I. Call To Order

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. James Mejía, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the notice of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Superintendent Jerry Wartgow introduced Dr. Darlene LeDoux, who recently accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent for School and Community Partnerships. Dr. LeDoux, he said, has a distinguished career in education as a teacher and principal with many years in the Denver Public Schools, including an early position as a bilingual resource teacher and instructional consultant in bilingual education. He said that she has served as a principal at Del Pueblo, Cheltenham, and Barrett Elementary Schools, and that she served for eleven years as a principal in the Cherry Creek School District, followed by a position as Director of Human Resources. Dr. LeDoux, he said, brings with her a keen knowledge of the Denver community, is aware of the many individuals, businesses, and community organizations that are eager to assist the district, and will bring great energy to the task of bringing all of these groups together to benefit the children of the district. He welcomed Dr. LeDoux to the Denver Public Schools.

Dr. LeDoux said that she was pleased to be back in the district from which she graduated and where she spent the early years of her career. She said that she is honored to accept the position working with such a high caliber of staff, and that she looks forward to helping make a difference in the education of the children of Denver.

Dr. Wartgow also noted that the district has contracted with the Institute for Learning, associated with the University of Pittsburgh, to provide services, on an interim basis, in place of a Chief Academic Officer. He said that all of the Institute’s talent, resources, skill, and reputation would be put to work to provide the best in professional development throughout the district. Representing the Institute, he said, Sally Mentor Hay would begin with the district on February 1, 2002, and would help place the district in a position to build upon all the work that staff has put into the district’s goals and objectives.

He said that he also wished to recognize Tony Lewis, Program Officer for the Donnell-Kay Foundation, and said that Mr. Lewis and the Foundation have been very responsive to the needs
of the district and have provided funding and support so that the involvement of the Institute for Learning comes at no cost to the district or the taxpayers. He thanked Mr. Lewis and Donnell-Kay for their benevolent support.

STUDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Edwards introduced Theo Husick, Student Board of Education representative from South High School, who was present at the meeting. She explained that members of the Student Board attend meetings and report back to their Board about issues and the action taken on them. She thanked Theo for attending and urged him to join in on any discussions to which he wished to make a contribution.

III. Board of Education Reports*

A. Board Member Reports

1. Board of Education Secretary

There were no reports.

2. Proclamation – Learning Landscape Initiative

Mr. Mejía said that for many decades, Denver Public Schools elementary school playgrounds received few improvements due to a lack of funds and a lack of planning; however, as of December 2001, the University of Colorado at Denver completed master plans for learning landscapes for 42 district schools, and as of December 2002, there will be 11 new playgrounds and Learning Landscapes in the ground, with an additional seven expected to be completed by December 2003. He said that funding and support have been obtained by the extraordinary efforts of Tom Kaesemeyer, Executive Director of the Gates Family Foundation, and Professor Lois Brink, of the Landscape Architecture Department of the University of Colorado at Denver, whom he introduced to the audience.

On behalf of the district and the students, parents, and staff of the schools with new learning landscapes, Mr. Mejía expressed appreciation and thanks. He read the following Proclamation into the record:

Whereas, it has long been recognized that elementary school playgrounds contribute to the overall learning environment of our children; and

Whereas, elementary school playgrounds provide a positive focus for communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, Lois Brink, Professor, University of Colorado at Denver has spent countless hours developing and organizing graduate course curriculum and
students to design renovations to District No. 1 elementary school playgrounds into Learning Landscapes; and

Whereas, Lois Brink has organized and directed students, community, and contractor efforts to construct Learning Landscapes for District. No. 1 elementary school playgrounds; and

Whereas, Lois Brink’s efforts created a safe learning environment for the children and these new playgrounds challenge their emotional, physical, and social skills;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Board of Education of District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver and State of Colorado officially recognizes and thanks Lois Brink for her extraordinary efforts in support of the children of District No. 1 and the Learning Landscape Initiative.

Mr. Mejía presented Professor Brink with a copy of the Proclamation.

