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 5:07 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 Members Reports

A. Recognition by Barbara Belmont, Executive Director of the School Nutrition Association, of Donna Wittrock, Last Year’s President of the School Nutrition Association

Ms. Belmont said that the School Nutrition Association, which has 55,000 members, are advocates for child nutrition. She presented the Board of Education a plaque for allowing Donna Wittrock, former Executive Director of School and Nutrition Programs, to share her leadership and expertise with the national organization.

B. Resolution 2911 Honoring Donna Wittrock, Upon her Retirement, for her Twenty-Eight years of Dedicated Service to Denver Public Schools.

Ms. Gantz Berman moved adoption of the resolution. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, II-B.

C. American Indian Education Advisory Council Annual Report

Sarah Howell, Chair of the American Indian Education Advisory Council (AIEAC), introduced the following people in attendance in support of AIEAC: AIEAC members John Compton, Suzanne Chapa and her two daughters; from the Office of Indian Education, Rose McGuire and Verla Howell; Phyllis Big Pond from the Denver Indian Family Resource Center; Cora Gonzales, Principal, and Suzanne Chapa, paraprofessional, College View Elementary School; Mary Ann Baca, Principal, Brown Elementary School; Rosemarie Johnson, Focus
School Specialist, Wyman Elementary School; Reina Gutierrez, Principal, Hamilton Middle School; Ann Greenfield, Principal, Merrill Middle School; Pete Hergenreter, Principal, LouAnn Gilhooly, Assistant Principal, and Rosalita Menzor, program paraprofessional, from the Career Education Center; and Aaron Fleming, Stephanie Hayes, Tara Hoover, Focus School students from East High School.

Ms. Howell said that accomplishments of the Council last year include: First, their recruitment of new members was not very productive, so they plan to continue to focus on recruitment this year. Second, their High School Visitation Plan targeted five high schools with a high number of American Indian students, they worked with the student’s counselors to get the students involved in the district. They feel this is a good project to continue this year. So they will work with specific high schools and their counselors to make sure that students feel a part of the American Indian Education program. Third, they will continue to pursue funding to ensure the American Indian Focus School is sustained.

Rose McQuire, Program Manager, American Indian Education Program, said that they are focusing their greatest effort on ensuring that American Indian students have a successful school experience and graduate from high school. Post-secondary options will be offered to them. They will also work on making them feel welcome in schools and provide the support they need to succeed. There are three elementary Focus Schools: Brown, College View, and Wyman, with a total of 75 American Indian students. Each Focus School offers a literacy program with a heavy emphasis on American Indian literature. There are two middle school Focus Schools: Hamilton and Merrill. Merrill is new this year with 31 students. American Indian students were surveyed last year regarding curriculum, and they indicated they wanted to know about American Indian history and culture. That will be their focus this year. East High School has approximately 55 American Indian students. A Lakota language class is taught at East for two semesters. Thirteen American Indian students are enrolled in the Lakota language class, the other students in the class are non-Indian. Offering the class to all students has helped bridge the gap between the different groups in schools. American Indian Focus School enrollment has increased by 30 to 50 students this year.

John Compton, AIEAC member and elder of the community, said he had been on the original AIEAC Committee that planned the American Indian Focus Schools. His real name is Little Bird and several of his children and grandchildren have graduated from DPS, and he has a great-grandchild in DPS. AIEAC has had excellent leadership and hard workers, and he feels they have succeeded in making American Indian children feel they are part of DPS, not intruders. He is very proud of the fact that they were able to get the Lakota language taught at East High School.
Mr. Compton introduced the following three American Indian students to give a brief report of their experiences.

Ann Fleming said she is Northern Cheyenne and has just moved here from Montana, and that this is her first time in an urban high school and her first semester in the Lakota class. She spoke a few words of Lakota. She said that the Lakota class at East High School is fun because she interacts with others and she feels comfortable in the class.

Terri Hoover introduced herself in Lakota and then translated: “Hello, my relatives, I’m called Terri and I extend my hand to you with good heart, with warm feelings in my heart.” She said this is her second year in the Lakota class and she is grateful for the class because it helped her learn about her blood line and her history, which is not covered in textbooks and regular history classes.

Stefanie Hay introduced herself in Lakota with the same phrase as Terri. She said that the Lakota class is not just the language, it also teaches history and true meanings of the words that we are re-translating into Christian terms.

Rev. Guzman expressed her great appreciation and pride in receiving a report from the American Indian Education Advisory Council and American Indian Focus Schools. It makes it even more significant tonight, she said, to honor the passing of Dr. Farrell Howell, Sarah Howell’s father, because he was a major influence for this whole program. Being here is an extension of all of his work, his visions, and dreams.

