I. **Call to Order**

A. **Pledge of Allegiance**

B. **Roll Call**

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:10 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.

C. **Recognitions**

1. Ms. Gantz Berman said that there are a number of special acknowledgements and recognitions for this evening and turned it over to Mrs. Edwards.

Mrs. Edwards said that we are one of few districts in the state that has a Student Board of Education consisting of two elected representatives from each high school. Mrs. Edwards introduced the new Student Board president, Tavé Johnson. Judge Robert Patterson, a very special man to Denver Public Schools and the city who also happens to be Kevin’s father, will administer the oath of office to the students, she said, and she introduced Karen Higel from the Student Activities and Athletics Department who is doing a terrific job as the new staff person for this activity. Tavé Johnson said that she is a senior at East High School and introduced other members of the Student Board: Stephanie Purdy and Theo Huzyk, South High School; Lindsey Workman, East High School; Ravá Chapman and Helen Coshume, George Washington High School; Candi CdeBaca, Danielle Haynes, and Amber DeBaca, Manual High School; John Panter, Career Education Center; On Tran, Abraham Lincoln High School; Graciela Najera and Annie Guo, John F. Kennedy High School; Becky Revoal, Denver School of the Arts; and Ashley Duerson, Montbello High School.

2. Rev. Guzman read an Honorary Proclamation from Governor Bill Owens declaring October 26-November 2, 2002, as Colorado Paraeducators’ Week. She said these people are more commonly called “paraprofessionals” in DPS, and this includes many categories of employees, from law enforcement personnel to teacher aides, all of which are very important positions. She expressed the Board’s full support for the proclamation and its appreciation to all of the paras for a job well done.
Mrs. Edwards said that Georgia Gunzenhauser from College View Elementary School recently had been named the Paraprofessional of the Year for the State of Colorado.

3. Ms. Gantz Berman invited Sherry Eastland, Charter Schools Project Leader, to join her at the podium for recognition. On October 4th at the annual Colorado Charter Schools Conference, Sherry was honored with an award never before given. This award is one that recognizes the district’s relationship with charter schools. For Sherry to be the first ever to receive this award on behalf of a district that is friendly to charter schools is a great honor, not only for Sherry as a professional but for the school district.

Sherry said that she would not have received this award without the support and direction of the Board and Wayne Eckerling in particular. She said that it is important to know that when the award was presented they complimented DPS as a district that has moved in the last 10 years from one that was considered charter schools unfriendly to one that supports choices for kids.

D. Approve Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for this meeting. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously. The motion was declared duly carried.

II. Board Member Reports

Board Member Reports were completed with the oath of office for the Student Board of Education under I-C-1 above.

III. Superintendent's Reports

Dr. Jerry Wartgow said there is a record-breaking number of nine charter school applications to review at the Board’s next meeting. He said it had been widely publicized that the November 7th Board meeting would be at Bruce Randolph Middle School, but now he is advised that it would be virtually impossible to televise the meeting from there. The Board’s November 7th meeting, therefore, will be held at 900 Grant Street at 3:00 p.m., to be able to accommodate everyone. Then Randolph will be rescheduled for the Board’s November 21st meeting place.

Dr. Wartgow said that this morning at Newlon Elementary School he attended a joint press conference with the Denver Police Department (DPD), Denver Public Schools security people, and a group of dedicated parents and students promoting the Community Watch Program, which is designed to make schools and neighborhoods safe from predators. Through a cooperative effort with DPD and Verizon, we are providing cell phones and training to have eyes and ears around the schools. The project was piloted at
Barnum Elementary School a year ago, and we now have 18 schools participating. He encouraged people interested in getting involved to contact their school’s principal.

Dr. Wartgow next commented that he had attended the opening night presentation of Jekyll and Hyde at Denver School of the Arts, a fantastic and professional production. He said that this reviewer recommends that everyone go to see it.

