

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (05-21) 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  
4:30 P.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

The Denver School of the Arts Vocal Jazz group performed for the Board and audience.

**I. Call to Order – 4:30 p.m.**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 4:33 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.

**II. Board Member Reports**

A. Citizens Committee on Bond Expenditures (CCBE) Semi-Annual Report

Tom Buescher, Chairman of the Citizens Committee on Bond Expenditures (CCBE), presented the report.

Ms. Gantz Berman thanked Mr. Buescher and other members of the CCBE for the tremendous amount of time they have spent as watchdogs for the taxpayers.

In response to Rev. Guzman's question regarding the difference between the Mill Levy and the bond, Mr. Buescher replied that the CCBE oversaw just the bond money. The bond money is associated with the revitalization efforts, the idea being that maybe some of the revitalization could require capital items.

Mr. Woodward expressed appreciation to Mr. Buescher for his leadership and to the CCBE committee for their participation in overseeing the bond. He thanked him for informing the public in a dispassionate and disinterested way that the money is being spent correctly.

B. Charter School Presentations to Board of Education

1. CP Charter School

Ethan Hemming, Manager, School of Choice Office, said that on August 22, 2005, the district received three charter school applications. The applicants met with the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) prior to this meeting. On October 20, the Board will receive the DSIAC recommendations. On November 3, 2005, the Board will approve or deny the applications.

He introduced Judy Ham, Executive Director, Cerebral Palsy (CP) of Colorado, who presented the report for the CP Charter School. She introduced Rob Miller, CP Charter School Director.

In response to Ms. Peña's questions regarding curriculum and the makeup of their Executive Board, Ms. Ham said that they have chosen the core knowledge curriculum. In the initial stages, three representatives of their board will be from CP of Colorado. CP of Colorado has taken the responsibility to build the building and to lease it at below-market rate to the charter school, so the charter school can focus on education exclusively. The other two board positions will be open to parents and/or community members.

Ms. Peña commented that the district already has a core curriculum charter school serving a similar boundary area.

Ms. Ham stated that they have already received approximately 480 letters of support from families in the community who are interested in their school. They will serve five sites in northeast Aurora, probably 75 percent of their families live in Aurora. They chose their site because it is contiguous to Aurora and Denver.

Ms. Peña requested further data, demographic, and academic information. Ms. Ham said they would provide the information.

Mr. Hoyt wondered why, since they provide a number of services in Aurora, they had applied in Denver and not Aurora. Ms. Ham said that they have applied in both Aurora and Denver. They wanted the opportunity to look at both school districts and have both school district look at them.

In response to Mr. Hoyt's question regarding fund raising, Ms. Ham said that fund raising is part of the contracted service that CP of Colorado will provide to the charter school. They raise almost \$1 million yearly through special events and foundation grants.

Mr. Hoyt requested additional budget information. Ms. Ham said they would provide the information.

Rev. Guzman asked if their site in Lowry would be a permanent structure that they have already purchased. Ms. Ham responded that they are in the process of finalizing the land agreement in Lowry

In response to Mr. Patterson's question regarding parent interest, Ms. Ham said she feels the parental support will come from both sides, Denver and Aurora. The majority of letters of support have come from Aurora.

Ms. Moss asked her to clarify what would happen if both school districts granted them a charter. Ms. Ham said they did not know. They felt, in fairness, they should talk to both districts because they are so closely tied to both.

## 2. West Denver Preparatory Charter School

Mr. Hemming introduced Chris Gibbons, Lead Founder, Proposed Head of School. Mr. Gibbons introduced Jerry Lassos and Ismael Garcia, Founding Board Members; Michael Lujan, parent and grandparent; and Councilwoman Rosemary Rodriguez, Advisory Council Member, to present the application. Copies of the report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, II-B-2a, II-B-2b.

In response to Ms. Peña's question regarding the English-as-a-Second Language Program, Mr. Gibbons said they would be offering a sheltered-immersion program. Based on assessments done during the summer, students will be placed in the sheltered-immersion program, as necessary.

In response to Mr. Patterson's questions regarding capacity, Mr. Gibbons said that the capacity of the school is 300, which would be 100 students per grade. They have adopted a philosophy of not admitting students in the 7th and 8th grade. They will admit 100 students in the 6th grade yearly. They based the projected 271 students in their application on mobility rates.

In response to Mr. Patterson's question regarding from where students will be drawn, Mr. Gibbons replied that they have made significant headway and serious discussions have taken place regarding property on South Federal. It is important to them to serve the student population where community support was developed over this past year and that means being in that area.

