Elementary School
Beth Biggs	Kent Berger, Southmoor Elementary School
	Dennis Thompson, University Park Elementary School
	Beth Hamilton, Denison Montessori School
Jason Martinez	Dr. Irene Jordon-Martinez, Slavens K-8 School
	Patricia Lea, Westerly Creek K-8 School
Janice Spearman	Patty Bipus, Denver School of Arts

General Obligation Bond (GOB) Update

Mr. Bennet introduced Richard Cosgrove, Executive Director of Facilities Management, to present the update on a potential General Obligation Bond. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Alternative Education and At-Risk Services Task Force

Mr. Bennet introduced Joe Sandoval, Executive Director of Educational Services, to report on the task force. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the 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:

Resolution to Deny Denver Collegiate Academy's Request to Defer the Opening of the school until Fall of 2008

Mr. Hoyt moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda not held be approved. Mrs. Kaplan 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 February 15, 2007

A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

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

Superintendent's Office

Motion to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Denver Public Schools and the Denver Scholarship Foundation – A copy of this motion, which details conditions of a relationship designed to prepare, encourage, and enable Denver Public Schools students to attend college, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Chief Academic Officer

Motion to Approve Northeast Academy Charter School's Request to Borrow Monies to Purchase the Real Property the School is Currently Leasing – This request is subject to the Board of Education's approval pursuant to the contract between Northeast Academy Charter School and the district which requires Board approval of any borrowing above five percent of the school's budget. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Chief Financial Officer

Motion to Approve External Auditors – A copy of this motion, a second renewal of four renewable terms for the firm of Clifton Gunderson, LLP to perform the independent audit of the district's financial statements and of the district's federal grants, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Chief Operating Officer

Human Resources

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

Facility Management

Motion to Approve the Construction Advisory Committee's (CAC) Report and Concept Design for North High School – Phase II Renovation Project – A copy of this motion 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.

DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS

Resolution 3013 to Deny Denver Collegiate Academy's Request to Defer the Opening of School until Fall of 2008

Rev. Guzman moved approval of Resolution 3013. Mrs. Kaplan seconded the motion.

Ms. Conrad stated that after discussing this issue with many people she prefers to support the Denver Collegiate Academy's request for deferral. She has not been convinced that the changes and setbacks in the timeline that this school has experienced, has changed, in any significant way, the nature of what she feels is a quality charter school application.

Mr. Hoyt said, being mindful of the reason the Board originally approved this charter school, their request for a deferral is a legitimate concern regarding leadership and location. Granting a deferral would give Denver Collegiate Academy a greater chance of finding the best leader possible and the ability to secure a great location. He will support their request for a deferral because he believes it would be in the best interest of kids.

Mrs. Moss said the overwhelming reason for her decision on this request had been recalling the struggle Board members faced when they had had to make a decision on whether to close other charter schools. At that time, she made a commitment to herself that she would not approve another charter school unless she was absolutely certain she would not have to look at student faces three years later and say no. She is not certain about Denver Collegiate Academy; there are too many unanswered questions. She was one of the three Board members that voted against their initial proposal. The A+ Denver group is meeting to decide on configuration of schools, what schools to keep open, what schools to close. A district committee will be looking at how to strengthen middle schools. It is worth waiting for these reports. It would be better to have Denver Collegiate Academy apply again in the fall when there will be a clearer picture.

Mr. Patterson stated that two new K-8 schools will open in far northeast Denver this school year, so there will be other options available.

Ms. Peña called for the vote. Voting “aye,” Rev. Guzman, Mrs. Kaplan, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson, and Ms. Peña. Voting “no,” Ms. Conrad and Mr. Hoyt. Ms. Peña stated that the request for a deferral has not been granted. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Peña adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:40 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION – 6:40 P.M.

South High School Adaptive Functional Program

Parents Scott Sala and Wanda Coleman spoke in support of keeping the Adaptive Functional Program at South High School and against moving the program to Thomas Jefferson High School. A copy of their remarks and materials provided are appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Lake Middle School and Valdez Elementary School

Jennifer Draper-Carson, Executive Director of Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools; Tony Curcio and Cathy Vigil, parents, spoke in support of the proposed programs for Lake Middle School and Valdez Elementary School. They expressed their thanks to the Board, the Superintendent, and district staff for their support of northwest Denver schools.

Balarat

Patrick Emery, Coordinator of Balarat Outdoor Education Center; Mark Mercier, teacher; and Tudi Arneill, President of the Balarat Council, reported on the program and expressed their support for the program. A copy of information is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Additional Financial Help for Kindergarten

Bryce Rodgers, parent, Barney Ford Elementary School, requested additional financial support in order to add one teacher and two helpers for each kindergarten and first grade classroom.

Planned Unit Development (PUD) Application

David Carroll spoke about his opposition to a Planned Unit Development (PUD) application near Asbury Elementary School that is going before Denver’s City Council and requested the Board of Education sign a petition opposing this PUD.

Ms. Peña adjourned the Public Comment Session at 7:29 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Peña moved that the Board of Education enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of legal counsel regarding the following issues: (1) Contract subject to negotiations and/or developing strategy for negotiations, as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e); (2) Real property interest as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(e)(a); and (3) Receipt of legal advice on specific legal questions as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b). It was seconded by Mr. Hoyt. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Peña adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jeanne S. Kaplan, Secretary
Board of Education