

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (03-16) 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, AUGUST 21, 2003

I. Call to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, Ms. Theresa Peña, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

C. Recognitions

There were none.

II. Board Member Reports

A. November 2003 Election Initiatives – Staff members supplied information only to the Board of Education on the following Items II-A-1, 2, 3, and 4.

1. Resolution – GO Bond Election – The Board of Education will consider approving a resolution that will place this issue on the November 2003 Ballot. A copy of this resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, II-A-1.
2. Resolution – Capital Construction Costs for KIPP: Sunshine Peak Academy Charter School – This resolution states that KIPP has established capital construction needs, a need to incur bonded indebtedness or obtain revenues from a special mill levy to finance capital construction, and presented a viable plan. It further states that up to \$2 million be allocated for this purpose should a general obligation bond program be submitted to and approved by the voters in November 2003. A copy of this resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, II-A-2.
3. Resolution – Capital Construction Costs for Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) Charter School – This resolution states that DSST has established capital construction needs, a need to incur bonded indebtedness or obtain revenues from a special mill levy to finance capital construction, and presented a viable plan. It further states that up to \$5 million be allocated for this purpose should a general obligation bond program be submitted to an approved by

the voters in November 2003. A copy of this resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, II-A-3.

4. Resolution – Mill Levy Election – The Board of Education will consider approving a resolution that will place the issue on the November 2003 Ballot. A copy of this resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, II-A-4.
5. Motion – General Obligation Bond and Mill Levy Proposals – The Board of Education will consider the General Obligation Bond and Mill Levy Proposals presented by staff. . A copy of this motion and the Proposals are appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, II-A-5.

Dr. Jerry Wartgow, Superintendent, explained the context of the upcoming presentation and reminded everyone that at the last board meeting staff recommended reducing the bond issue planning horizon from five years to three years, so that is what this presentation represents. He said that the Citizens Committee’s list of district needs over the next five years initially totaled \$470 million, pared down from well over a billion dollars originally. Given the uncertain economy and enrollment fluctuation, it was believed to be more prudent to reduce the planning horizon to three years.

Dr. Wartgow and staff members Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent of Research, Planning and Special Programs; Mr. Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facility Management; and Ms. Sally Mentor Hay, Chief Academic Officer, made a comprehensive presentation to the board detailing the final recommendation for the bond and mill levy proposals. Ms. Gantz Berman pointed out that this recommendation is primarily a product of the Citizens Committee, chaired by Mr. Steve Kaplan, which met for over six months. She thanked him and committee members for their dedication and efforts.

Staff explained item by item the \$310,804,000 bond proposal package they presented. In brief, the bond proposal would build two new schools to help the district keep pace with growth, renovate and restore schools, assist two charter schools with construction costs, expand the popular Learning Landscapes, boost technology systems, refinance existing loans, and strengthen core school infrastructures. Bond approval, they said, would yield a new K-8 school in Green Valley, a new K-8 school in Montbello, eight classroom additions at Schenck and Gust elementary schools, and major upgrades of the Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center Middle College of Denver and Byers School, recently vacated by Denver School of the Arts. Some work at North High School and planning for a major renovation also would be included. Dr. Wartgow said that the bond proposal would not require an additional tax increase, but would only continue the existing tax rates.

Staff further advised that a companion \$20 million mill levy proposal, if approved by voters, would provide \$6.5 million for art and music teachers in elementary schools, \$2.5 million to revitalize and reconstitute neighborhood schools, \$2 million to increase support for capital investments, \$3.5 million for new textbooks, \$2 million to support middle and high school reforms, and \$3.5 million to expand all-day kindergarten and early childhood education opportunities. Ms. Velma Rose, Chief Financial Officer, said that the \$20 million mill levy proposal would mean that the owner of an average \$251,000 single-family residence would pay an additional \$48 each year, or about 92 cents per week.

Following discussion and requests for clarification by the board members, Mr. Woodward read the following motion:

I move that the Board of Education approve the General Obligation Bond Proposal, 2003-2006, and Mill Levy Proposal as presented, and that the Superintendent be directed to prepare specific ballot language to implement the terms of the proposals for Board of Education consideration at its September 4, 2003, meeting. The motion was seconded.

Ms. Gantz Berman asked whether any board members had additional issues to discuss before calling for a vote on the Motion. Mr. Woodward commented that the Denver Classroom Teachers Association had spoken to him about the possibility of the mill levy proposal including some item to partially overcome the limited salary increase that was given to teachers in the 2003-2004 negotiations. Mr. Woodward indicated that he agreed that teacher compensation is an important factor in attracting and retaining the best teachers. He also commented that he was not happy with the decision that he and the rest of the Board had to make because of the downturn in Colorado's economy with regard to budget generally and teacher compensation specifically in this year's budget. However, he did not feel that this was the appropriate time to put teacher compensation into the mill levy proposal. He spoke in favor of the Motion and the mill levy proposal as presented because it was the result of several months of study by the citizens' committee and because its elements will have the most important impact on children. He committed to work on a macro level to recognize the needs of teachers.

