

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (06-04) 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 16, 2006

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: Jill Conrad, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Ms. Theresa Pena. Mrs. Jeannie Kaplan was absent and excused.

II. Board Member Reports

. Recognition of the Thomas Jefferson High School Basketball Team Two Year State Champions

Mr. Hoyt introduced Leslie Moore, Director, Athletics and Head Coach Grant Laman. They introduced members of the Thomas Jefferson High School basketball team winners of the Colorado State 4A Boys' Basketball Championship for the second year in a row: Pierre Allen, Korey Askew, Ryan Atherton, Mychal Bellamy, Lawon Benford, Donovan Bowens, Michael Bradley, David Holt, Ian Kane, Joel Lewis, David McCullough, Derrick Ratcliff, and Jermere Shaw. Mr. Hoyt read a Proclamation congratulating the team. A copy of this Proclamation is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

III. Superintendent's Report

Business Diversity Outreach Program Report

Michael Langley, Executive Director of Facility Management Services, introduced Co-Chairs Cheryl Brooks and Helga Grunerud of the Business Diversity Outreach Committee to present the report, and members of the committee in attendance: A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Manual High School Update

Mr. Bennet introduced Brad Jupp, Senior Academic Policy Advisor, to present the update on Manual High School.

Mr. Jupp reported they divided the work on the transition into three phases and have been making great headway. The first, and perhaps the most important, phase has been to ensure they know every child at Manual and ensure they have the best academic opportunity in face of the transition they have been asked to make. The second phase is to ensure strong, solid academic services in the neighborhood during the transition and beyond. Third, begin the school design process for the 2007-2008 school year.

They have identified every student at Manual and in the Manual neighborhood; now they will begin a more aggressive process of tracking those students, making sure students are pursuing their educational opportunities. They are ensuring that mentors are available for every child to see them through the transition; and that every child has solid opportunities for transportation. Students will be able to select either an RTD pass or a yellow bus to the five priority schools. In the summer, an academic resource center at Manual High School will open. It will serve as an enrollment center, clearing house for information on choice, and access to tutoring services for neighborhood students and parents. We will also provide summer school language arts and mathematics assistance at Cole Middle School.

An open invitation has been issued to anyone interested in helping community members support the school and its students. This community partnership has already established five committees. The committees are: a counseling/mentoring committee; a college access counseling committee; a community engagement and communications committee; a design committee for the academic resource center; and a design committee for the new 2007-2008 school. The design of the 2007-2008 school will be an open, honest project, that does not have any preconceived ideas. The community must be thoroughly engaged in the design process that opens the new school at Manual in 2007-2008.

In response to Rev. Guzman's question regarding choice, Mr. Jupp responded that the district is holding the second of two choice fairs tonight, in order to ensure that they are aware, by April 15, where every student will be attending school.

Recommendation of Teacher Dismissal

The Superintendent distributed written recommendations to dismiss three teachers, Copies of the recommendations are appended to the minutes of this meeting.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

New Policy IK, Student Academic Achievement

Skyland Community High School Charter School Renewal Application

Mr. Patterson moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda not held be approved. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

Mr. Patterson commented that since the motion to approve naming of three new northeast schools is included under the Consent Agenda he would invite each family to come up after the Consent Agenda has been passed.

Board of Education

Motion to Adopt a Resolution Recognizing Maruca Salazar as Recipient of the Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts – A copy of this Resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting. John Youngquist, Northwest Area Superintendent, introduced Marcua Salazar, teacher, Recipient of the Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 16, 2006 – A copy is 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 Donations for Channel 7 Make-Over at Hallet Elementary School and Montbello High School - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify the Architect Selection for the new Stapleton III School - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify the Construction Contract for the Learning Landscape and Parking Lot Projects at Cowell, Fairview, Greenlee, and McKinley-Thatcher Elementary Schools – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify the Construction Contract for the Learning Landscape and Sidewalk Repair Projects at Holm and Samuels Elementary Schools - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Ratify the Construction Contract for the Mechanical Upgrade Projects at Barnum, Fairmont, Fairview, and Moore Elementary Schools, and Emily Griffith Opportunity School - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Appoint External Auditor - A copy of this motion, to approve the first of four possible 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 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve an Encumbrance Increase on Purchase Order 06 01495 to Denver Pipefitters JATC - A copy of this motion, an encumbrance increase on a purchase order requested by Emily Griffith Opportunity School to provide additional credit hours for apprenticeship training at an off-site location, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve an Encumbrance Increase on Purchase Order 06 00632 to Creation Chamber - A copy of this motion, an encumbrance increase on a purchase order requested by the Department of Technology Services to provide an E-Recruiting/Teacher Staffing system, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Award of BD 1126, Structured Cabling—780 Grant Street - A copy of this motion, a proposal requested by the Department of Technology Services to furnish and install structured cabling at 780 Grant Street, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for a Renovation Project at Kunsmiller Middle School - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for a Renovation Project at Martin Luther King Middle School - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for Mechanical Upgrade Projects at Denison and Kaiser Elementary Schools and Henry Middle School - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Administrative Services