He stated that in 1999 and 2000, the district secured approximately $307,000 in private and public funding for this initiative, while in 2001, the district secured approximately $1,955,000 and expects to exceed $2.2 in 2002. He stated that these funds were obtained due to the tireless efforts of Tom Kaesemeyer, and read the following Proclamation into the record:

Whereas, it has long been recognized that elementary school playgrounds contribute to the overall learning environment of our children; and

Whereas, elementary school playgrounds provide a positive focus for communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, C. Thomas Kaesemeyer, Executive Director, Gates Family Foundation, has spent countless hours coordinating funding and contributions from public and private organizations to renovate District No. 1 elementary school playgrounds into Learning Landscapes; and

Whereas, C. Thomas Kaesemeyer’s efforts created a safe learning environment for children and these new playgrounds challenge their emotional, physical, and social skills;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Board of Education of School District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver and State of Colorado officially recognizes and thanks C. Thomas Kaesemeyer for his extraordinary efforts in support of the children of District No. 1 and the Learning Landscape Initiative.

Mr. Mejía presented Mr. Kaesemeyer with a copy of the Proclamation.
Mr. Kaesemeyer said that approximately $3 million would be needed in order to complete Learning Landscapes for seven district schools and that his efforts would not have been possible without the leadership of Ms. Gantz Berman, Superintendent Jerry Wartgow, and especially Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facility Management, who has done “yeoman work” for the project and is a true asset to the Denver Public Schools.

Ms. Gantz Berman offered Professor Brink and Mr. Kaesemeyer thanks on behalf of the Board of Education. She said that she first met Professor Brink, who had a child at Bromwell Elementary School, when Dr. Brink began the first Learning Landscape project at that school. Bromwell’s playground, she said, became a model of how a play space could be a learning environment for children with special needs, and Dr. Brink was enlisted to help create such playgrounds for other district schools.

She stated that Mr. Kaesemeyer had set a new standard for foundation executives, with his high level of persistence and passion for the Learning Landscapes Initiative.

Copies of the two Proclamations are appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), III-A-2a and III-A-2b, respectively.

2. Recognition – National Teacher Certification

Ms. Gantz Berman said that a number of district teachers had recently received National Teacher Certification. This certification, she said, makes those who have earned the honor part of an elite corps of the teaching profession, as the coursework for certification is difficult and takes a great deal of energy, commitment, and the little free time that teachers have. She said that the district is very proud of the accomplishments of these dedicated professionals, and challenged other teachers in the district to pursue National Teacher Certification. She introduced the following teachers and presented them with roses in appreciation of their accomplishment: Donna Hamilton, Steele Elementary School; Jeanne Jessup, Hamilton Middle School; Karen Ann Libby, Hamilton Middle School; Paula Martinez, Kepner Middle School; Linda Mitchell, Grant Ranch Elementary School; Rebecca Roberts, Fairmont Elementary School; Heather Sheets, Abraham Lincoln High School; Leslie Stahl, Southmoor Elementary School; and Linda Taht, Centennial Elementary School.

Ms. Gantz Berman congratulated the teachers and said that they have set a high standard for other teachers in the district.

Dr. Wartgow added his congratulations and appreciation for the nationally certified teachers for their outstanding accomplishments. He said that he is aware of their dedication to the district and how much they contribute to the district’s
goals of setting high expectations, improving the performance of all students, and closing the gap between better and poorer performing students. He said that these teachers are wonderful role models for other teachers within the district and across the nation.

II. **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Lucero read the agenda items by number and section. In accordance with consent agenda procedures, Board members requested that the following items be held for discussion:

- IV-A-3c  John Amesse Elementary School Modified Calendar Proposal
- IV-A-3d  Barrett School of Zoology Modified Calendar Proposal
- IV-A-3e  Smith Renaissance School of the Arts Modified Calendar Proposal
- IV-A-3f  Johnson Elementary School Modified Calendar Proposal
- IV-A-3g  Fairmont Elementary School Modified Calendar Proposal
- IV-A-3h  Grant Middle School Communications Curricular Focus Proposal

Mr. Mejía moved adoption of the consent agenda items not identified as being held, and Mr. Woodward seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting “aye,” Ms. Gantz Berman, Mrs. Edwards, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Mejía, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Woodward. The motion was declared duly carried.

The following items were approved under the consent agenda process:

IV. **Superintendent’s Reports/Presentations**

A. **Superintendent’s Special Reports**

1. **Gifts** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Gift Report. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-1.

2. **Stapleton Program Design** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the educational program and staff recommendations for Stapleton Elementary School as part of the General Obligation Bond Project for the 2003-2004 school year. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-2.

