I. **Call To Order**

C. **Recognition*\**

The Denver School of the Arts String Quartet

The string quartet of the Denver School of the Arts, the Donne Quatro—with Cosima Luther on first violin, Rachel Massey on second violin, MacKenzie Roberts on viola, and Mariel Roberts on cello—played three musical selections. Ms. Gantz Berman thanked the musicians and their teacher, Frank Fyock, for entertaining the Board and the audience.

A. **Pledge of Allegiance**

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. **Roll Call**

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.

D. **Approve Agenda**

Mr. Woodward moved approval of the agenda, as presented, for the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2002. Rev. Guzman 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.

II. **Board Member Reports**

There were no reports.

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* This agenda item was taken out of sequence.
III. Superintendent’s Reports

There were no reports.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

IV-C-3 Grant Middle School Design Proposal

Mr. Woodward moved adoption of the consent agenda and Mr. Mejía 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:

A. Minutes of the Special Legislative Meeting of November 15, 2001; the Staff Hearing and Public Hearing of December 6, 2002; and the Legislative Meeting of December 13, 2001 – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the minutes for the above-referenced meetings.

B. Superintendent’s Office

1. Gift Report – 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 02-03, IV-B-1.

C. Chief Academic Officer

1. Tuition-Based Kindergarten – It was recommended that the Board of Education accept the recommendations of staff regarding tuition-based kindergarten and Montessori programs, and that the Superintendent be directed to implement the programs consistent with those recommendations, while authorized to make any technical or administrative adjustments deemed necessary. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, IV-C-1.

2. Resolution 2778 – Pioneer Charter Renewal – It was recommended that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 2778, renewing the charter for Pioneer Charter School for a period of three years, contingent upon requirements set forth in the Resolution. A copy of Resolution 2778 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, IV-C-2.
D. Administrative Services

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 02-03, IV-D-1.

2. Facility Management

   a. Final Settlements – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Final Settlements for Contract Services. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, IV-D-2a.

   b. Construction Contract for the New Swansea Elementary School Two-Classroom Addition Project – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the construction contract for the Swansea Elementary School two-classroom addition project, and the firm of Tower One for that contract. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, IV-D-2b.

E. Budget and Finance

1. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2001, to January 31, 2002 – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the period July 1, 2001, to January 31, 2002. A copy of this statement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, IV-E-1.

DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS

IV-C-3 Grant Middle School Design Proposal

Mr. Patterson said that he wished to amend the proposed motion, consistent with Board of Education discussions, to include a provision that states that carry-over and fundraising funds would be used to help offset the $69,471 startup costs. He made the following motion:

I move that the Board of Education approve the school design proposal submitted by Grant Middle School, to be supplemented with the school’s carry-over funds and other targeted fundraising activities, and that all necessary steps be taken to implement the design for the 2002-2003 school year.

Mr. Mejía seconded the motion.
Mr. Patterson said that the school’s own funds should be the first choice to supplement the startup costs of the new program.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that the Board has also discussed the need for the Grant CDM and administration to develop both a short- and long-term financial plan to keep the program afloat. She asked if Mr. Patterson would accept a friendly amendment to his motion to include that provision, and Mr. Patterson replied in the affirmative. The motion was so amended.

Mr. Patterson provided the following amended motion:

I move that the Board of Education approve the school design proposal submitted by Grant Middle School, to be supplemented with the school’s carry-over funds and other targeted fundraising activities, that all steps be taken to implement the design for the 2002-2003 school year, and that a short-term and long-term financial plan be developed for viability of the program.

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 this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-02, IV-C-3.

V. **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Information Only**

1. **Report of Expelled Students** – The Report of Expelled Students was submitted for information. A copy of this confidential report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, VI-A-1.

B. **Issues Requiring Discussion and Action by the Board of Education at this Time**

1. **Traditional School Year Calendars: 2002-2003 and 2003-2004**
2. **Continuous Year Calendars: 2002-2003 and 2003-2004**
3. **Calendar for Emily Griffith Opportunity School: 2002-2003**

   Mrs. Edwards moved that the traditional calendars for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years be approved as presented. Mr. Mejía seconded the motion.
Mrs. Edwards moved that the continuous school year calendars for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years be approved as presented. Mr. Mejía seconded the motion.

Mrs. Edwards moved that the 2002-2003 calendar for Emily Griffith Opportunity School be approved. Mr. Mejía seconded the motion.

Superintendent Jerry Wartgow said that he is very pleased with the recommendations and development of the school calendars since proposed changes to the calendar were first introduced several months ago. He said that the calendar proposals had attracted a great deal of interest and that district officials had received a lot of good, positive feedback from many segments of the community. The calendar proposals currently before the Board, he said, are greatly improved and better for the district and its students because of the ongoing discussions and input from the community.

He said that there were three objectives that those who developed the calendar were trying to achieve, which are all reflected in the new calendar:

- Specific periods and times set aside solely for meaningful staff development activities;
- Specific days set aside for assessment close to the beginning of the year to facilitate appropriate student placement; and
- Increase the amount of instructional time during the school year.

Dr. Wartgow explained that the new calendar includes in excess of 40 additional hours of student-teacher contact time, and that he feels that the additional time will be beneficial to the district’s goal of increasing student achievement. He said that the fiscal note for the calendar adjustments had been reduced since the plan had first been introduced due to creative thinking and good input. The Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA), he said, has surveyed all of their members and concerns revealed in that survey were taken into consideration as development of the calendars continued.