Ms. Moss thanked everyone that spoke in favor of this application. She asked for more information on the national organization referenced in their application.

Mr. Gibbons said that Building Excellent Schools is a national organization, working in six or eight cities. It offers year long training in school leadership

and design, and how to develop an application and a board. It is not a management organization. There is no formal commitment from them from this point forward.

### 3. Global Village Academy

Mr. Hemming introduced Dr. Jade Amick, Founding Board Member, for Global Village Academy, which is functioning under the auspices of the Alliance for Universal Education, Inc. She introduced Rev. Kirk and Carol Copeland and Mark Lepore, parents and Board members, to present the application. Copies of their information is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, II-B-3a.

In response to Rev. Guzman's concern about their ability to provide the amount of money needed to fund this type of program, Dr. Amick said that they will essentially have the same number of teachers that any school would have for the student population. They will be using native speaking teachers. As a charter school they have the freedom to use a different set of academic standards for teacher qualifications.

Rev. Guzman expressed concern that they would not be using credentialed teachers.

Dr. Amick said she did not mean to imply that their teachers would not be credentialed. They would have university degrees and would be trained as teachers, but as teachers in their particular language, not as a second language but as elementary school teachers.

### District School Improvement and Accountability Council Report (DSIAC)

Mr. Woodward introduced Leo Smith, member of the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC), to present their report on discipline to the Board.

Mr. Smith said he had come to report DSIAC's comments regarding the discipline policy and the proposed revisions to the discipline policy. When they looked at the policy from a broader perspective they realized that discipline is a major issue to almost every constituency group in the city. Everyone has concerns and issues about discipline and student conduct. So DSIAC's recommendation is that the Board undertake a major revision of the discipline policy. Involving all stakeholders in order to address this issue and come to a consensus.

### **III. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Bennet noted that the Council of Great City Schools assessment team met with Board members at the Board's Work Session. They will begin reviewing district curriculum on October 3, 2005.

Mr. Bennet reported that he has been meeting with principals. He has met with 110 principals. These meetings have been extraordinarily valuable. He has learned a lot in a very short period time. He also had an unprecedented meeting with Kim Ursetta, Denver Classroom Teachers Association, and her leadership team to talk about Human Resource issues. They had a very frank conversation about the importance of morale in the district.

He said that Abraham Lincoln High School's Apex degree was discussed by the State Board of Education this week. They returned an inconclusive four-to-four vote. Our intention is to go ahead with the Apex degree, which has already been blessed by Board action. Discussion about legislation will be ongoing and he is looking forward to working with the Board and legislators on this subject.

Mr. Bennet stated that a report has come out on PERA. The report has numerous recommendations and may have implications for the ongoing merger discussions with the district. Staff is studying the report to evaluate potential impacts.

Ms. Peña reported that she had attended the Assistance League of Denver's Operation School Bell. She expressed her appreciation to everyone involved that provides children-in-need with new clothes and school supplies.

### **IV. Consent Agenda**

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

IV-B-2a Motion to Approve Agreement between Denver Public Schools and the Children's Museum

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

#### **A. Board of Education**

1. Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 18, 2005 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-A-1.

2. Finance and Audit Committee

- a. Motion to Approve the Carl D. Perkins Grant - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-A-2a.
- b. Motion to Approve Award of Bid #BD 1065 to Central Poly Corporation, Columbine Paper, Ellen Equipment, Hillyard Supply, L&N Supply, Northern Colorado Paper, Star Industrial Supplies, and Waxie Enterprises - A copy of this motion, the stated award of bid which solicited responses from qualified vendors to provide janitorial supplies for warehouse stock, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-A-2b.

B. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

- a. Motion to Approve the Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-B-1a.
- b. Motion to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Denver Public Schools and the Vocational Teachers’ Federation – A copy of this motion, a joint agreement to extend the length of the Agreement from June 14, 2005, through September 15, 2005, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-B-1b.
- c. Motion to Amend the Agreement between Denver Public Schools and the Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-B-1c.

C. Policy Review

1. Revision of Policies

- a. Policy JKA, Student Restraint - A copy of this policy, which describes when and under what circumstances employees may restrain students, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-C-1a.

**DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS**

IV-B-2a      Motion to Approve Agreement between Denver Public Schools and the Children’s Museum

Ms. Gantz Berman introduced Tom Downey, President and Executive Director of the Children’s Museum. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Downey for his cooperation with the district’s land acquisition of a future site for a school in downtown Denver.