* This agenda item was taken out of sequence.
3. **School Design Proposals**

   a. **Knight Fundamental Academy All-Day Kindergarten Proposal** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the program redesign proposal for Knight Fundamental Academy and that the school’s grade level organization be changed from grades one through five to kindergarten through fifth grade for the 2002-2003 school year. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-3a.

   b. **Steck School Design Modification** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the program redesign proposal for Steck Elementary School and that the school return to an Early Childhood Education through fifth grade level design for the 2002-2003 school year. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-3b.

4. **Tony Granpsas Youth Service Grant** – It was recommended that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent and appropriate officers of the district to execute and deliver all documents necessary to apply for funding to the Colorado State Department of Public Health and Environment to administer a grant entitled *Tony Granpsas Youth Service Grant*, submitted by the Department of Community Education in the amount of $320,000. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-4.

V. **Administrative Services**

   A. **Human Resources/Labor Relations**

   1. **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 02-01(l), V-A-1.

   2. **Motion – To Accept the Arbitrator’s Report in Denver Classroom Teachers Association Grievance #01-11** – It was recommended that the Board of Education accept the arbitrator’s report dated December 14, 2001, regarding Denver Classroom Teachers Association and Denver Public Schools, Grievance #01-11. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), V-A-2.

   B. **Facility Management**

   1. **Final Settlements** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Final Settlements for Contracted Services. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), V-B-1.
2. **Architect Selection for the Smith Elementary School Playground and Learning Landscape Renovation Project** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the firm of GPD Land Design, LLC as the architect for the Smith Elementary School Playground and Learning Landscape Renovation Project. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), V-B-2.

3. **Easement – South High School/All-City Stadium Site** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve a permanent easement to the City and County of Denver, acting by and through its Board of Water Commissioners, at the All-City Stadium property for $87,639.00, and authorize officers of the Board and staff to implement this action. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), V-B-3.

4. **Architect Selection for the Colfax Elementary School Playground and Learning Landscape Renovation Project** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the firm of GPD Land Design, LLC as the architect for the Colfax Elementary School Playground and Learning Landscape Renovation Project. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), V-B-4.

VI. **Budget and Finance**

A. **Financial Services**

1. **Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2001, to November 30, 2001** – The Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the period July 1, 2001, to November 30, 2001, was submitted for information. A copy of this statement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VI-A-1.

2. **Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001** – The Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the period July 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001, was submitted for information. A copy of this statement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VI-A-2.

3. **Quarterly Travel Report** – The Quarterly Travel Report was submitted for information. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VI-A-3.
4. **Resolution 2777** – It was recommended that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 2777, authorizing and approving a first amendment to a previously executed Lease-Purchase Agreement and related documents and transactions. A copy of Resolution 2777 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VI-A-4.

VII. **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

VIII. **New Business**

A. **Resolution and Policy Revision/Adoption**

1. **Second Readings**

   a. **M-01-23 – Policy Deletion – Various Policies in Section B** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the **deletion** of the following Board of Education policies: BB, BBAA, BBBB, BBBC/BBBD, BBBE, BBBG, BC, BCAE2, BCB, BEDA, BEDC, BEDF, BEDG, and BID/BIE; and that **revisions** to the following policies be approved: BDA, BAB, BE/BEA/BEB, BEC, BEDD, and BGB. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VIII-A-1a.

   b. **M-01-24 – Rescind Board of Education Procedures** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the total rescinding of its Rules of Procedures. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VIII-A-1b.

   c. **M-01-26 – Policy Revision – Policy BF – School Board Work Sessions and Retreats** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed revisions to Policy BF – School Board Work Sessions and Retreats. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VIII-A-1c.

   d. **M-01-27 – Revisions to Board of Education Bylaws** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed revisions to the Board of Education Bylaws. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VIII-A-1d.

2. **First Readings**

   There were no First Readings.
B. **Report of Expelled Students** – The Report of Expelled Students was submitted for information. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VIII-B.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**IV-A-3h**  
**Grant Middle School Communications Curricular Focus Proposal**

Allen Balczarek, General Obligation Bond Program Manager, introduced the staff members who were involved in the redesign process at Grant Middle School: Dr. Irene Jordan, Southeast Area Superintendent; Beth Biggs, Southeast Area Assistant Area Superintendent; and Elmer Manzanares, Grant Principal. He then introduced community members Marty Davidson and Marcelle Jones, who also participated in the redesign process.

