

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (05-18) 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
6:30 P.M., MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2005

I. Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, Ms. Theresa Peña, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on the Superintendent Selection

1. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Moss moved that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Michael F. Bennet as Superintendent of Denver Public Schools, subject to final terms and conditions which are to be negotiated and approved by the Board of Education.

Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wartgow thanked the Board for the opportunity for four great years. He commended the Board for their consistent support. He said he is very happy and pleased that Michael Bennet will be succeeding him. It will be a smooth transition.

Mr. Woodward said that he would be remiss if I did not express his appreciation and greatest respect to the other two candidates. The district was honored that they were willing to present themselves as candidates. Dr. Patricia Harvey, Superintendent of St. Paul schools, and Christine Johnson, President of Community College of Denver, were two absolutely excellent candidates. The Board believes they have made the best choice, and that Michael Bennet rose above some very high standards.

Ms. Gantz Berman welcomed Michael Bennet as the new Superintendent of Denver Public Schools. She said, as the veteran member of the Board, she had participated in a number of Superintendent searches and feels this one was

historic because the slate of candidates was so exemplary. She expressed her appreciation to the community for their participation in the comprehensive community process this past week. All candidates worked very hard attending community forums; meeting with the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, district staff, media editorial boards, foundations, community-based organizations; and late night meetings with the School Board. The community played a vital role in the selection of Michael Bennet as Superintendent. Every community forum every night was packed, which showed the interest and ownership the Denver community had in selection of the new Superintendent.

Mr. Bennet said he wanted to lend his thanks to the chorus, for what Jerry Wartgow has done for this district. The foundation Dr. Wartgow laid is the envy of school districts around the country. Mr. Bennet said he thinks ProComp will pass in November, which will become a fundamental part of Dr. Wartgow's legacy.

He thanked the Board for the search they conducted and the work they did to engage the community. He expressed his appreciation for everything they did and said he looks forward to working with them over the coming years.

Mr. Bennet said that what excites him so much about the opportunity is that Denver is a city that will be defined by its future much more than its past. He feels the next great attainable project, as a community, is the transformation of our public schools into the country's finest big-city school district. One that provides excellence in learning, excellence in teaching, excellence in retention rates, excellence in drop-out rates, and excellence in college preparation. This project really does belong to Denver and the Denver Public Schools cannot do it alone. He asked Denver, "to put us, that is our children, on your shoulders so we can see clearly the future you imagine for us. Put us on your shoulders so we can fulfill your highest expectations of us. Put us on your broad and proud shoulders Denver, so all of us as one community can embrace the full promise of our great city."

Becky Rosenall, teacher and DCTA Board member, said she was representing Kim Ursetta, President of DCTA, who is out of town. The DCTA is looking forward to working together with Mr. Bennet on the new contract and the many issues that face DPS. As Co-Chair of the Instructional Issues Council, she is optimistic that they can work together to improve student achievement, improve school reform, and teacher compensation.

Rev. Guzman read a poem she had just written for Mr. Bennet: It's sunrise and the sailboat is ready now to leave the dock; a cool smooth wind is blowing and the sails are unfurling; the ship begins to leave with the young pilot moving towards the mature seas and sails on and on.

II. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education