She stated that she wanted to pay special tribute to all the principals of all the schools represented here tonight. Despite putting in a long day, they are here to show their tremendous respect, not only for these students and their culture, but for their belief that all students can learn and can be successful. She knows that the Board stands with her in personally thanking them. Obviously, they provide a welcoming environment.

Rev. Guzman said that as Co-Chair of the Commission on Secondary School Reform, she feels it would be very important for the Commissioners to visit some of American Indian Focus Schools and speak to some of the students.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow thanked the American Indian Education Advisory Council for being a positive and constructive group.

He reported that members of the Secondary School Reform Commission, and high and middle school principals, have been attending a conference on best practices for reform models from all around the country at the Adam’s Mark Hotel. It has been very well received with many positive comments.
Dr. Wartgow reported that two very special events have occurred in the past ten days. Every year, the United States Office of Education’s “American Stars of Teaching Award” selects one teacher per state to receive this award. Two weeks ago, the Colorado award was presented to East High School teacher, Tamara Rhone. He congratulated her for being selected for this very prestigious award.

In addition, the Milken Award for Outstanding Teachers, a distinguished award given to two teachers per state, was presented today. This is a highly secretive award, the teacher does not know they have been selected until the very last minute. He said that he and Board members Michelle Moss and Lester Woodward had the great pleasure to be present at Schenck Elementary School when Lowell Milken, co-founder of Forbes magazine, personally presented the award to teacher Diane Palmer. This award comes with a $25,000 check.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the 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-A-3a Revised Policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings
IV-A-5 Resolution Supporting the Passage of a Tobacco Tax Increase in Colorado, Ballot Question 35, on November 2, 2004
IV-C-1 Resolution to Amend the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that the items not held be approved under the consent agenda process. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The following items were approved under the consent agenda process:

III. Superintendent’s Reports

A. Gift Report - – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, III-A.

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of September 2, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-A-1.

2. Motion to Amend the Superintendent’s Contract to Add Ten More Days of Vacation - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-A-2.
4. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Approval of Use of Additional Contingency Funds - A copy of this motion, the use of additional contingency funds for the Manual High School and Cole and Skinner Middle Schools asphalt and playing field project, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-A-4a.

B. Administrative Services

   1. Human Resources

      a. Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-B-1a.

C. Budget and Finance – Financial Services

   2. Resolution to Authorize the Use of the Beginning Fund Balance During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this resolution, authorization for the expenditure of the beginning fund balance of specified funds as anticipated in the amended budget, to state the purpose for which the expenditure is made, and to state the district’s plan to ensure the use of beginning fund balance will not lead to an ongoing deficit, in accordance with SB 03-149, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-C-2.

   3. Resolution to Adopt the Amended Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-C-3.

   4. Resolution to Appropriate for Expenditures During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this resolution, to appropriate the moneys to be expended in each fund, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-C-4.

   5. Resolution to Identify and File Amended Budget and Appropriation Resolution and Copies Thereof – A copy of this resolution, to direct that the Amended Budget be labeled as such and signed by the Board President and to cause the Board Secretary to have this Amended Budget on file for public inspection, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-C-5.

   6. Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2004C – A copy of this resolution, authorizing the refunding of certain Series 1999 General Obligation Bonds, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-C-6.
DISCUSSION AGENDA

IV-A-3a Revised Policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings

Mr. Hoyt reviewed some of the revisions made to the original recommendations to change this policy. First, we have made it very clear that we encourage citizen involvement and participation in issues related to schools; at Public Comment sessions, as well as through letters, telephone calls, and e-mails. Second, we have set the start time for future Public Comment sessions for 6:00 p.m., on the first Board meeting of every month. Third, individual speaking time limits will still be three minutes. Finally, speakers will be allowed to voice their opinion on any subject related to the schools. Speakers will be prioritized, however, on topics related to agenda, student achievement, or budget items. He expressed his appreciation to everybody who participated, particularly Leo Smith and his very constructive suggestions.

Mr. Hoyt moved adoption of Policy BEDH. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-A-3a.

IV-A-5 Resolution 2909, Supporting the Passage of a Tobacco Tax Increase in Colorado, Ballot Question 35, on November 2, 2004

Mrs. Moss said that this Resolution speaks for itself and urged Board members and voters of Colorado to vote “Yes” on Amendment 35.

Mrs. Moss moved adoption of Resolution 2909. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-A-5.

IV-C-1 Resolution 2910 to Amend the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005

Mr. Patterson asked Velma Rose, Chief Financial Officer, to explain the amendments to the Adopted Budget.