Mr. Downey said that they have been very excited to work with the Denver Public Schools to build this concept of an early childhood education campus. He reported that it has been wonderful to work with Mike Langley and Mike Beery, from the district's Facility Management Office.

Ms. Gantz Berman moved approval of the motion. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. A copy of the motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, IV-B-2a.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Policy Review**

#### **1. Revision of Policies**

- a. **Policy KF, Community Use of School Facilities** – A copy of this policy, which standardizes the use of district facilities, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, V-A-1a.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Policy Review**

#### **1. Repeal/Reenact Policy**

- a. **Policy BEDA, Notification of Board Meetings** – The Board will receive for first reading the repeal and reenactment of this policy to implement the new Board of Education meeting schedule. If the Board adopts this proposal, it will repeal its Bylaws and Policies BEDC, Quorum; BEDF, Voting Method; and BEDG, Minutes; because the topics will be covered in new Policy BEDA. A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-1a.
- b. **Policy BGA, Policy Development System** – The Board currently has six policies that deal with policy adoption, waiver, revision, suspension, regulations, and feedback. Staff is proposing to cover all of these topics in Reenacted Policy BGA in a more simplified manner. A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-1b.

#### **2. Repeal of Policy**

- a. **Board of Education Bylaws** – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2a.
- b. **Policy BEDC, Quorum** – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2b.

- c. Policy BEDF, Voting Method – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2c.
- d. Policy BEDG, Minutes – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2d.
- e. Policy BGB, Policy Adoption – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2e.
- f. Policy BGB-R, Policy Adoption (Waiver Requests) – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2f.
- g. Policy BGC, Policy Revision and Review – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2g.
- h. Policy BGD (CHB), Board Review of Regulations (and Administrative Procedures) – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2h.
- i. Policy BGE, Policy Communications/Feedback – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2i.
- j. Policy BGF, Suspension/Repeal of Policy – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2j.
- k. Policy CHB (BGD), Board Review of Regulations (and Administrative Procedures) – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2k.
- l. Policy BF, School Board Work Sessions and Retreats – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-2l.

### 3. Revision of Policy

- a. Policy DJA, Purchasing Authority – A copy of this policy, revisions that will permit the Superintendent to designate his authority to sign contracts on behalf of the Board, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VI-A-3a.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:17 p.m.

## PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

### Discipline Reform

A student member of Jovenes Unidos, said that they had previously presented their report, “Educational Lockdown,” to the Superintendent and the Board. The report illustrates that something is seriously wrong and it is deeply impacting students of color. The data shows there are serious racial disparities in the implementation of discipline policies in the Denver Public Schools and we need to all work together to do something about it.

Julieta Quinonez, North High School graduate, currently attending the University of Denver and member of Jovenes Unidos, said that they believe that discipline should fix problems and keep schools safe, but it should also give everyone the chance to stay in school, to graduate, and be prepared for the future. They would like to work with Superintendent Bennet and Board members on the following steps: Step one, work together to establish a just discipline policy. They propose that the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) have a series of community meetings that are open to everyone to establish guidelines for discipline policies and reforms. In response to Mr. Bennet’s request, Jovenes Unidos has prepared a paper of what they feel is a just discipline policy and they would like the opportunity to present it. Step two, develop an Intergovernmental Agreement. They propose changes to the agreement between DPS and the Denver Police Department regarding the role of police officers in the schools. Step three, seek alternatives to suspension and expulsion. Jovenes Unidos is supportive of alternative programs like Restorative Justice. Finally, based on joint findings, they would like to sit down with Board members to talk about a budget and fund-raising plan for district wide prevention and intervention programs.

Jackie Talamantes, junior at Denver School of the Arts, said that a report done by the Applied Research Center found that students of color are pushed out of school through a system of assigning them to lower classes, with less qualified teachers, and with fewer academic resources. The report also found that engaging and challenging classroom instruction has been linked to higher attendance, fewer behavior problems, and college success. Jovenes Unidos agrees that high academic instruction, high quality teaching, high level curriculum, and a supportive school culture are all critical to resolving issues of student misconduct, retention, achievement, and graduation.

Ms. Peña expressed appreciation for their information. She said that the Board and Superintendent are absolutely committed to higher academic success for all of our students.

A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VIII-1.

### Raising CSAP Scores

Joe Herrera, President of Opportunity is Through Education, said that he has worked with a number of schools. He presented a packet of information and letters from three former Superintendents that explained his program. A copy of this information is attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VIII-2.