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 Land Sale – A copy of this motion, the sale of land at the CLA property, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Naming of Three New Northeast Schools – A copy of this motion, naming of three northeast schools, as follows: Stapleton II –

William “Bill” Roberts; Montbello-Village Place – Farrell Howell; Green Valley Ranch—Picadilly – Florida Pitt Waller; is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Educational Services

Motion to Approve the Textbook Selection Process for Denver Plan Materials and Books – A copy of this motion, the textbook selection process described in the attached report for all core content courses identified in the Denver Plan, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Budget and Finance

Financial Services

Motion to Adopt Resolution - Supplemental Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2005, and Ending June 30, 2006 - 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 the Beginning Fund Balance During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2005, and Ending June 30, 2006 - A copy of this Resolution, which in accordance with SB 03-149 authorizes the expenditure of the beginning fund balance of specified funds as anticipated in the supplemental budget, states the purpose for which the expenditure is made and states 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 - Supplemental Budget Appropriation for Expenditures During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2005, and Ending June 30, 2006 - 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 - Identification and Filing of 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.

Policy Review

New Policy JFABD, Homeless Students - A copy of this policy, which will provide policy and procedures to meet the needs of enrollment/retention of homeless students, in accordance with state and federal laws, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

VI. New Business

Administrative Services

Human Resources

DPS Health Insurance Plans - A copy of this report, the renewal of DPS' health Insurance plans for all active employees, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. Action is anticipated at the April 20, 2006, meeting.

Student Services

Expelled Students Report - A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Executive Session

Legal/Personnel

The scheduled Executive Session was cancelled.

Naming of Three New Northeast Schools

Mr. Patterson asked the families of those who had schools named in their honor to speak. Those speaking for the: Florida Pitt Waller Elementary School—her daughter Jane Waller Pigford and family; Farrell Howell Elementary School—his widow and daughter Sarah Howell her family; and William Roberts Elementary School—his widow, their children, and Mr. Patterson.

DISCUSSION - HELD CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

New Policy IK, Student Academic Achievement

Ms. Conrad explained the work the Board has been doing in conjunction with the development of the Denver Plan. The role of the Board is to establish and set policy; the role of the administration is to execute and develop operations to put those policies in place and reach those goals. Any organization that wants to go from good to great must look within and identify its core values; it must highlight, promote, and focus on these values. It must build an infrastructure and organization explicitly designed to reach those goals. That is what we have with the Denver Plan; it is, by design and operation, a management plan, it will be the tool the district uses to hold all of these commitments in place and ensure that we maintain the commitment to attain high levels of student achievement. The Vision, Core Beliefs, and Instructional Reform Theory, presented tonight are the beginning of the Board's focus on student achievement.

Mr. Hoyt moved adoption of the new Policy IK. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting and a copy of the Vision, Core Beliefs, and Instructional Reform Theory of the district is also appended. .

Skyland Community High School Charter School Renewal Application

This item was held from the February 16, 2006, agenda. Mr. Patterson reported on the renewal application. Mr. Patterson moved approval of the Resolution. Ms. Conrad seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this Resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

COMMENT SESSION – 6:25 P.M.

Manual High School

The following Manual students and members of Students 4 Justice declared their opposition to the closing of Manual:

Ricky Escobedo said students feel abandoned and crushed by the decision to close Manual. He urged the Superintendent and members of the Board to reconsider the decision to close Manual.

Ashley Howard demanded that the Board reverse the vote to close down Manual. Manual students deserve a chance to succeed in their neighborhood school. She request that the Board provide them with the impact report that detailed the closure of Manual.