For clarification, Mr. Balczarek explained that there are currently two proposals before the Board affecting Grant Middle School—one concerns the proposed boundary change for Grant, which also addresses capacity issues at Kunsmiller Middle School, and the current proposal regarding the design of Grant’s educational program. He reminded the Board that the new Student Assignment Plan also provides Grant with new students from Schmitt and Godsman Elementary Schools.

Representatives of the Grant community began the redesign nearly a year ago, he said, with efforts to improve on already successful measures in the writing process. He said that the redesign committee’s focus has been to build upon the school’s successes in the language arts area and to transform them into a schoolwide expanded program. As a result of Grant’s early efforts, he said, staff was officially assigned to work with the principal and the school redesign committee in July 2001, and the purpose of staff involvement was to assist in the development of a proposal and to keep Board members informed about the progress of the process.

Mr. Balczarek stated that the committee met through November 2001 with representatives from central administration, staff members, the community, and Grant’s own staff, and adopted a theme of communications as the school focus. The communications design, he said, includes new and revised courses in journalism, creative and technical writing, speech, drama, music, choir, media technology, interpersonal communication, and conflict management; and some of the expected outcomes from the redesign are schoolwide improvement of reading and writing skills, the attraction of students who have previously opted out of attending Grant through the *Choice* option, and improved communications to feeder schools and high school programs, such as Thomas Jefferson High School’s “Communication Central.”

He said that the current offerings and electives at Grant would continue, but would be modified to reflect the emphasis on communication. He said that there would be a one-time program startup cost of $69,471 for a media center, staff development, and wiring and infrastructure. Additionally, he said, a .5 allocation is requested for a program coordinator to conduct outreach activities and program development. In terms of sustainability, he said, the one-time expense for

* This agenda item was taken out of sequence.
the media center and staff development appears to be self-sustaining through mill levy funds and
the ongoing budget process, and that other program elements also appear to be sustainable.

In summary, Mr. Balczarek said that Grant’s redesign proposal is in response to the school’s
desire to increase literacy, to be more attractive to students, and to give the school a thematic
focus. He said that the following are some advantages that staff would like the Board to
consider:

1. The school redesign proposal is likely to increase Grant’s focus on literacy through
   emphasis on language arts and technology.

2. The school redesign proposal is likely to increase communication and articulation
   between elementary feeder schools and Thomas Jefferson High School’s
   “Communication Central” program.

3. The redesign proposal might be attractive to parents of students from Schmitt and
   Godsman Elementary Schools, who are slated to be reassigned from Kunsmiller to Grant.

4. The Grant program design committee has provided ongoing updates to the community
   and has distributed surveys for input and reactions to the proposal, and the results are
   very favorable.

However, Mr. Balczarek said that there are also concerns that staff believes the Board should be
aware of:

1. The .5 allocation requested for a coordinator might strain the school’s budget in ensuing
   years.

2. The .5 allocation is an ongoing annual cost to the district.

3. The proposal has not adequately defined a sustainable, comprehensive staff development
   plan for implementation and ongoing evaluation.

Despite these concerns, he said, staff favors the approval of the Grant redesign proposal and
supports the one-time startup cost of $69,471 for program equipment, staff development, and
infrastructure. However, he said, staff does not recommend the ongoing .5 allocation for a
coordinator, as staff believes that this position should be a part of the school’s plan and usage
within the regular Resource Allocation Methodology (RAM).

Mr. Mejía asked Mr. Manzanares what he wanted, as Grant’s principal, to see happen at the
school as a result of the redesign.

Mr. Manzanares stressed that the redesign process was a schoolwide and communitywide
initiative with a constant goal of inclusivity for all segments of the school’s population. He said
that the redesign committee met twice a month during the summer and that it had 12 to 15 very
dedicated members. The focus of the plan, he said, was to improve on and enhance the strengths
of Grant’s educational program; they felt that the school’s greatest strength was in the area of writing and decided to build their program around it. He said that Grant students have been successful in the annual Ann Frank Competition in writing, the Shakespeare Festival, Destination Imagination, and various other writing contests and competitions.

However, Mr. Manzanares said, the committee realized that the school would need a vehicle for their enhanced focus on writing and that, technologically, Grant is behind other district middle schools. He said that the school has one IMAC computer lab, and one PC computer lab that is equipped with some fairly old computers. He said that the startup funds would help the school update their technology labs and provide students with tools with which to enhance their skills. Another important aspect, he said, would be to convert what are now after-school activities, such as the Shakespeare Festival and Destination Imagination, into elective coursework during the school day to augment Grant’s already strong fundamental academic program.

