Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.
A. Pledge of Allegiance
B. Roll Call

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 5:12 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 Member Reports
A. District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) Charter School Recommendation

Mr. Woodward asked Sherry Eastlund, Liaison, School of Choice Office, to introduce the presentation from the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC). Ms. Eastlund said, in accordance with state law, DSIAC reviews the charter school applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Education. They spend many hours reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and collecting information. She said Kurt Starr and Leo Smith, members of DSIAC’s Standing Committee for Evaluation of Charter Schools, would make the presentation.

Mr. Starr presented their recommendations on the four charter school applications. All recommendations were unanimous. He said the only application DSIAC is recommending for approval is Denver Peak Academy. A copy of their presentation is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, II-A.

Mr. Smith presented DSIAC’s recommendations regarding general charter school issues. A copy of their report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, II-A.

Mr. Patterson thanked DSIAC members for their time and for the excellent points they made. Their concern, regarding management companies operating charter schools, came up at the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) fall conference. The issue of our tax dollars going outside our community is an issue
that really needs to be discussed. How the community is included is a very integral part of charter school applications. DSIAC’s recommendation of a fiscal impact statement is a good suggestion; however, charter school applications cannot be disapproved based strictly on funding. Their recommendation regarding accountability for charter schools is very good, but all schools have to be held accountable, not just charter schools.

In response to Rev. Guzman’s concern regarding academic and fiscal accountability, Mr. Smith said that the district could specify academic accountability in the contract they sign with a charter school. Each Board member is a trustee of public funds and have a duty to spend public funds in the most cost effective and efficient manner; therefore, financial issues could be considered in the charter school application.

In response to Ms. Peña’s questions regarding Academy Internacional, Mr. Starr said that the site they indicated is adjacent to North High School. North’s reform effort includes devising a master plan for that whole area, involving the city and the community. DSIAC is concerned with how this charter school would fit into North’s plan. DSIAC members did not see extensive evidence of involvement of the community.

**Board Member Reports**

Ms. Gantz Berman reported that the two resolutions which the Board endorsed in the recent election were passed by the voters. One was the renewal of the Scientific and Cultural Facility tax authority and the other one related to an increase in the cigarette tax that will benefit children’s health. She congratulated the following Denver legislators who were elected to leadership positions today: Andrew Romanoff, elected Speaker of the House; Peter Groff, elected President Pro Tem of the Senate; and Ken Gordon, elected Majority Leader of the Senate.

Rev. Guzman gave a brief update on the Commission on Secondary School Reform. The Commission presented a forum on High School Reform Models in October. Ten nationally-recognized organizations presented their approach to high school reform. Principals, teachers, and business people had the opportunity to view programs that are working across the country. Commission members also participated in the Mayor’s Summit on Latino Achievement. Next week, Commission members will attend a one-and-a-half-day retreat to grapple with a preliminary set of recommendations. The Commission will meet again in December and finalize recommendations to be presented to the Board of Education on January 20, 2005. The Commission is holding a student forum on November 19 at the Colorado Convention Center. All high schools will be represented; approximately 175 students have been chosen by their schools to attend the forum.

Mr. Woodward introduced Evan Eskridge, Student Board of Education member, from East High School. He also introduced Don McAdams, a consultant who works with
the Broad Foundation. Mr. McAdams, has provided advice to Board members who are Broad Fellows and he is a very strong thinker in the area of Board governance, school reform, and academic achievement.

Mr. Hoyt reported on the Council of Great City Schools Conference which he attended two weeks ago. The conference was geared toward the largest urban school districts in the country, with 50 urban school district represented. They provided information on best practices in urban school districts, finance, human resources, high schools, ESL issues, data management, and legislation. He said he attended sessions centered around the achievement gap and what urban school districts around the country are doing to successfully close achievement gaps.

**III. Superintendent’s Reports**

Dr. Wartgow reported that today he had attended, with Mayor Hickenlooper; Mike Durkin, CEO of Mile High United Way; Steve Katich, President of the DPS Foundation; and Board member Elaine Gantz Berman, an event that announced the distribution of nearly $1 million to support after-school programs in the Denver Public Schools through a joint United Way, DPS Foundation campaign. This money will provide opportunities for the *Light’s On After School*, a program for after-school activities for students throughout the district.

