MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (03-22) OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER AND STATE OF COLORADO
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, 900 GRANT STREET
4:00 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2003

I. Call to Order – 4:00 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, Ms. Theresa Peña, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

II. Board Members Reports/Superintendent’s Reports

A. Recognition of Sue Edwards

Ms. Gantz Berman said that Sue Edwards has been on the Board for eight and a half years, has served as President and Secretary, and has been an absolutely amazing Board member. She has given her heart and soul, and worked tirelessly, passionately, everyday, every minute, every waking hour on behalf of the students of DPS. She said it is very hard to say goodbye to Sue, she has been a pillar in the DPS community, has made a point of going to every school event she could possibly go to, whether it was a sports event or a cultural event; that she has visited every school this year and it’s only November 12. She’s a team player and always works for what’s best for the whole district. She said that Sue is an absolutely exemplary Board member and that she has set a standard for any Board member who serves on the Board of Education; she is going to be sorely missed.

Mr. Patterson said that he had a hard time coming up with a word that could capture Sue and what she represents for DPS, and that he finally settled on the word “Commitment.” He said that commitment by its nature frees us from ourselves and while it stands us in opposition to some, it joins us with others similarly committed. Commitment moves us from the mere trap of the self-absorbed with the self, to the freedom of a community of shared values. To me, he said, Sue is the epitome of dedication to the children of the Denver Public Schools. He thanked Sue for her hard work and tireless effort, for her friendship and camaraderie, and that he knows she will continue to be a good friend to us. Thank you so much, Sue, we all love you.
Mr. Woodward said that all the things that have been said before are true and accurate, and inadequate in many ways. He said that Sue was President when he was appointed to the Board and that she gave him a couple of hours of information about how to act as a trustee and a Board member; among other things, she told him that she worked over 60 hours a week at the job. He said that he found that a bit challenging, since he was pretty sure he’d never spend 60 hours a week at it. He stated that Sue has brought identification of the Denver school board and its real concern for teachers, the principals, the children of this district into view like nobody else and that is a very, very valuable thing. He said that Sue will be missed and that Sue is his Exhibit A that term limits don’t work.

Mrs. Moss said that Sue is a role model, and not just for Board members, that she really sets a standard for all elected officials in terms of her honesty and integrity and her dedication. She said that it is an incredible standard to try to meet and she appreciated the mentoring she received from Sue and that she will be missed very, very much.

Reverend Guzman said that all Board members would agree that’s there is no better way to be in community service then to have been elected and selected to serve on a public school board; that since she’s known about Denver Public Schools, Sue Edwards’ name has come up, and her abilities and her activities have always been high on the radar screen. It is always great to go out a winner, she said, and Sue is indeed going out a winner, and that if there is a Guru of public education board members, Sue Edwards is it. She said that she has learned a lot by serving on this Board with Sue—a lot about herself, what it means to be a Board member, and about thinking about several sides of an issue. She said that she will continue, in these next four years, to be an even better Board member because of some of the lessons she has learned by serving alongside of Sue.

Ms. Peña said that in the brief time she has known Sue Edwards, she has learned the following: The importance of being visible in schools; the need to recognize the many contributions of our employees; the value of identifying, not just our academic successes but the many non-academic successes that our schools have; the grace of writing thank you notes; and the passion of community service. She said that Sue is a role model of integrity and strong belief, and she just wanted to thank her for serving the children of Denver so tirelessly.

Dr. Wartgow said that from the first time he met Sue Edwards, her commitment and passion was obvious, that she is both head cheerleader and A+ student. He said her omnipresence at school activities and district events has been really exceptional, that she told him that she spent 30 to 60 hours a week successfully visiting every school, every year which is a incredible feat propelled by her inexhaustible enthusiasm for the students and the teachers. He said that Sue’s fondness for the schools is matched by an in depth knowledge of district issues and that she’s used her wide ranging knowledge to sharpen Board discussions and to maintain a laser-like focus on all that truly matters in DPS, she
is a true and spirited champion of public education. In closing, he quoted Vince Lombardi: “After the cheers have died down and the stadium is empty, after the headlines have been written and after you’re back in the quiet of your room and the championship ring has been placed on the dresser, and all the pomp and fanfare has faded the enduring things that are left are the dedication to victory and the dedication to doing with our lives the very best we can that makes the world a better place in which to live.”

Mrs. Edwards stated that it was hard for her to believe that it has been a little over eight-and-a-half years since Tom Mauro, president of the Board at that time, asked her to be on the Board of Education. She said that serving on this Board has been, without a doubt, the best experience of her life, and that she has been humbled by the fact that the voters of Denver elected her and trusted the children of this city to her responsibility. She said it has been a blessing to her to be able to have the opportunity to focus her life on what she believes with her whole heart is the most important work in our society—education, that working with children is hands down the most critical work. It has been a challenging, rewarding, exhilarating eight years as she visited 8,000 classrooms, lunchrooms, buses all over this district, and saw people united together serving the children of the city. She said she has so many memories and that she only hopes that she’s given as much as she’s gained; and that she has had the opportunity to work with such tremendous people, such as Irv Moskowitz, past superintendent, a brilliant man who taught her so much about leadership; and Bernadette Seick, who showed such commitment and devotion to this school district for so many years; and Dr. Wartgow, who she believes is the perfect leader for the district at this time; and every Board member she has worked with—what an honor to work with so many wonderful, committed people; and the staff, bus drivers, facility managers, teachers and principals—everyone who has chosen to serve.