Ms. Gantz Berman added that we value our teachers very highly. We will try to do better for teacher compensation next year recognizing economic realities of school districts and the state.

A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Superintendent's Reports

There were none.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the consent agenda items by number and sequence, in accordance with consent agenda procedures. The following item was held for discussion:

IV-A-3a Resolution – Federal Child Nutrition Programs – The Board of Education will be asked to adopt a resolution supporting the reauthorization of all federal child nutrition programs and asking the U.S. Congress to eliminate the reduced price school meals programs to provide free meals for all children with low incomes.

The following items were included under the consent agenda:

A. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

- a. Personnel Transaction Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Transaction Report. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-A-1a.
- b. Agreement between the Denver Public Schools and the Association of Food Service Employees – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve a 2.8% salary increase for Denver Public Schools Association of Food Service Employees and approve an annual sick leave conversion for any unused sick leave, effective September 1, 2003. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-A-1b.
- c. Memorandum of Understanding between the Denver Public Schools and the Facility Managers Association - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Agreement and Memorandums of Understanding between Denver Public Schools and the Facility Manager Association, effective September 1, 2003, through August 31, 2005. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-A-1c.

2. Facility Management

- a. Final Settlements – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Final Settlements for Contracted Services as described on the attached schedule. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-A-2a.
- b. Hanger Lease and Purchase Option – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the lease of approximately 3,528 square feet of aircraft hanger space located at 37800 Astra Way at Front Range Airport at an initial rate of \$1,500 per month under a long-term lease not to exceed 30 years, with an

option to purchase the hanger space during the first 18 months of the lease at a price not to exceed \$168,700 for the Emily Griffith Opportunity School Aircraft Training Center. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-A-2b.

B. Educational Services

Child Opportunity Contract Pilot Program: Nonpublic School Application - It was recommend that the Board of Education approve the proposed nonpublic school application process for consideration of schools' participation in the Child Opportunity Contract Pilot Program and that the Superintendent be authorized to make any technical or administrative adjustments that may be necessary. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-B-1.

C. School Community Partnerships

1. Grant Proposals

- a. Indian Education Demonstration Grant – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve submission of an application (\$282,000) for a three-year demonstration grant to benefit American Indian pupils from early education through grade two to increase achievement in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-C-1a.
- b. Colorado Department of Education: Expulsion Prevention Programs Grant, for the CASA START program at Smith Elementary School and Smiley Middle School – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve submission of the Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START) program grant (\$730,000 4 years), which is a national violence and substance abuse prevention model. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-C-1b.
- c. Colorado Department of Education: Expulsion Prevention Programs Grant, for the CASA START program at Cheltenham Elementary School and Lake Middle School – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START) program grant (\$1,420,416 4 years), which is a national violence and substance abuse prevention model. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-C-1c.
- d. The Colorado Children's Campaign: Small High School Initiative for Fred N. Thomas CEC Middle College of Denver (MCD) – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Middle College of Denver program grant (\$362,767 3 years) to create a school in which students begin college course work while still in high school allowing them to earn a certificate

and/or associate's degree in five years. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, IV-C-1d.

A motion was made and seconded that the items not held be approved under the consent agenda process. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

IV-A-3a Resolution -2826- Federal Child Nutrition Programs – It was recommended that the Board of Education adopt a resolution supporting the reauthorization of all federal child nutrition programs and ask the U.S. Congress to eliminate the reduced price school meals programs and to provide free meals for all children with low incomes.

Ms. Peña read Resolution in its entirety and moved the adoption of that Resolution. The motion was seconded.

Rev. Guzman said that this Resolution reflects the Board's strong support for replacing reduced-price school meals with free meals for all children with family incomes below 185% of the poverty line. She said this included almost a majority of kids in the Denver Public Schools, and that this Resolution has her wholehearted support.

A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

1. Administrative Services

- a. Long-Term Disability Insurance – The board was provided information regarding a change in the district's Long-Term Disability Insurance Company. A copy of that memorandum is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, VI-1a.

2. Financial Services

- a. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003 – The Board was provided a status report of year-to-date revenues, expenditures and interfund transfers for each fund as compared to the current year budget and as compared to the year-to-date for the prior year. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, VI-2a.

- b. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2003, to July 31, 2003 – The Board was provided a status report of year-to-date revenues, expenditures and interfund transfers for each fund as compared to the current year budget and as compared to the year-to-date for the prior year. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-16, VI-2b.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Wartgow requested an executive session for legal matters. Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education