Denver Public Schools’ School Choice Fair will be held on Tuesday, November 30, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., at North High School. Parents and families are encouraged to attend this very important event and take advantage of this opportunity to see the wide variety of schools and programs available. It is time to begin planning for the 2005-2006 school year since enrollment in choice schools begins in December.

**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-C-1 Resolution 2908 to Delineate Choice Core Values and Charge to Staff to Actively Seek Expansion of Choice (tabled from October 21, 2004, Board Meeting)

Ms. Berman moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda not held be approved. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of October 7, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, IV-A-1.
2. Board of Education Appointment to the Denver Public Schools Retirement System Board of Trustees – A copy of this motion, to appoint Velma Rose to the Board of Education position on the Denver Public Schools’ Retirement System Board of Trustees for a term of four years, expiring on December 31, 2008, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, IV-A-2.

3. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Motion to Approve Aircraft Hangar Purchase - A copy of this motion, to purchase aircraft hangars for the Emily Griffith Opportunity School Aircraft Training Center, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, IV-A-3a.

   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 04-25, IV-B-1a.

         b. Motion to Approve Amendments to Communication Workers of America Contract - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, IV-B-1b.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

IV-C-1 Resolution 2908 to Delineate Choice Core Values and Charge to Staff to Actively Seek Expansion of Choice

Mrs. Moss offered an amendment to this resolution. She said that several months ago the Board had a retreat to discuss choice options in the district, the direction we want choice to go, and to set a guideline for policy development. The district offers many good choice options, especially at the middle and high school level. Mrs. Moss expressed the belief that we should be providing those opportunities, on a priority basis, to Denver student, reserving those positions for Denver students before allowing outside students to apply. She moved to insert the word “Denver” before “student” and “families,” in the first paragraph, third line, of the resolution; and to insert the words “for Denver students” after the words “New choice options” in section B, on the first page.

Mr. Hoyt said that he is opposed to Mrs. Moss’ amendment because he feels that the proposed amendment will limit the district’s flexibility. He said that he can see many instances where the district might be better served not to prioritize Denver students. For example, the Sandoval dual-language program has to have a certain percentage of Spanish-speaking kids and English-speaking kids to make the program work. If they were unable to draw a sufficient number of these students, this provision could be interpreted to mean that they could only accept English-speaking kids prior to reaching out across boundary lines to let more Spanish kids in the
program. DSA would be another example where some reasonable exceptions should be made to bring in very talented kids from outside the district for positions in that school in order to raise the whole academic and arts experience. Financially, by allowing a certain percentage of out-of-district students to attend a charter school, or at least having the flexibility to consider doing that, the district might be able to approve a charter school on a financial basis that otherwise would be a poor decision.

Mrs. Moss responded that her amendment does give priority to Denver students but does not exclude outside Denver children once Denver children have been considered. For example, at Sandoval if sufficient Spanish-speaking children could not be found, then we could look outside the district. Priority would be given to Denver children before anyone from outside the district.

Considering the financial aspects, she said, it has never been proven that allowing children from outside the district to come in is a financial gain. Children from out of the district bring their PPOR with them when they attend a DPS school, but when Denver kids leave Denver because they were unable to get into magnet programs, they take an equal number of PPOR out of the district with them. We have never tracked the number of Denver kids that leave because they do not get into our magnet schools, so we do not know the financial impact. We have never, as a district, made money a reason for whether or not we provide academic success or academic opportunities for the children of this district. We spend an incredible amount of money, that is not cost-beneficial, to provide great programs and great opportunities for students in this district. She said that she never wants to be the kind of Board member who considers cost over providing educational opportunities to the children of this district. We do not have enough choice for the kids of our district. We cannot satisfy the needs of children in this district, and to argue that we should satisfy the needs of children outside the district is wrong.

Ms. Gantz Berman said she was attempting to understand the debate on the resolution. Since the resolution pertains to the Denver population, it would seem that Mrs. Moss’ amendments are unnecessary in view of the fact that the framework is already DPS. She could not think of any school in the district this would apply to except the Denver School of the Arts (DSA). DSA is unique because their policy is to admit students based on their abilities within their particular art form, which is a very different set of criteria. She was not sure this was an issue outside of DSA, so she was not sure why it should be added to the resolution.