Additionally, he explained that the Grant community would like to do everything in its power to convince the families of Godsman and Schmitt students that Grant would be a good school for their children to attend. He said that there is much that Grant staff can learn from the elementary school communities, such as posting samples of student writing to share with other students and the community. He wanted to ensure the concerned parent of the Schmitt community that Grant does place a sincere and profound focus on writing and literacy that would carry on what their children had started in elementary school. He said that with the loss of students from the satellite attendance area, who would be attending the new middle school in north central Denver, it is imperative that the Grant community do everything in its power to attract new students in order to keep a viable educational program. The aim of the proposal, he said, was to create an educational program that is new, innovative, and bold.

Mr. Mejía replied that he is appreciative of the Grant community’s efforts to be sensitive to the concerns raised by Schmitt families and that he hopes that those families will revisit Grant and give the school the opportunity to provide for their children’s educational needs.

In response to a question from Mr. Mejía regarding a class in public speaking, Mr. Manzanares said that public speaking would be included in the Communications Module, which would also include debate, and both journalistic and technical writing.

Mr. Manzanares expressed disappointment that district staff recommended against the additional .5 allocation for a program coordinator. He said that the program could continue without the additional allocation, but that it might mean the possible loss of another elective position. The program coordinator position is essential, he said, to oversee the program and to act as a liaison to various programs in the district that Grant students could attend upon completion of their middle school course of study, such as the program at Thomas Jefferson.

Mrs. Moss referred to a video production program mentioned in the proposal and said that she was in charge of a similar course offering when she was teaching. She said that the report mentions that the school already has one digital camera and that startup funds would be used to purchase another camera and an editing deck. A problem she encountered as a teacher, she said, is that such equipment requires replacement and repair on a fairly frequent basis. She asked if
the Grant budget would allow for the replacement and repair of equipment purchased with one-
time funds. She said that she thinks offering such a program to middle school students would be
a great opportunity for them, but wonders if there is funding in place to maintain it over the long
run.

Mr. Manzanares said that they would incorporate maintenance funding into their regular school
budgeting process and stated that the school is also entitled to technology funding from mill levy
funds, which could also be used for maintenance. He said that their technology fund had been
sufficient to purchase a new IMAC computer for each teacher’s classroom and that their IMAC
computer lab currently consists of 30 new computers. With that outlay, he said, their equipment
is new enough that technology funds could be used for maintenance rather than massive new
equipment purchases.

Rev. Guzman said that she admired the efforts of the Grant community to enhance and improve
their educational program to provide new and exciting opportunities for its students. She said
that she questions the staff recommendation against supporting an additional .5 allocation for a
program manager, as it seems to her that the Grant community has done a commendable job in
creating an innovative and bold program, and it would be to the benefit of the school and the
district to support such innovation. She said she feels that Grant should not have to lose a part of
their program in order to have a program coordinator.

Mr. Manzanares said that the elective that would be lost to have a program coordinator would
probably be in the area home economics, which would be unfortunate because there are students
who find that area of study as interesting and enjoyable as other students find technology or
physical education. However, he said that he would accept that loss to see that the proposed
program was implemented and operated correctly, adhering to the vision of the redesign
committee. He said that part of the instructional budget would also go to increasing the .5 music
teacher allocation to a full-time allocation to enhance the program and offer all students the
opportunity to participate in either instrumental or vocal music. Currently, he said, Grant has a
very good band that performs at various venues within the community.

Southeast Area Superintendent Irene Jordan said that staff agrees that the .5 allocation for Grant
is an important one; however, in consideration of budget restraints, modifying the RAM for one
school would be unfair to other schools that also have important and worthy program offerings.

Ms. Gantz Berman thanked the Grant representatives and Mr. Balczarek for their presentation
and stated that the Board would vote on the proposal during the February Legislative Meeting.

The report entitled Grant Middle School Communications Curricula Focus Proposal was
submitted for information and did not require action on the part of the Board. A copy of the
report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l). IV-A-3h.
Mr. Mejía said that the level of parental support for adopting a continuous school year calendar varied significantly between the five schools requesting to adopt that calendar and asked what each school community felt was an adequate level.