Vanessa Cruchera asked that the deadline to choose a transition school be extended. Students need extra time to make an informed decision on what school to transfer to.

Dana demanded that all students be involved in any decision regarding Manual. They understand that Manual needs help but closing it only increases the drop-out problem.

Ashley Taylor said that the original motion before the Board was to restructure Manual, which indicates that the Superintendent believed a redesign process of Manual could be completed with the students continuing to attend. Board policy is to conduct a report on how a motion will impact the district, none was done on the closure of Manual. Therefore, the Board is in violation of their own policy. They urged the Board to reconsider their motion to close Manual until they are in compliance. They believe that this decision was based on cost and was not in the best interest of students and their rights to equal education.

Jorge Merida, President of Manual's Hispanic parent group, expressed his extreme distress with the decision to close Manual, and said he had come to ask the Board to reconsider. It was a hasty decision, a wrong decision, an immoral decision, and an illegal decision. He said it was wrong to forcibly remove the students from Manual just like previous historical removals have been wrong. He said that the Superintendent lied to them and made false promises. When the Superintendent visited Manual they asked if he had any plans for Manual and he said he had

none. He said that they never gave Manual a chance to succeed in the past five years. He stated his belief that they do not have a plan in place for the future of Manual's children. He asked for a copy, if there is one, of the assessment study of the all the risks involved in the closure, and asked if they would do this to their children.

Pastor Paul Burleson, President of the Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance, said he had come to speak in opposition to the decision of the Board and the Superintendent to close the historical Manual High School. While the Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance agree that Manual is in trouble they are totally dissatisfied with the Draconian manner and method used to close Manual. It was insensitive to the students and to their community. This is a reversal back to the forties and fifties, when certain Americans had to travel great distances just to get a decent education. He stated that Board members would not do this to their children and grandchildren and beseeched them not to do it to their children.

Bishop Acen Phillips stated this was decision based on kids who do not go to Manual, not the kids struggling at Manual, wanting their school to be better. It does not make any sense to blame the students in school every day, struggling to do the best they can, and the building they attend. The district can put the same resources in Manual as in South and other schools; and it does not take a year to get it done. This would not be done to a white community, but it is been done to their community. When white kids were bused into Manual, resources were there. There is no way to have a successful school without involving the community. The decision you made was a mistake, now change it. A motion was made in haste, undo it. There is nothing wrong with changing your mind. After that contact them, they all want to work with the district, but the first step is to admit a mistake was made. The district cannot do it without them and they are not trying to do it without the district.

Rev. James Peters said the worst thing you can accuse a person of is racism and he is very careful about accusing a person of racism, but this was a racism decision. This would not have been done to white people; Manual was picked on because it is predominately African-American and Hispanic. You do not seem to understand what they mean by a line in the sand. If you are not going to rescind the motion, they are not going to cooperate and support it. You made a mistake, be grown up enough to rescind it. It was an arrogant, racist decision.

Marge Taniwaki said that she is a Manual alumni and that all alumni are fighting alongside their youth to keep their neighborhood school open. Manual students have been experimented on, pulled, pushed, molded, and torn apart. She asked how come the system is promising each student a mentor now. Fewer electives, not enough books, lack of equipment, declining enrollment, you didn't have to be a rocket scientist to see where this would lead. This city spends millions of dollars for a so-called Justice Center and pennies for schools. School districts are held hostage to produce required scores or risk losing funding. As a School Board you have the ability and the opportunity to do the right thing by keeping Manual open.

Butch Montoya said that the closure of Manual is a great sin against their community. When members of the Board were running for the Board they were receptive to listening to them, but today they find that this Board does not care to listen to the community that elected them. Does not care to understand their deep anger at what is happening in their community. You do not

want to listen to them. If you think we are not going to fight for Manual, for North, for West, for Lincoln, or Montbello, because you label them low-performing high schools, you are wrong. We are going to fight to the end and we are not going to cross that line in the sand.

Manual Historical

Jim McNally, a former Manual United States History teacher, said that Manual opened in April 1894, the oldest DPS high school continuous to its original site; Manual is older than the district itself, which was created in 1902. Manual has many famous alumni. It was second only to East in the number of famous alumni.