Dr. Wartgow deferred to Rev. Guzman for a special recognition. Rev.Guzman said that this past week several Board members attended a Mile High Girl Scouts function where one of its own, Elaine Gantz Berman, was honored. The Girl Scouts have a program called Women of Distinction, which recognizes women for service to the community and the role models they have provided. This award has been given for a few years now to women who have had a profound effect on young girls’ lives. Elaine was honored as one of these women, she said, and one of the ways she presented herself to the nearly 1,000 people there was by singing the Brownies Smile Song. Rev. Guzman requested that Ms. Gantz Berman repeat her performance today. Ms. Gantz Berman did so and asked anyone who knew it to sing along. Rev. Guzman congratulated Ms. Gantz Berman and said that it was an honor to have a colleague so recognized. Ms. Gantz Berman thanked the Board.

Mr. Woodward reminded everyone that before the next Board meeting, there would be an election on a proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution. This Board, he said, has taken official action opposing Amendment 31. This issue has received a lot of publicity, which he said is good, because Colorado citizens may now realize that this is not a simple little proposal, as proponents would have them believe, but would in effect require that there be only one method of teaching English to children and that it be used in all cases. He believes that this is both an inappropriate way to deal with decision making about what kind of curriculum ought to be used, but beyond that and much more significant is that they want to write it into the constitution. He urged everyone to become informed about this issue and to join the Board in voting “No” on Amendment 31.

IV. **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Gantz Berman asked Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero to read the consent agenda. Ms. Lucero read agenda items by number and sequence in accordance with consent agenda procedures as follows:

A. **Board of Education**

1. **Revise Policy GBEA** – Staff Ethics, Conflict of Interest—It was recommended that the Board of Education approve this revision, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-A-1.

2. **Revise Policy IF** – School Design—It was recommended that the Board of Education approve this revision, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-A-2.
B. Superintendent's Office

1. Gift Report - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Gift Report, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-B-1.

2. Grant Proposal – Strengthening Students/Strengthening Schools - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve this grant proposal, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-B-2.

C. 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 which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-C-1a.

   b. Motion Approving Agreement between the School District and the Facility Managers Association - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Agreement, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-C-1b.

2. Facility Management

   a. Final Settlements - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Final Settlements for Contracted Services. A copy of the schedule is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-C-2a.

   b. School Site Agreement for the Green Valley Ranch Area - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the School Site Agreement, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-C-2b.

   c. Architect Selection for the Emily Griffith Opportunity School Aircraft Training Center Project - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the motion for an architect selection, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-C-2c.

D. Budget and Finance

1. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2002, to September 30, 2002 - The Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the period July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002, was presented for information, a copy of
which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-D-1.

2. Quarterly Travel Report - The Quarterly Travel Report was presented for information, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, IV-D-2.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously. The motion was declared duly carried.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

A. Information Only

1. Report of Expelled Students - The Report of Expelled Students was submitted for information, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, VI-A-1.

B. Issues Requiring Action Following Public Input

1. Adoption/Revision/Deletion of Policies

   a. Revise - Policy GCBD-R – Professional Staff Fringe Benefits – Action on the proposed revisions to Policy GCBD-R, Professional Staff Fringe Benefits, was postponed until the November 21, 2002, Board meeting. A copy of the proposed revisions is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, VI-B-1a.

2. School Design Proposal

   a. Lincoln Elementary School Montessori Program – A copy of this proposal is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-19, VI-B-2a.

Daphne Hunter, Principal at Lincoln Elementary School, introduced Senator Doug Linkhart; Jennifer Long; and Janelle Martin, Director of the Montessori School of Washington Park, who spoke about the proposed design change for Lincoln Elementary School, a multi-age community and Montessori partnership. Ms. Hunter said that the school community had been working for several years on a plan to provide additional options for instruction.

Senator Linkhart explained how the Lincoln neighborhood has changed. Home prices have skyrocketed, making it difficult for young families with
children to buy in the area, causing school enrollment to drop. He said that many hours of research had been spent looking into different choices, and they feel that adding a multi-level Montessori program will put Lincoln in the position of being able to successfully compete and attract students. He said that this program provides choice and it strengthens Lincoln Elementary School while it strengthens the neighborhood. It is a program that is possible, popular, and proven, and that community members are very excited about this possibility.

Jennifer Long said that blending the existing traditional program with the Montessori program would make a richer environment for everyone. It will take the school from preschool through sixth grade, and it will have collaborative staffing and parental involvement.