Mrs. Edwards said that when she talks about DPS in public, she talks about it being the district of choice because within our district we have tremendous choice educational opportunities, but it’s also a place that families choose to send their children, it’s a place that people choose to work. She said that she truly believes that DPS is on the cusp of being the finest urban school district in this country, that she believes that with all her heart.

She said she believes that DPS is in a position to move public education to a new place, that it’s going to take leadership, courage, vision, and commitment; that public education can’t keep doing things the same way and expect different results. She stated that her mantra over the years has been “Every child, every day and she truly believes that the Denver Public Schools serves children—every child, every day. Denver is a terrific city in which to live and it deserves a school district it can be proud of, and the Denver Public Schools is that district. She said she has given her love, her time, and her strength and now must say good-bye to my DPS family; and only asks one thing—please care for the children.
B. **Motion – Results of November 4, 2003, Election**

Mr. Woodward moved that the Board of Education receive the abstract of the votes in the school board election of November 4, 2003, and declare that the following individuals have been elected as directors of School District #1, in the City and County of Denver, State of Colorado:

- **Bruce Hoyt**  
  District No. 1  
  Four-year term
- **Rev. Lucia Guzman**  
  District No. 5  
  Four-year term
- **Theresa K. Peña**  
  Director-At-Large  
  Four-year term

The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-22, II-B.

C. **Oath of Office for new Members – Judge Patterson**

Ms. Gantz Berman introduced Judge Robert Patterson. Judge Patterson said he generally did not take privilege to make comments but he felt compelled to because Sue Edwards has been a great friend to him and that she has truly been a leader for this Board, and “leader,” is an acronym:  
L is for the loyalty Sue has given to the Board;  
E is for her ethics;  
A is for her winning attitude, she never says die;  
D is for her drive and discipline;  
E is for how she’s empowered the students; and  
R is for her resilience and flexibility—she has truly been a leader for this district and we thank you.

Judge Patterson administered the Oath of Office to returning Board members Reverend Lucia Guzman and Theresa Peña, and new Board member Bruce Hoyt.

D. **Election of Officers**

1. **President**

Ms. Gantz Berman asked Mary Ellen McEldowney, district legal counsel, to lead the Board through the process of the election of Board officers.

Ms. McEldowney explained that the positions of President and Vice President shall be by written nomination and that the voting would be conducted by secret ballot. She opened the nominations and, after reviewing the written nomination, declared that there was only one nomination for President, Les Woodward.

Reverend Guzman moved that Les Woodward be voted in as President of the Board of Education. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Woodward was named President.
2. **Vice President**

The same process was used to determine nominations for the office of Vice President. Ms. McEldowney reviewed written nominations and declared that there was only one nomination for Vice President, Reverend Lucia Guzman.

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that Reverend Lucia Guzman be re-elected Vice President. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Reverend Guzman was named Vice President.

3. **Secretary**

Ms. McEldowney said that paper ballots can be dispensed with for the nomination for Secretary since the Board does not have a policy for that and declared that nominations were opened for Secretary.

Mr. Woodward moved that Michelle Moss be appointed Secretary of the Board of Education, conditioned upon the filing of a surety bond in the form satisfactory to the Board and the faithful performance of duties, as required by law and the Bylaws of the Board of Education. Mrs. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Mrs. Moss was named Secretary. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-22, II-D-3.

4. **Treasurer**

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that Kevin Patterson be appointed Treasurer of the Board of Education, conditioned upon the filing of a surety bond in the form satisfactory to the Board and the faithful performance of duties, as required by law and the Bylaws of the Board of Education. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Patterson was named Treasurer. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-22, II-D-4.

E. **Motion – Assistant Secretary**

Mr. Patterson moved that Jacquie Lucero be appointed Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education, conditioned upon the filing of a surety bond in the form satisfactory to the Board and the faithful performance of duties, as required by law and the Bylaws of the Board of Education. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-22, II-E.

F. **Motion – Assistant Treasurer**

Mrs. Moss moved that Velma Rose be appointed Assistant Treasurer of the
Board of Education, conditioned upon the filing of a surety bond in the form satisfactory to the Board and the faithful performance of duties, as required by law and the Bylaws of the Board of Education. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-22, II-F.

Reverend Guzman said that Elaine Gantz Berman has been President for four years and served on the Board for six years, and that, on behalf of her fellow Board members and the community and citizens of Denver, she wanted to thank her for the phenomenal job she has done. She said that Elaine has led the Board in a tremendous way and will continue to serve in that same way. As a friend and colleague, she wanted to thank her and let her know how much her leadership has meant for this Board and for the district.

Mr. Woodward said that it was not very smart to be willing to follow a performance like Elaine Gantz Berman, her leadership of this Board has been absolutely outstanding and we have been very well served by that kind of leadership.

Dr. Wartgow said that Elaine’s passion and commitment was one of the main reasons, when the Board was kind enough to offer him the position of Superintendent, that he accepted the position because he was looking forward to the chance to work with Elaine. He said her passion, her commitment, her excitement, her involvement have all been deeply appreciated. He presented her with a gavel in commemoration of her service as President, in recognition of her passionate and outstanding leadership.

**III. Adjournment**

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary  
Board of Education