Manual High School/Whittier Elementary School and Closing Achievement Gap

Victoria Berge, parent, said that Manual is a beautiful facility with many classrooms so she does not understand why students can't attend school, attend their sporting events, alongside the achievement center; why the student achievement center needs to take up the whole school. In the transition, 113 students are scheduled to attend East High School. East is already overcrowded. Manual is a wonderful facility, with dedicated students and teachers. They need the support of the School Board, they don't need to be cut-off. She handed out a list of Manual's Honor Roll students.

Mr. Bennet responded that the change in the transportation plan is the direct outcome of conversations they have had with Students 4 Justice and community members. They had to analyze it to see whether we could afford to it. We stretched to be able to do it but we wanted to do it based on the community's suggestions. He said it caused him great grief to be on the opposite side of this conversation from the ministers in this community. As Dr. King said, if you want to make a movement move you need the preachers behind you. We are on two different sides of the question based more on the process than the outcome. He thinks everyone all agrees that they would like to have at Manual an outstanding school for the neighborhood kids. A plan has not been developed for Manual because a wide-ranging community conversation has to be held about what is needed for that community. He reiterated his open invitation to the community to participate in that conversation.

The district has admitted that it has not provided a quality education for Manual students. Funding for Manual, on a per student basis, is higher than any other high school in the district by a fair amount. There are not enough students in the school to support that funding. The district shoulders the responsibility for the school not working. We can't undo what has been done but we can envision a much brighter future. We all have an obligation to make sure these students get as good an education as we can provide in the district. We are going to do everything we can to make sure that happens. He again issued an open invitation to the community to work together. We have an opportunity to make this a district that treats all of its children equally well.

Mr. Patterson responded that six years ago, the decision by this district to implement the three small schools model at Manual was rushed. We really do need to take time to fully redesign what we want at Manual. He agrees that it was a mistake the way the decision was made, but in

good conscience, he does not believe that the decision itself was a wrong decision. If we had not voted to close Manual, the conversation about trying to provide educational options for these students would not be taking place as it is today. He stated that he feels the even larger sin is that we have allowed these children to sit in a school that we all admit has not provided them a quality education; as long as they were quiet and not bothering anyone that was okay. This district has failed these children, this district has failed that part of town; we are admitting that and are trying to have a community conversation about next steps. He does not understand why everyone is okay allowing those students to languish in a building where we all have said we are not providing the best opportunity for them.

The truth of the matter is, if we do not take this kind of action for Manual High School, the state will take the school over. It is not something the district has any option about; the State Legislature decided that option. That is what happened at Cole and unless we want to continue to allow this to happen to school after school after school, we have got to come in and make bold transformations. That is the underlying goal. We have to prove that we are able to provide a quality education for students of color. Just because we don't necessarily agree does not mean that we have not listened. We have tried to be as responsive as we can around the issues. The core issue is we have failed these children. We need to act, we need to act boldly, swiftly, and need to act in a way that gives them a better opportunity.

In Support of Donald Wilson

Jamie Roles, III, a member of the Colorado State University Alumni Association; Marlene Wilson, and Donald Wesley Wilson, Jr., spoke in favor of naming the Montbello-Village K-8 School in Donald Wilson's honor.

Community Voices in Action—The Denver Plan

Anthony Garcia submitted a summarized recommendation from Community Voices in Action regarding Latino students, which they feel must be included in the Denver Plan. They are: Establishment of a cultural diversity commission for valid and substantive representation of people of color within the district; the commission should be charged with helping evaluate and monitor movement and systematic changes to engage children of color by building a culturally sensitive infrastructure designed to increase academic achievement. Professional development to encourage and develop educational staff qualified and motivated to provide Latino students with the best education possible. Gifted and talented programs to create parity for those Latino students not been identified or have been unintentionally misplaced into special education classrooms. Provide English language learners an optimum structure for learning so they can succeed and excel as students. Provide necessary resources for parent involvement.

John Gallegos reiterated their specific recommendations. He said they worked hard to identify actions that would wade through district policies. They feel the cultural competency piece is very important in order to move these recommendations forward.

The Denver Plan

David Jared, Steck parent, said that the Denver Plan is having very serious financial impact on schools. Several successful programs are being shaved and cut. The student/teacher ratio is being increased in the fall from 25 to 1 to 26 to 1. This is a very significant change for small schools. He said that at his school the student/teacher ratio is the number one issues for parents. The Denver Plan is undermining their effort and they will have to increase class sizes and fire teachers. He understands the district needs money to fund Denver Plan activities, but don't push the problems down to individual schools and sacrifice successful programs.