Incorporated into this calendar, he said, is an additional fifteen minutes per day of instructional time, effective with the start of the 2002-2003 school year. He explained that the extra time would be used in various ways in each school, based on the needs of the student population. The Area Superintendents, he said, will be working with principals to determine school needs and implement appropriate plans for the additional contact time.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that the Board has discussed the proposed calendars in great detail and have received feedback, which they took into consideration during the discussion process. She said that the lack of comments on the part of Board members reflects how thoroughly the calendars were discussed and how seriously the issues were considered.
Upon advice from Mary Ellen McEldowney, district legal counsel, all three motions were voted upon as a unit. 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.

Copies of the traditional calendar for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, the continuous year calendars for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004; and the 2002-2003 calendar for Emily Griffith Opportunity School are appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-02, VI-B-1, VI-B-2, and VI-B-3, respectively.

4. **Park Hill Elementary School Kindergarten through Grade 8 School Design Proposal**

Rev. Guzman moved that the Board of Education approve the Park Hill Elementary School design proposal, subject to the conditions listed therein. She further moved that school design proposals for other school not be approved that request changes in grade level organization inconsistent with Policy IE until review of the impact of such requests is completed by the Board of Education. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion.

Several Board members requested clarification regarding the motion in general and, specifically, the second part of the motion.

Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs, explained that the Park Hill Elementary School design proposal was to convert the school to a kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) program by adding one grade per year over the next three years. The first part of the motion, he said, would approve that request and allow Park Hill to proceed with their plan. He said that there are a number of conditions included in the proposal and that approving the motion would also approve those conditions. He said that staff has discussed those conditions with Park Hill, including the allocation of additional funds, as well as the Park Hill’s agreement and understanding of the district’s policy around alternative grade level organization.

In response to a question from Mr. Mejía about alternative grade level organization, Dr. Eckerling said that it is important that schools understand what they are giving up in making a choice to convert to a K-8 configuration. He said that children in K-8 schools, understandably, would not have the number of options and educational choices available to them in a traditional middle school setting, but that they would have the advantage of making fewer transitions such as elementary to middle school and then middle school to high school. He said that Policy IE, referenced in the motion, outlines and explains the issues involved in making the choice to convert to a K-8 school and the conditions for making the conversion. One aspect of the policy, he said, is the understanding that, should
population in an area grow to a point that additional primary grade classrooms are needed in an area, the district may convert K-8 schools back to traditional elementary schools.

Dr. Eckerling said that one of the concerns around the original proposal was ensuring that all fifth grade students, to the extent practicable, are accommodated at the school. The Park Hill representatives, he said, agreed that they would make every effort toward such accommodation and, according to district projections, it appears that all students will be accommodated.

Regarding the second part of the motion, he stated that the district has a policy in place regarding grade level organization, which is what allows some schools to elect alternative grade level configurations. The motion, he said, states that the Board would not approve any other requests for deviations from the standard grade level organization until members have a chance to review Policy IE and the impact of such requests.

Dr. Wartgow suggested that the second part of the motion could be separated from the first if Board members were not comfortable with its inclusion. He noted that one of the agenda items for the Board Work Session following the meeting was School Design Policy Review, and that the matter could be discussed there in a less formal situation. Inclusion of the second part of the motion, he said, was meant to send a message to the community that the Board of Education was currently reviewing Policy IE and that any requests to convert schools to an alternate grade configuration should be delayed until completion of that review.

Rev. Guzman requested a friendly amendment to the motion, removing the second part and read the following amended motion:

I move that the Board of Education approve the Park Hill Elementary School design proposal, subject to the conditions listed therein.

Mr. Patterson asked if there were currently any other known proposals for schools to convert to an alternative grade level structure, who would be denied that chance on the basis of the need to review the conditions of Policy IE.

Richard Smith, Northeast Area Assistant Superintendent, said that staff has not received any other requests for alternative grade level configuration at this time.

In response to a question from Ms. Gantz Berman, Mr. Smith said that district staff has held meetings with representatives from Park Hill and that those involved have read the conditions for approval of their plan and that they have agreed with them.

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 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, VI-B-4.

C. Issues Requiring Action by the Board of Education Following Public Input

1. **Policy Revision – EGAEB – Internet Policy**

   Proposed revisions to Board of Education Policy EGAEG—Internet Policy—were accepted for first reading. The Board of Education will take action upon these revisions at the March 21, 2002, Regular Meeting.

   A copy the proposed revisions is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, VI-C-1.

2. **Policy Revision – EGAEA – Electronic Mail**

   Proposed revisions to Board of Education Policy EGAE\AG—Electronic Mail—were accepted for first reading. The Board of Education will take action upon these revisions at the March 21, 2002, Regular Meeting.

   A copy the proposed revisions is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, VI-C-2.

3. **Policy Revision – EGAD-R-1 – Copyright Compliance**

   Proposed revisions to Board of Education Policy Procedures EGAD-R-1—Copyright Compliance—were accepted for first reading. The Board of Education will take action upon these revisions at the March 21, 2002, Regular Meeting.

   A copy the proposed revisions is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, VI-C-3.

4. **Colorado High School Charter Application**

   The Board of Education received a report regarding the proposed charter school application for Colorado High School. Submission of the report at this meeting is for information purposes only, but action upon the staff recommendations contained therein will occur at a future date.

   A copy of the report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-03, VI-C-4.
VII. **Adjournment**

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education