

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (06-06) 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, MAY 18, 2006

I. Call to Order – 5:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

President Theresa Pena called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Jill Conrad, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Jeannie Kaplan, and Ms. Theresa Peña. Mr. Kevin Patterson arrived at 5:20 p.m. Mrs. Michelle Moss was absent and excused.

II. Board Member Reports

Recognition of Denver Public Schools Employees: Dr. Irma Anthony, Joe Ortega, Donna Schocks

Rev. Guzman recognized Joe Ortega, School Nurse at Brown International Elementary School, recipient of the “School Nurse of the Year” Award by the Colorado Association of School Nurses.

Ms. Kaplan recognized Dr. Irma Anthony, recipient of the “Robert L. Hawkins Social Work Achievement Award.”

Ms. Conrad recognized Donna Schocks, recipient of the “2006 School Nurse Administrator of the Year” Award.

Del Pueblo Elementary School Receives \$100,000 from Lowe’s

Dan Villescascas, Principal of Del Pueblo Elementary School, reported that they had received a \$100,000 grant from Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation to enhance the school and beautify the campus in preparation for a national solar conference to be held there this summer.

Recognition of Billy Sprague for Receiving the Middle School PREP League Student Athlete of the Year (2005-2006) Award

John Andrew, Middle School Manager, presented the middle school Prep League Athlete of the Year Award to William Sprague from Hamilton Middle School. He

expressed his appreciation to the Middle School Prep League's sponsors: The Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche Community Funds, McCormick Tribune Foundation, and the DPS Foundation.

Report from the 2005-2006 Student Board of Education Members

Ms. Conrad introduced Hannah Picasso-Hobin, President of the Student Board of Education, to present the final report. The following Student Board members were introduced: Nguyen Nguyen and Sara Joyce, John F. Kennedy High School; Tim Mapoles and Frances Annan, Thomas Jefferson High School; Ian Ruskey, P.S. 1 Charter School. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Conrad presented Certificates of Recognition to Karen Higel, Coordinator, Athletic Department; and Troy Garner, Special Projects Manager.

General Obligation Bond

Ms. Peña noted that at the Board's last meeting, the Citizens Committee on Facilities Needs recommended that a bond issue for the district is essential. However, the Committee received a recommendation from a political consultant that indicated the 2006 November ballot is going to be extremely crowded and could potentially compromise a ballot issue for the district. Therefore, the committee unanimously recommended that the district not move forward with bond initiative in November 2006. They also recommended that the Board make a determination, by January 2007, whether to pursue a bond initiative in November 2007; and that the Citizens Committee on Facility Needs be discontinued until a decision has been made. The Board concurs with these recommendations. Another issue addressed in their recommendation is that the district must plan for the ongoing student growth in far northeast Denver. The Board has directed staff to start planning immediately to manage that growth.

III. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennet asked the Area Superintendents to introduce new district principals.

Beth Biggs, Southeast Area Superintendent, introduced: Kenton Burger, Southmoor Elementary School; Greta Martinez, Grant Middle School; Julie Murgel, Whiteman Elementary School; Julia Shepherd, Cory Elementary School; Jana Smith, Knight Academy; Joan Wamsley, Dora Moore Elementary School; Jonathan Wolfer, Bromwell Elementary School.

Nicole Veltze, Assistant Northeast Area Superintendent, introduced: Monica Dilts, Garden Place Elementary School; Mikel Royal, Maxwell Elementary School.

Joe Sandoval, Southwest Area Superintendent, introduced: Frank Gonzales, Kepner Middle School; Alex Magana, Kunsmiller Middle School.

Recommendation of Teacher Dismissal

The Superintendent distributed a written recommendation to dismiss a teacher, A copy of the recommendation is 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 was removed from the Agenda and held for discussion:

Discussion and Action on Arbitrator's Report

Motion to Approve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Contract Between the City and County of Denver and School District No. 1

Mr. Hoyt moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda not held be approved. Ms. Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Mrs. Moss was absent and excused. The following items were approved:

Board of Education

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 20, 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 Approve the Finance and Audit Committee Charter - A copy of this motion, to review and approve the amendments made to the current charter reflecting the elimination of yearly meeting requirements and removing any reference that states that the committee is fulfilling the Board's oversight responsibility with respect to receiving and reviewing financial information, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for a Renovation Project at Cory Elementary 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.