Joyce Simmons, Principal of Smith Renaissance School of the Arts, said that she surveyed the parents at her school and talked personally with as many parents as she could and that, overwhelmingly, they voiced support of conversion to a full-year calendar. She said that an official survey count provided an 86 percent approval rate. She said that she was comfortable with that rate, especially given the fact that staff and CDM members were also extremely supportive of the plan. In response to a question from Mr. Mejía, she said that if the approval rate for parents had been below 80 percent, they would not have proceeded with the plan without the benefit of further discussions.

Melanie Byers, Principal of Fairmont Elementary School, said that several parent meetings were held at which the issues were discussed and questions and concerns addressed; ballots were then sent home with children and they received a response rate of approximately 50 percent. Of the 50 percent of ballots returned, she said, approximately 88 percent of respondents were in favor of an extended school year calendar. She said that staff also called and polled parents and community members, and that CDM members decided that if parents had been vehemently opposed to the idea of a modified school calendar, they would have responded. Therefore, she said, they decided to accept that 88 percent of the 50 percent of respondents constituted the general opinion of the majority.

Kathleen Wilson, Principal of Johnson Elementary School, said that they had conducted a similar process to the one at Fairmont. She said that a similar survey was sent out to Johnson families and that about 65 percent of those surveyed responded and of those respondents, approximately 80 percent stated that they would be in favor of a year-round calendar. She said that, during the 2001-2002 school year, as new students registered, her staff spoke with parents and students to determine their feelings about converting to a year-round calendar and, with very few exceptions, the new parents are also in favor of conversion. Of Johnson’s staff, she said, two of 33 do not want to convert to a modified calendar.

Mr. Patterson said that the Barrett proposal asked to be permitted to change to a modified school year calendar as well as enact a dress code. He asked if those issues had been surveyed as separate issues.

Ricardo Concha, Southwest Area Assistant Superintendent, said that the issues were treated separately and that the issue of school uniforms is not a question of school design. The proposal before the Board, he said, is strictly a question of implementing a modified school year calendar;
the question of school uniforms would not require Board approval and has been withdrawn from the current proposal.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that the Board has discussed the issue of what should be considered adequate parental support of a proposed change in school design. She said that it is difficult for schools to determine with certainty the opinions of the families within their district, as they do not have control over the response rates of those surveys; but if the response rate is low the question must be asked if the proposed change is really reflective of what the majority of the school community desires for the school. However, she said, the Board has a sincere desire to approve proposals that reflect what the majority of the school community wants for their school.

Mr. Mejía noted that each proposal states that transportation for students would not be provided during inter-sessions. He said that it seems to him that the children who would require transportation and whose parents would have the most difficulty getting their children to school for inter-session activities are the children most in need of those services.

Ms. Simmons replied that Smith is a walk-in school, with only one student in the school bused in, and that attendance for all children for inter-session activities would likely be as high as for regular sessions.

Ms. Wilson stated that the only students who are bused to Johnson are eight trainable mentally handicapped (TMH) students, who may or may not participate in inter-session activities, and that she does not see that as an issue.

Ms. Byers said that Fairmont is unique in that the school has two center placements—one is an Early Learning Center of three- and four-year-old special needs children, who are bused in and who would not be provided with inter-session activities because they would not be very beneficial to them; the other center program is a TMH classroom who also likely would not be served during inter-sessions.

Henry Boyer, teacher at Barrett Elementary School, said that he was speaking on behalf of Barrett Principal Betty Johnson, who was unable to attend the meeting. He said that Barrett has approximately 32 children in the mainstream program who are bused to school and eight children taking part in a TMH program there. He said that the intersession activities would be provided through a combination pf programs, such as the Summer Scholars, YMCA, and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Sheri Charles, Assistant Principal of John Amesse Elementary School, said that the school has over 700 students, none of whom are bused, so transportation during inter-sessions would not be an issue for the program. To determine the level of parental support for a modified school year calendar, she said, surveys were sent home to parents with every student and that they received in excess of 400 returned surveys, with approximately 70 percent of respondents favoring converting to a year-round calendar. She said that teachers were then directed to phone every parent in her classroom and poll them informally, as well as holding parent workshops and forums. She said that there was a very high approval rating as a result of these efforts, although the formal surveying does not indicate it.
Ms. Charles said that Amesse administration and teachers would like to have a modified calendar for many reasons, one of which is to bring uniformity to the schools in the Montbello area. Currently, she said, there are three elementary schools operating under such a system—Ford, McGlone, and Maxwell Elementary Schools. She said that McGlone and Amesse are in the process of jointly implementing a new reading program, *Success For All*, and it would be beneficial to both schools if they were operating under the same type of calendar and scheduling, especially because it would give them the opportunity to conduct combined inter-session activities and staff development sessions.

