I. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 5:08 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.

C. Recognitions

Melanie Haas, Southwest Area Superintendent, introduced Jeannie M. Peppel, the new Interim Principal; and Miranda Odom, the new Interim Assistant Principal, of John F. Kennedy High School.

II. Board Members Reports

There was none

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow said that at a CSAP rally on the first day of the second semester at Cole Middle School, Mayor John Hickenlooper announced his commitment to ensure that students from Cole, who graduate from high school, will not be denied access to higher education because of financial resources. Dr. Wartgow said that Mayor Hickenlooper hopes one day to make this same commitment to every student who graduates from the Denver Public Schools.

Dr. Wartgow said that he will be working with Cole students to bring up their CSAP scores, and invited Board members to join him, on Saturdays, tutoring students at Cole.

Dr. Wartgow reported that at Governor Bill Owens State of the State Address, the Governor announced that the Denver Public Schools had earned the Governor’s Award for the Most Improved School District in the State of Colorado for the second year in a row. He said that the Governor had called and invited him to attend the speech and he had asked Janice Spearman, Principal of Columbine Elementary School, to join him at the capitol. The Governor recognized Ms. Spearman in front of the Legislature for her
school’s earning of the Governor’s Distinguished Improvement Award and she was personally thanked by the Governor for this award.

Dr. Wartgow then read a Proclamation from the Governor Owens titled, “A Day Recognizing the Achievement of the Denver Public Schools, January 12, 2004.” He said that this is an incredible testament to all the hard working teachers, students, parents, and the entire DPS support system.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

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

**IV-B-1a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of $310,800,000**

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda, not held, be approved; Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the following items were approved:

**A. Administrative Services**

1. **Human Resources**
   
a. **Personnel Transaction Report** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-02, IV-A-1a.

2. **Facility Management**
   
a. **Motion to Approve Architect Selections** - A copy of this report, to approve the committee recommendations for architect selections, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-02, IV-A-2a.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**IV-B-1a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of $310,800,000**

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004, and asked Velma Rose, Chief Financial Officer, and Nate Eckloff, Managing Director of RBC Dain Rauscher, to share with the Board the results of the sale of the bonds.

Ms. Rose said that they had a very successful sale of district bonds yesterday morning. She said it surpassed all expectations and it was done in a expeditious manner.
Mr. Rauscher thanked the district for allowing them to serve as the senior managers of the sale of the General Obligation Bond. He said that the sale of the bonds promised buyers a return of 4.5 percent, which is the lowest interest rate the district has seen in 40 or 50 years. He said that, as promised, the bond sale and resulting debt will not require an increase in current property tax rates. He said that this turned out incredibly well, the ratings improved, the interest rate is low, and all the expectations of the district and the taxpayers were met.

Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-02, IV-B-1a.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

The following was presented for information.

A. Educational Services

1. Receive Plan for Implementation of the Early Education and Extended-Day Kindergarten Program for 2004-2005 – This report outlines the way in which full-day kindergarten and early childhood education will be implemented in 2004-2005, including the ECE/Kindergarten mill levy initiative. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-02, VI-A-1.

Mr. Woodward introduced Cheryl Caldwell, Director of the Early Education Department, to explain the Plan for Implementation of the Early Education and Extended Day Kindergarten Programs for 2004-2005. A copy of this report is appended to minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-02, VI-A-1.

Dr. Wartgow asked Mark Stevens, Public Information Officer, to talk about their new venture. Mr. Stevens explained that they are launching a DPS Today television program, thanks to the cooperation of the city, for the city’s cable channel, Channel 8, five days a week for a half-hour. Dr. Wartgow said that this is a great opportunity for the district to communicate effectively with a broad audience about what is happening in DPS.

The Board recessed at approximately 5:55 p.m., for dinner and further Work Session. The Board reconvened at approximately 7:14 p.m.

VII. Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Judi Diaz-Bonacquisti, Chairperson of the Hispanic Education Advisory Council (HEAC) – She reported on the work the council has accomplished during the past year and introduced new council members. Rev. Guzman thanked retiring past
chairmen, Dr. Phil Hernandez and Dr. Luis Torres for dedicated service to the students of the Denver Public Schools.

Becky Wissink, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) – She urged the Board to adopt the Association’s salary recovery plan, that the joint budget compensation committee has met twice, once to discuss the district’s revenue picture for 2003-2004 and to discuss DCTA’s review of the past five years of the general fund budget and is scheduled to discuss budget priorities to achieve the desired outcome of restoring teachers value in the marketplace. She commented that the CTAC report stated that teachers made invaluable contribution to the project.

Margaret Bobb, representing DCTA
Ms. Bobb said that the good performance of quality teachers is what is responsible for the great improvements the district has enjoyed in the school accountability reports in 2003. The large number of schools that have improved is simply the culmination of the trend of improvement that has been underway since 1999, according to data, before the district literacy plan was implemented, and that the report by the media that the district is “in crisis” is not true. She said that teachers make the difference more than the program, and urged support for the proposed teacher salary plan.

Rev. Guzman commented that the implication that the district is not “in crisis” is wrong because 50 percent of district Latino students are not graduating.

Dr. Carmen Sarijurjo representing DCTA
Dr. Sarijurjo said that teachers are not asked to use their discretion in educational decisions, and that teachers should be allowed more academic freedom and respect for their professional judgment.

Richard Rosivach, representing DCTA
Mr. Rosivach said that teachers are being limited by economic choices and that the impact of not restoring steps could mean that he would have to chose between his children and the district’s children.

Joanne Roll – She spoke about parents role in revitalization. A copy of her written statement is appended to these minutes and marked as Appendix 04-02, VII.

David Segal – He said that DPS efforts to standardize curriculum districtwide is commendable, but the need to bring below average students up to a higher standard should not be used to justify holding above-average students down to that same standard by giving them less attention and resources. He also wanted to bring up the issue of the support from the gifted community for an HGT high school.
George Walker – He spoke as a candidate for the presidency of Metro State College to reiterate his support of public education, higher education in Colorado, and a support for a football team for Metro State College.

David Wilson – He said as a representative of the Advisory Council of the Green Valley Ranch Charter School he thanked the Board for their support of their school; and he advised the Board that they have had two public meetings in the Montbello/Green Valley area and have had great support for their pupil assignment policy. He said as an advisory member he feels that the school is going in a positive direction.

Ben Prochazka – He said that he is state coordinator for the New Voters Project, a non-partisan effort, focused on trying to increase voter participation by young people, that they are targeting six states, which includes Colorado, in their effort to register 240,000 eighteen to twenty-four year olds by a get out the vote campaign. He said they are hoping to create a program, through DPS, for high school juniors and seniors to enable them to register while they are in the classroom.

Ms. Gantz Berman stated that she feels it is absolutely critical that every eighteen year old be registered vote and that she will do anything possible to see how the district can help.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education