Facilities Management

Motion to Approve the Skyland Use Agreement Renewal – A copy of this report, the renewal of the Skyland Use Agreement for Cole Middle School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Financial Services

Motion to Approve Resolution Authorizing Signatures for Banking Transactions – A copy of this motion, to modify prior Board of Education action authorizing signatures for banking transactions as a result of the change in staff assignments, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Motion to Approve Wyatt Edison Charter School Renewal Contract – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve the Odyssey Charter School Renewal Contract – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Restructuring of Randolph Middle School and Mitchell Elementary School– A copy of this motion, approval of restructuring plans and application to the State Board of Education for a determination that such plans constitutes a major restructuring pursuant to new legislation, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Discussion and Action on the Request of CP Charter School, an Aurora Charter School, to Locate its Complete Program in Denver – A copy of this request is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Motion to Approve Denver Public Schools' Retirement System (DPSRS) Employer Contribution Rate – A copy of this motion, approval of the employer contribution rate of 12.83 percent to the DPSRS Plan to be effective July 1, 2007, is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

HELD CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSION

Discussion and Action on Arbitrator's Report

Rev. Guzman moved that the Board of Education reject the Arbitrator's Report regarding 77 390 00406 05, the Denver Classroom Teacher's Association and School District No. 1, DCTA Grievance #5/6-14. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Mrs. Moss was absent and excused. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to Approve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Contract Between the City and County of Denver and School District No. 1

Rev. Guzman moved adoption of the motion. Ms. Kaplan seconded the motion. Mr. Patterson abstained from the vote due to his position with the City and County of Denver. The following Board members voted "aye:" Ms. Conrad, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Hoyt, Mrs. Kaplan, and Ms. Peña. Mr. Patterson abstained and Mrs. Moss was absent and excused.

OLD BUSINESS

Revise Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements - A copy of this policy, to provide and implement a framework to drive the strategic plan, policies, resources, and district operations, to positively impact graduation requirements, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. Action is anticipated at the June 22, 2006, Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Financial Services

2006-2007 Proposed Budget – A copy of this report, the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2006-2007 prior to the June 1, 2006, statutory deadline, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. The 2006-2007 Proposed Financial Resources Management Plan document will be on the district's website on May 18, 2006.

Student Services

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

Policy Review

New Policy AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity – A copy of this policy, recommending that the district's nondiscrimination Policies ACA, ACA-E, and ACE-E be repealed and consolidated into this policy, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. This is a First Reading; action is anticipated at the June 22, 2006, meeting.

Revision of Policy GBK – Staff Concerns/Complaints/Grievances – A copy of this policy, a modification to this policy to clarify that all employees may grieve violations of nondiscrimination policies, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. This is a First Reading; action is anticipated at the June 2, 2006, meeting.

New Policy JBBAA- Nondiscrimination of Students on the Basis of Disability (Grievance and Impartial Hearing Procedures) – A copy of this policy, that clarifies that students may file a grievance if they believe that the district’s nondiscrimination policy as it applies to students with disabilities and establishes an impartial review process, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. This is a First Reading; action is anticipated at the June 22, 2006, meeting.

New Policy KEE- Nondiscrimination of Public on the Basis of Disability (Grievance Procedures) – A copy of this policy, that clarifies that members of the public may file a grievance if he/she believe that the district’s nondiscrimination policy as they apply to qualified persons with disabilities and establishes a procedure for considering such grievances, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. This is a First Reading; action is anticipated at the June 22, 2006, meeting.

Cheryl Karstaedt, Executive Director of Student Services, reviewed the proposed changes to policy regarding discrimination.

New Policy ADF - School Wellness Policy – A copy of this policy, DPS, as a participant in the USDA school meal program, is required by federal law to implement a wellness policy by July 1, 2006, is appended to the minutes of this meeting. This is a First Reading; action is anticipated at the June 22, 2006, meeting.

John Leslie, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, reported on the First Reading of New Policy ADF.

Administrative Services

Motion to go into Executive Session

Mrs. Kaplan moved approval of the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing DCTA negotiations and legal questions related thereto pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e), immediately following the close of the Public Comment session. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Moss was absent and excused.

Ms. Pena adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:08 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION – 6:08 P.M.

Social Studies

Michael Cory, teacher, South High School, said he was speaking as a citizen regarding the direction the district is going by cutting electives and some higher order classes. South High School has lost two valuable academies and the support they had from corporate partners; plus classes on World History, social problems, and African history. Social studies is down to a bare bones staff and can only offer subjects required by law: history, government, geography. It is crucial for the district to begin thinking about where it is going with these cuts.