Janelle Martin said that this proposal has tremendous community support. A Montessori classroom allows children to be self-motivated, and when they are self-motivated they are disciplined, calm, and happy. Children who are happy are able to learn.

Ms. Hunter said that the largest expenditure would be start-up costs for classroom materials, furniture, and so forth, and that this is a one-time expense for the first year. The net cost requested from the district is $26,525; then the program will become self-sufficient in the fourth year.

Mr. Patterson asked about the school capacity, if the program would have an adverse effect on neighboring school enrollments, and what happens when the school achieves a positive cash flow. Ms. Hunter stated that the school has the capacity to hold their projected influx; that based on their survey, the majority of interested families have very young children who are not yet in school or have children in private or magnet schools. She said that the goal of the program is to be self-sufficient, not to make money.

In response to Mr. Mejía’s question regarding transportation, Ms. Hunter replied that there would not be any transportation costs. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs, responded to Mr. Mejía’s question about tuition rates by saying that all parents will be screened for ability to pay.

Mr. Mejia commented that the school-within-a-school idea is a good one, and he believes that a Montessori program in that area of the city will grow rapidly, and he would encourage them to begin thinking immediately how neighborhood attendance will be brought into the equation.

Responding to Mr. Woodward’s questions, Ms. Hunter said that preschool at Lincoln would be available both in the Montessori program and in the traditional program. She said traditional funding comes from Colorado
Preschool Project, but that the Montessori model does not qualify for state funds from that Project. Ms. Hunter said that they have not yet looked to outside sources for income, but want to get the program implemented first and then work on finding outside funding sources.

Rev. Guzman said that while the Lincoln plan has her support, she does have some concerns that the school-within-a-school idea could cause poorer kids to stay in the traditional school and the kids that can afford it to enroll in the Montessori program.

Mrs. Moss asked about Lincoln’s policy for continuous Montessori education. Ms. Hunter said that they need prerequisite skills to build on, so it is ideal to start at three or four years of age, but they can take them up to age six, and they could come in at the kindergarten level without any prior Montessori training. Mrs. Moss asked how they arrived at their projected enrollment, and Ms. Hunter responded that the numbers are from a survey of real people. She said the second year, when they have six-year olds, is when the partnership with Montessori School of Washington Park comes in; they expect some of the children will continue from that program to Lincoln’s program for six-year olds, as well as from other Montessori schools in the city.

Following up on other comments and questions, Ms. Gantz Berman asked why they would not have the entire school be a Montessori school. Ms. Hunter said that Lincoln is very proud of its traditional program, the families at Lincoln love what their children are involved in, the staff loves what they are doing, and they didn’t want to lose that, even though they recognized the need for an additional program.

Rev. Guzman questioned if the projected class size of 30 is typical for a Montessori model. Mr. Eckerling said that that is what Denison Montessori School has, with a teacher and two paraprofessionals per classroom.

Mrs. Edwards said that she is excited for this opportunity for the families of South Central Denver. She knows there are families in that area making choices other than public education, and she said the Board has the responsibility to replicate successful programs in the district. She does share some concerns that the demand for this program has the potential to exceed the space capacity of Lincoln, but that is an enviable problem to have. She said she is obviously in support of this proposal, however, she questioned prioritization and asked if a student from within the Lincoln attendance area who wishes to attend the school would have preference over an applicant from outside of the attendance area, or if it is a completely random process. Mr. Eckerling said that they haven’t gotten that far yet, but the logic is that children from within the neighborhood would have preference. Mrs. Edwards said she would encourage them to have all of this solidly figured out, and Mr. Eckerling said that it would be a part of their final proposal.
Ms. Gantz Berman said that if one were to do a cost benefit analysis it would show that by bringing new students into the district, this would pay for itself very quickly, and that might be a way to look at new choice programs.

Mr. Eckerling said that there will need to be a public hearing on this matter, and Ms. Gantz Berman said that the Board would vote on this at the November 21st meeting, which will follow the public hearing at the first meeting in November. Ms. Gantz Berman expressed the appreciation of all Board members to everyone for coming and for the thorough presentation.

Dr. Wartgow advised that there are several attorneys who will be meeting with them in the 7th floor Board Conference Room at 6:30 for a closed session for contracts.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced for the record that the other two items under New Business will be voted on at the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education