Mrs. Moss said it is important because this resolution is intended to guide district policy for all future programs, magnet programs, and charter schools. We do not know what the Secondary Reform Commission may recommend, but we need to be sure that as we create a document which sets up our core beliefs, sets-up the values we hold, that we publicly say we value providing opportunities to Denver kids. We want to give them quality educational opportunities and give them the priority for those opportunities. In addition, as we set-up policies concerning who will attend Denver School of the Arts, it would become a guiding principle in developing those admission policies. It is important that we say, Denver kids have a priority in school facilities where we are providing thousands of dollars over what other facilities are getting in this district. Denver kids have a right to be in those schools over children who are not part of the district.
Mr. Woodward said that he intended to vote against this amendment. He said that there is an existing policy with respect to admission; therefore, he feels the amendment is unnecessary. He said that he would hope that we would continue to live by our existing choice policy and assume that priority will be granted.

Mr. Woodward called for roll call on Mrs. Moss’ amendment: Rev. Guzman, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson, and Ms. Peña voted “aye.” Ms. Gantz Berman, Mr. Hoyt, and Mr. Woodward: voted “no.” The amendment passed four to three.

Mrs. Moss moved adoption of Resolution 2908, as amended. Ms. Peña seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, IV-C-1.

V. Old Business

B. Policy Review

1. Delete Policy DG, Banking Services (and deposit of funds) – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-25, V-B-1.

VI. New Business

There was none

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Twenty-First Century Charter School

Kevin Teasley, President of the Greater Education Opportunities Foundation (GEO), said they sponsor the Twenty-First Century Charter School in Indianapolis, which would be used as a model for the proposed Twenty-First Century Charter School in Denver. Students in Indianapolis are not only learning but exceeding the national norm. He said he has been in Denver since 1999. People involved in the proposal have worked in Denver: Margo Branscombe and Kathy Porter have worked with DPS; James Sutherland was raised in Montbello; Nelvis Alvarez is currently a staff member at Life Skills Center charter; Chris Rose is with Catholic Charities; and board members Laurie Marvin and Willie Montoya are Denver residents. Montbello resident John Smith, has endorsed their school. He said they are fully prepared to build a building for the school.

Kathy Porter said she was standing in stead for approximately 250 Montbello/Green Valley parents who have signed letters of intent for an opportunity to choose this charter school. They feel it can make a difference in their children’s lives. She said she graduated from Denver West
High School and received her BA in Greeley. She said that the Twenty-First Century Charter School would be a plus for the Green Valley/Montbello area; it would be viable not only to Montbello and Green Valley, but to Denver.

James Sutherland said he is the product of the Denver Public Schools, he went to Amesse Elementary School, Place Middle School, and Montbello High School, and now is the Director of Marketing for the Florida Department of Education. He said he was glad to lend his support to the proposed Twenty-First Century Charter School.

Disparity

Frank Yount said he is a Title One teacher and that in 1999, the previous president of DCTA asked him to be part of a group to look into issues of at-risk students. Their report outlines concerns specifically regarding the state standards policy, which greatly limits a teacher’s ability to change conditions of disparity. Concerns regarding CSAP standards are serious and include restricted programs, problematic reporting of student test results, and obstruction of opportunities that could make for serious injustices in state laws for school reform.

Academy Internacional

Peter Bunch, President of Academy Internacional, said that he lives twelve blocks from Lake Middle School. His wife attended Lake, as did her father, and they looked into sending their two daughters to Lake. He offered the following statistics: 12 percent of sixth graders entering Lake tested proficient in mathematics, 4 percent of eighth graders leaving Lake tested proficient in mathematics; 13 percent of sixth graders entering Lake write proficiently, 9 percent of eighth graders leaving Lake write proficiently; 40 percent of his daughter’s peers are choosing to leave the district. His wife believes their daughters, as citizens of North America, should learn to speak Spanish. Lake does not offer Spanish. Nor does Lake offer government or social studies. Academy Internacional offers families a research-based, field-tested curriculum and an implementation team that includes experts in the field who have decades of experience in starting and running successful schools. They have a financially solid company, Academica, assisting them in their business plan and with the building of their facility.

DSIAC’s report that the school in Florida, upon which this school is modeled, has an enrollment of students with a far different background than the students in Denver is not correct. They have almost identical backgrounds—they are poor working class, largely Hispanic students. Also, they have spoken with North High School’s facilities managers about working their plan into North’s master plan.