Ms. Rose said that school districts have until October 15 to adopt an amended budget. The total budget for all 16 funds is approximately $1.3 billion; 44 percent of this total is the General Fund. Increases for all funds total, approximately, $148 million over the adopted budget. $147 million of this amount reflects the receipts and use of proceeds from two refunding bonds done this fall, one that will close next week. The General Operating Fund itself is increasing by $5.2 million, primarily for schools, through carryovers from the prior year. The one major adjustment made to revenue assumptions this year was to reduce expectations from motor vehicle taxes. We had hoped that this revenue source would start to increase and reverse the decline experienced the last several years. The revenues that we have received the first four months of this year are no greater than they were last year. So we are reducing this revenue source by $1.4 million. The following expenditures are factors in reducing revenues to the General Operating Fund: Increased unemployment compensation payments, increased payments for DPS students...
assigned to outside facilities, facilities assigned by the courts, social services, or human services. We spend about $4 million a year over and above what the school finance act provides for these students and that is continuing to grow. Savings we were hoping to achieve this year through the PERA merger, about $800,000, have been eliminated as a source of revenue for this year.

Ms. Rose said that there will be further changes to the budget in the spring. We do not know what our school finance funding will be until just before winter break, nor do we know our assessed valuation for property tax levies. There are a number of uncertainties that will be reflected in the budget in late February and or early March.

Mr. Patterson moved adoption of the resolution. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, IV-C-1.

V. Old Business

A. Pending Policy Revisions for Public Comment

1. New Policy

   a. Policy DK, Payroll/Deductions/ Direct Deposit/Expense Reimbursement – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, V-A-1a.

2. Repealed Policy

   a. Policy DKA, Payroll Procedures/Schedules – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, V-A-2a.

   b. Policy DKB, Salary Deductions – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, V-A-2b.

   c. Policy DKC, Expense Authorization/Reimbursement – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, V-A-2c.

3. Revised Policy

   a. Policy JIH, Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, V-A-3a.

B. Educational Services – Action Pending Public Comment

1. Resolution to Delineate Choice Core Values and Charge to Staff to Actively Seek Expansion of Choice – A copy of this resolution, delineating the Choice Core Values of the district and the charge to the staff to actively seek to expand choice
consistent with the core values identified, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, V-B-1.

VI. New Business

A. Educational Services

1. Proposed 2004-2005 District Priorities – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, VI-A-1.

2. Resolution on the Task Force on Early Education and School Readiness – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-23, VI-A-2.

DISCUSSION AGENDA CONTINUED

Dr. Wartgow asked Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Research, Planning, and Special Programs, to review the Choice resolution.

Dr. Eckerling said that the major change that has been made is to separate the statement about strong neighborhood schools. As an explicit statement, it clarifies that the Board values strong neighborhood schools, as well as a variety of choices, as a core value.

He said that they had received many good suggestions and they have tried to clarify some items by changing the wording. The Board will take action on this resolution on October 21, 2004.

Dr. Wartgow said that each year, after discussion with staff, the Board establishes priorities for the district. He asked Dr. Eckerling to read those priorities.

Dr. Eckerling read the following district priorities:

- Recruit, support, and retain high quality teachers, administrators, and other district employees for all levels of DPS
- Continue implementation of Denver’s literacy and mathematics programs and begin to establish consistency in curricula across the district in other subject areas and grade levels.
- Develop a plan to expand choice and begin implementation with the goals of increasing achievement and satisfaction and growing district enrollment.
- Develop a plan to reform and restructure secondary schools to improve student achievement, close the learning gap, and increase the graduation rate.
- Improve the performance and image of the district through a responsive, customer-oriented, user-friendly organizational culture.
- Provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff.
Mr. Hoyt read the resolution creating a task force on early education and school readiness. He said he wanted to publicly thank Helen Thorpe, the Mayor’s wife, for acting as his very enthusiastic Co-Chair and for her leadership on this initiative. He said if this district is going to make progress on closing the achievement gap, the one thing that will make the most difference is to avert a wide gap in learning among children entering kindergarten. He asked Cheryl Caldwell, Director, Early Education Department, to comment on the task force.

Ms. Caldwell said the Board has decided to form a task force to define a vision and strategy for the district’s role in preparing young children to enter school. The city has formed a leadership team to set priorities and identify resources to strengthen ECE programs, birth to five, in the City of Denver. The district has had a strong relationship with the early childhood education community and feels it is time to reassess our role and support of the community for children from birth to five.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced that the district was awarded the Carol White Physical Education Grant, in the amount of $453,512. The program is called “On the Move” and it is to provide a structured physical and nutritional educational curriculum. Eric Larsen, Director of Physical Education, will be running the program in 20 middle schools and four K-8 schools.

This award fits in very well with the Board’s Commission on School Nutrition and Physical Activity. The Commission’s recent public hearing had a great turnout, with the Mayor and the Superintendent in attendance. We received constructive recommendations from members of the community. The Commission will be making recommendations to the Board in December.

Mr. Woodward announced that there would not be a Public Hearing this evening because no one signed up to speak.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education