Mrs. Edwards said that she feels that the Board should hold discussions regarding setting standards and thresholds for making significant program or school design changes in individual schools. She said that she feels that more should be involved than a simple majority of parents approving a plan to make changes of great magnitude. She said that this is especially important when considering changes to schools that do not have any other schools in close proximity to which parents could send their children if they do not agree with the changes being made. The Board should be certain, she said, that large-scale changes have the support and understanding of all of the people in the school community.

Rev. Guzman said that a number of schools in her Director District have converted to a modified calendar and have reported some gains in student achievement. She suggested that the staffs from the schools wishing to convert to year-round schedules discuss issues and ideas with schools that have already operated under such schedules for several years. She commended the Amesse and McGlone communities for their cooperative efforts to work together to address the needs of the children in their area in a creative and innovative way.

Mr. Woodward thanked the staffs of the schools involved for taking the time and working to truly involve their families and communities in significant efforts to increase student achievement. It is well known, he said, that parental involvement is key to student performance and he urged the community to continue to keep parents interested and involved.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that she is a proponent of year-round schooling and commended the schools for requesting to take a significant step toward improving their learning environments.

Since these requests were submitted for information only, action by the Board was not required. A copy of the report entitled *Proposal to Establish a Continuous School Year Calendar at John Amesse Elementary School* is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-3c. A copy of the report entitled *Proposal to Establish a Continuous School Year Calendar at Barrett School of Zoology* is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-3d. A copy of the report entitled *Proposal to Establish a Continuous School Year Calendar at Smith Renaissance School of the Arts* is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-3e. A copy of the report entitled *Proposal to Establish a Continuous School Year Calendar at Johnson Elementary School* is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-3f. A copy of the report entitled *Proposal to Establish a Continuous School Year Calendar at Fairmont Elementary School* is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), IV-A-3g.
Mrs. Edwards moved that proposed Policy FB – Historical Designation of Facilities – be adopted and that the Superintendent direct appropriate staff to inform schools, central offices, and the community of the new policy. Mr. Mejía seconded the motion.

Mrs. Edwards said that she held this item to offer thanks to the people involved in creating the new policy: Kathleen Brooker of the Denver Historical Society; James Stratus of the Colorado Historical Society; Everett Shigita of the Denver Landmark Commission; and Sarah McCarthy of Fairhill and Company, who has long been a champion of historic preservation within the Denver Public Schools. She said that the policy was well-crafted and well thought out, and that it was needed to guide the Board and the district’s facilities staff in their stewardship of the district’s many historically significant buildings. She also offered thanks to Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facility Management, for his tireless efforts in the area of historic preservation.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting “aye,” Ms. Gantz Berman, Mrs. Edwards, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Mejía. Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson, and Mr. Woodward. The motion was declared duly carried.

A copy of the motion and the new policy is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-01(l), VIII-A-1e.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Senate Bill 98

Dr. Wartgow stated that he wished to provide an update on activities and deliberations regarding Senate Bill 98, providing incentive money for teachers in lower performing schools. He said that, over the last few weeks, the district administration and the leadership of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) have been discussing the implementation of the teacher incentive/bonus provisions of the bill, and have found that the entities have many issues in common and some on which they differ. The law, he says, provides that bonuses may be paid to certain teachers in schools rated as “low” and “unsatisfactory,” and an appropriation was made to fund those bonuses, from which Denver Public Schools receives approximately $3.7 million. He said that both the district and DCTA believe that some changes in the legislation would make it a more effective means of providing incentives to improve student achievement and that both entities would work together to propose such changes in the current legislative session. However, he said, he wished to assure the public that, for this year, the district intends to implement the legislation as written and that plans for that implementation were in development.
BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Edwards announced that the retired principal of Garden Place Academy, Alvina Crouse, would be getting married that Saturday to Gary Staab, music teacher at Garden Place. She congratulated them and wished them well in their future together.

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education