## Student Achievement

Gloria Semien, parent, said her son attends Denver School of Science and Technology Charter School. She said she had recently sent a letter to the Board requesting assistance with an issue regarding governance at the school. The schools charter and contract contains specific provisions and mechanisms for governance, including an elected-parent advisory committee whose members would select the non-voting parent representative. She asked the Board's assistance to ensure compliance of all the components of governance at the school.

## DPS School Counselors

Cory Canty-Woessner, Counselor at Kepner Middle Schools, said that she and her group are representing DPS school counselors. She introduced Gust Athanas, Counselor, John F. Kennedy High School; Patricia Gould, Counselor at East High School; Molly Mugee, Counselor at South High School; and Jane Spence, Counselor at Merrill Middle School until her position was eliminated on Friday. They formed a committee three years ago when they became pilot schools for the American School Counseling Association National Model. They have been working the past three years to pilot the national model and work towards full implementation of the model in the district. A copy of their report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-21, VIII-3.

Mrs. Moss said she has researched the national model and feels that this is a program that the district needs. Many school districts in the surrounding areas have adopted this model. She recently attended the Safe and Drug Free School conference where the counselors and teachers who attended talked about learning how to implement things like drug and alcohol programs, how to help kids be good citizens, and how to prevent bullying. She believes those are critical elements to children being successful.

She expressed concern about the loss of counselors in district schools. She said that the Secondary Reform Commission Report pointed out the critical role of counselors in ensuring that children stay in school. The loss of counselors is something that the district needs to look at. It is critical that our students have counselors.

In response to Mrs. Moss' question regarding the loss of counselors, Ms. Spence said that, as she understands it, the district began losing counselors when it went to site-based management. Counselors are not listed as special services people, they are listed as teachers. Therefore, when a building needs to make cuts because of class size, the administration in the school can choose to eliminate a counseling position instead of a teaching position. There are middle schools in the district that do not have any counselors. Every year the district is losing counselors in both middle and high schools, but particularly in middle schools.

Ms. Cori Canty-Woessner said that at her school she is the only school counselor for over a thousand students.

Mr. Bennet said that he would never stand between employees who want to speak to the Board, but he did not want employees to feel that in order to make their case they had to come before

the Board. A counselor for a thousand students does not provide value. That is too many students for one counselor. It is not good for the counselor, nor for the students. The question needs to be how to provide as much counseling as possible in a world of limited resources. He is available, or someone he trusts is available, to meet with anyone on any topic. He said if they would like to have further conversation, he is available to meet with anyone at any time.

### Second School near Westerly Creek Elementary School

Brian Weber, from the Stapleton Foundation, said they had come to discuss their proposal to reconfigure the two schools at Stapleton, which will come before the Board at their October 20, 2005, meeting. This reconfiguration came up about a year ago when concerns about a second school at Stapleton was being built about a half mile from Westerly Creek. Originally, that was not supposed to happen, but Westerly Creek was moved from its original site. Conversations started about what could be done. They had a large public meeting in April, a large committee of parents met and out of that process came this proposal. The proposal calls for turning Westerly Creek into an ECE-3 Primary Center; and the second school into a grade four through eight.

Mike Johnson, Stapleton resident and parent of three children in DPS, said he has been involved in all the meetings on this proposal from the beginning. There has been an incredible amount of interest and participation in the Stapleton community. He is excited to move this issue forward and put together a program that is going to work for their unique circumstances and the distribution of their kids.

He also reported that the Stapleton Citizen Advisory Board passed a resolution that morning unanimously supporting the district's ProComp measure on the ballot.

Pat Teegarden, Stapleton resident and parent, thanked Kevin Patterson for his time, patience, and willingness to listen, and help in working through this process. He said he would like to emphasize the importance of flexibility in the day-to-day management and decision-making.

Mr. Patterson expressed his appreciation to everyone from Stapleton for attending the meeting. The Stapleton community has a large number of very active parents that are very concerned about what is going to happen with their children's education.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that the district has considered an early-learning center for a long time and she is excited that it is going to happen. She expressed her appreciation to Brian Weber and Bev Haddon from the Stapleton Foundation. The Foundation has worked in partnership with the district since it started, and the work has paid off for us and the citizens of Stapleton.

Mr. Woodward called for a brief Executive Session on legal matters. Ms. Gantz Berman moved that the Board go into Executive Session for purposes of receiving legal advice. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Public Comment Session at 7:16 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary  
Board of Education