Dr. Frank Deserino, teacher, said he is what is left of the graduation requirements committee and questioned why people from the curriculum department, who have either not taught in some time or have not taught social studies, are allowed to decide what is done in the classroom. Department chairs should decide, with teacher input, what is offered. Also, it would be better for students and teachers to have the redesign structure in place before the start of the 2006-2007 school year.

Graduation Requirements and Career and Technology Education

Robert Campoy said he is Chief Information Officer for the American Waterworks Association; Chairman of John F. Kennedy High School's Collaborative School Committee and a member of their Career and Technology Education Committee; and a member of the district's Career and Technology Education (CTE) Citizens Advisory Board. He asked that the district consider including at least two semesters of CTE programs as part of the high school graduation requirements.

Joyce Schlose said as Vice President of Work Force Development for Goodwill Industries and a member of the Career and Technology Education Board they consistently hear that people were not prepared for the world of work when they got out of school. We must prepare our youth to be self-sufficient and part of that preparation is the preparation they receive from CTE programming. She encouraged the Board to consider the ramifications of not having a career and technology education as an elective.

Jennifer Pike said she graduated from George Washington High School in 2002 and that the CTE classes she took had the biggest impact on her life. As a senior, the web page design, desktop publishing, and the future choices classes have been the building blocks for where she is now. The preparation students receive in CTE classes is real world preparation.

Kristi Espenshade from Goodwill Industries of Denver thanked the Board for tackling the issue of graduation requirements and encouraged them to consider CTE electives as a graduation requirement.

Board Policy Effects on DPS Teachers

Steve Bonansinga expressed his frustration as a teacher of having the same cycle every year. He said he is tired of having his job get more and more difficult: with more diverse students, a slower computer program, hundreds of papers to grade each week, volunteering two hours a day helping to implement the Denver Plan, the budget being a mysterious thing, and hearing about service of the classroom when he doesn't feel served. He said he is tired of being hopeful that the next superintendent is going actually service the classroom, finally add more teachers, and funding that has raises for teachers, only to find that it is business as usual.

In response to Rev. Guzman's question regarding diversity, Mr. Bonansinga said that he does not object to diversity, he has taken extra classes to work with diverse students, what he objects to is the larger class sizes and varying levels of ability that diverse classrooms create.

Dress Code

Student Ashley Selfer said that the East High School Speech and Debate team's current service learning project deals with civil liberties. The issue they choose to address is the district's hat policy and freedom of expression. They have come to discuss the reasons they feel this policy should be changed and to propose that each individual school have the ability to make the decision about whether they should have a hat policy or not, rather than it be a uniform DPS policy.

Student William Whitaker said that the hat policy creates a disrespect for environment within in schools. Administrators enforce the rule and make students take off their hats, but as soon as students are out of view they put their hats right back on and complain about the restrictive policy. It is a waste of time and energy to enforce this policy; Deans are down in the main hall every morning for the sole purpose of telling students to take their hats off as they enter the school. One of the reasons the hat policy was instituted is because of the gang issue. Gangs identified themselves by hats and gang fights were breaking out in schools. They interviewed East's resource officer, Officer Phil Bentley, and he said that gangs are not a problem in the school; that gangs no longer use hats to identify themselves; and it would not increase gang problems at East if the hat policy was changed.

Student Morgan Hall summarized the 1969 Supreme Court case Tinker versus Des Moines. He said that this court case is similar to their situation and the issue of freedom of expression and freedom of speech. The Court affirmed that the issue was within the protection of the free speech clause of the First Amendment and the due process clause of the 14th Amendment.

Public Records Request

Joanne Roll presented the following open records requests to review the following documents: the May 2, 20202, Colorado Civil Rights Commission report which identified an achievement gap between African-American and Anglo students at four DPS high schools, including Manual; documentation that the specific provision in Policy IF-School Design was implemented in regard to the redesign of Manual High School into three small schools and the survey that shows the

number and percentage of the school community that supported the proposed design; documents verifying when any and all of the deficiencies in the ELA program at Manual, identified by the Court Monitor or the ELA Department, were rectified; and documents which specifically give the reasons Manual did not receive revitalization monies. Copies of these Open Records requests are appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Peña adjourned the Public Comment Session at 6:53 p.m., and said that the Board will convene upstairs for its Executive Session.

Jeanne S. Kaplan, Secretary
Board of Education