Rosa Linda Aguirre, Academy Internacional board member, said that she believes this school will help the students in their community, especially because it is a dual-language middle school. She said their community needs a better school.

Claudia Ayaquica, Spanish-speaking parent, spoke through an interpreter about her support for this school.
Condoms in Schools

Christine Gilmore, a nursing student at Regis University, said that she is currently doing a clinical rotation at a Denver health community clinic, and as an assignment is researching teen pregnancy as a community health problem. The national teen birth rate is 8.6 percent of all births; Denver is higher than the national average at 14 percent. Manual High School has had twenty-seven confirmed pregnancies since August; last year they had thirty pregnancies. After researching what is being done about teen pregnancy, she said she was impressed with the many programs that support pregnant teens, but was surprised to find a lack of preventive programs. One solution to help solve the problem is to make condoms available in the high schools. Condoms reduce pregnancy by 97 percent. In addition to reducing pregnancies, they reduce sexually-transmitted diseases including HIV, and HPV. The Center for Disease Control estimates there are 40,000 new HIV cases annually, and one-fourth of these are teenagers or people under the age of twenty-two.

Ms. Peña thanked her for sharing her information. Ms. Peña said that her statistics were very sobering. She said that she would like the Board to have a discussion on this issue and reevaluate the existing policy.

Questions on Accountability of Colorado High School

Karen Bayes, parent of a student who graduated in June 2003 from Colorado High School Charter School, said that after her son graduated, with an official diploma, she received his final report card and found that he earned a negative 0.01 percent in history; yet, he still graduated. She said that somebody needs to check on this school and see if there are other kids passing though the system and not being properly educated. Somebody has to hold this school accountable.

Urban Peak

Charles Knight, president of Emeritus Properties, a Denver-based real estate investment company and board chair of Urban Peak Denver, said that since its inception, Urban Peak Denver has continually looked for new ways to execute their mission, which is to serve homeless and runaway youth and provide them with a safe, caring, stable environment, and assist them in permanently exiting street life. A solid education is the absolute foundation for securing stable, quality employment. Over time at Urban Peak, they came to realize that their GED program, while extremely successful, was not serving our youth who wanted to continue their education beyond high school. They need a high school diploma and a highly rigorous academic program to support their future success in college. The entire UPD board is committed to this effort and the long-term stability and growth of this project. They are excited to begin this new collaboration with DPS to serve this unique population.

Jerene Petersen, Executive Director of Urban Peak Denver, thanked Board members and the accountability council for their very thorough, thoughtful, and rigorous evaluation of their proposal. She is extremely impressed with the level of evaluation of these applications and really appreciates and respects all of their work. They hope that they will have a successful
application and look forward to working very hard with the district to create a state-of-the-art charter school for these young people who would love to graduate from high school.

Baker Arts and Technology Academy

Edgar Compos, founder of a Denver power sports academy in the Baker community, spoke in support of this charter school. He said that students in the Baker neighborhood need other choices.

Pierre Jiminez, said he had read the DSIAC report and wanted to acknowledge their work and effort. He said that he is not an apologist for Mosaica or any other management company. The fact of the matter is that inter-city neighborhoods do not have the expertise or capital to provide the kind of groundwork needed to start a charter school. Economics in that particular neighborhood do not lend themselves to having private individuals step forward. There is a pressing need in this community to do something different. This is a population that is not only underserved but largely overlooked. Their purpose is to establish a case for creating another option for parents in the west Denver neighborhood that might appeal to them.

Gene Edelman, co-founder of Mosaica Education, said he is very proud of what Mosaica accomplished in partnership with the Denver Arts and Technology Academy (DATA) and DPS. They started off with 120 kids and now have 460 students. The majority of students come from Valdez, Fairview, and Cheltenham Elementary Schools. Student turnover is very low, with CSAP scores consistent with and higher than the three DPS schools. The evaluation committee compared DATA to schools in other areas. They will provide additional information regarding their proposal and hope they can sit down and have a true review with district staff. He said he feels they have a terrific track record in terms of parent satisfaction, student achievement, the ability to build a quality facility, and in being a good partner with DPS. They would like to have their application considered fairly.

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Public Comment at 7:20 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education