United Coalition to Save Our Children and the Denver Plan

Lawrence Borom, member of the United Coalition to Save Our Children, a group made up of a number of representatives from the Latino, African-American, and American Indian community, said they had presented the district an in depth critique of the Denver Plan a few weeks ago and wanted to emphasis several points. Children of color are failing. Significant dramatic resources must be employed to deal with that problem; it is a top priority. The Board of Education must establish, in conjunction with their organization and others, a cultural competency commission. This commission would be a cadre of influential people in the communities of color that would monitor the effects of programs in the schools that have an impact on the learning experience of children of color. The Denver Plan consistently refers to budgetary constraints. The Plan needs to be revised and correlated with a budgetary shift to achieve the goal of closing the achievement gap for children of color. They asked for a response to their recommendations.

Helen Giron-Mushfiq said she is concerned that the district ensures that the curriculum is culturally relevant before any plan is implemented. She encouraged the district to include their plan in this process.

Rosalind Booker, member of the United Coalition to Save our Children, said they believe that the policy of the Board should reflect absolute compliance with state law. Colorado Revised Statute 22-1-104 speaks to the teaching of history, culture, and civil government; Subsection 2 says that the history, culture, and contributions of minorities, including but not limited to, American Indians, Hispanic Americans, and African-Americans, shall be taught in all the public schools of the state. This law speaks to the formations of a community forum and they believe that statute is the legal mandate for the establishment of a cultural competency commission.

Dr. Torres expressed his appreciation to the Board and Superintendent for including some of their recommendations in the Denver Plan. He stated that he would return in a couple of weeks to discuss their concern regarding reviewing textbooks to ensure that textbooks reflect diversity.

Lake Middle School

John Phillips, parent, said he had come to voice his support of Lake Middle School's revitalization proposal to establish a middle school International Baccalaureate Program (IB). The Denver Public Schools needs schools of excellence in northwest Denver, not just excellent schools.

Cathy Vigil, CSC member and parent, requested Board support for their proposed IB Program. The staff at Lake is very committed to their students and parents do not want to lose this staff. She reiterated that they really need the Board's support for this program.

Doug Unfug, member of the Northwest Parents for Excellence Schools, expressed his organization's support for Lake's revitalization proposal. They are very energized by the process that Lake has gone through. He expressed his hope that the Board and the Superintendent get behind this plan. He said his organization is committed to helping Lake with whatever they need—extra resources, marketing, whatever.

Rev. Guzman expressed her appreciation to the members of Lake's committee for the many weeks and months they have been working. Their process has been a long one in coming, but it is a sound one. One of the reasons they all have struggled so hard to build an IB program at the elementary level in northwest Denver was to begin a feeder process. Northwest Denver needs several IB approaches, particularly at the middle school.

Violence and Its Link to the Lack of Diversity

Julie Morgan, parent, expressed her concern and dismay regarding the racial violence which her son has been subjected to. He has been physically attacked on the school bus and at his school. She requested a meeting with the Board, and/or staff to discuss the situation.

Winters Sports Initiative

Roberto Moreno, founder and president of Aplino, a Winter Sports Initiative, reported that they successfully involved 1200 district kids in snow sports and mountain recreation. They were able to do that through contributions from many business and foundations, but it would not have happened without the efforts of dedicated district teachers acting as trip leaders. Some of the schools participating last year were Edison Elementary School; Rachel B. Noel, Skinner, and Kepner Middle Schools; and Montbello, North, and West High Schools. They estimate that probably 80 percent of all kids who grow up in Denver never get to the mountains in their entire life. Next year they could triple the number of students they take. All they need is a bus. Efforts have been made to approach DPS for a bus, but the dollars have never been forthcoming. They have an extraordinary tool that is a proven mechanism for getting kids to stay in school, to stay motivated and ultimately begin to embark on a positive, healthful path. All they ask is the use of the bus. It would also be helpful if they could get a letter of support from the Board.

Frank Doyle, teacher, said he has been a trip leader and that he would not be able to organize these trips without the things that Alpino has done to provide these opportunities for kids. Even with the great deal the kids are offered through Alpino the transportation issue is a great stumbling block.

Ms. Peña adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Jeanne S. Kaplan, Secretary
Board of Education