MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (03-21) 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
7:00 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2003

I. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.

Mirachi Juvenil de Bryant-Webster
The Mirachi Juvenil de Bryant Webster from Bryant-Webster Elementary School, sang and played for the Board and audience.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:05 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

A. Recognition of West High School Cross-Country Track Team

Mrs. Edwards read a Proclamation congratulating members of the West High School Cross Country Team for winning the Colorado State 5A Boys’ Cross Country Championship and introduced members of the team. A copy of the Proclamation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-20, II-A.

B. Resolution 2847 – H.R. 1684 Student Adjustment Act and S.B. 1545 Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (II-B)

Reverend Guzman moved the adoption of Resolution 2847 in support of access to higher education for immigrants. Mr. Woodward seconded the motion.

Reverend Guzman said that for too long the Hispanic dropout rate in the district has been too high, that the district has a large number of Spanish-only speaking students and immigrant students who often find there is no real reason to stay in high school and get a diploma if they cannot go to college here in the United States. She said that these students have been barred from our colleges because of the extremely high tuition rates they had to pay and the inability to receive federal financial aid. She said the Denver Public Schools is committed to doing something about the Hispanic dropout rate, and that if this Act is passed by the
United State Congress, it will provide the district the opportunity to support in a more forceful way the graduation of our Latino students.

The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, II-B.

Ms. Berman said she wanted to thank the Denver voters for an enormously successful election, and that in the final tally the mill levy question passed at the 60 percentile level and the bond at 57 percent. She said that she could not thank the Denver voters enough for their confidence and that it was an incredible victory for our students.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Superintendent Jerry Wartgow thanked the many individuals and groups, including Mayor John Hickenlooper, who supported the district in the mill and bond election. He expressed his gratitude to the Citizen’s Committee on Financial Needs and the grassroots effort put forth by everyone. He said the positive reinforcement that the district has received was because the district has the momentum; that we are moving in the right direction. He said that the fact that out of 21 unsatisfactory schools two years ago, there is only one unsatisfactory school this year; and the fact that DPS was recognized as the most improved school district in the State of Colorado by Governor Owens has added to that momentum.

Dr. Wartgow said it is an exciting time for the district, and that the district will continue in the positive direction that has brought recognition and public support.

Dr. Wartgow also said he wanted to report that he has submitted two recommendations for teacher dismissal to the Board.

Ms. Berman explained the process that would take place in the meeting. She said that the Board had not finished its discussion on the charter schools applications so the rest of the agenda would be completed and then the Board would take a recess to finish the discussion and then come back for the vote.

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.

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>IV-A-1</td>
<td>Minutes of October 2, 2003</td>
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<td>IV-C-1a</td>
<td>Resolution to Accept Five Nonpublic Applications</td>
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Mrs. Edwards moved that the items not held be approved under the consent agenda process and Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The following items were approved under the consent agenda process:

A. Board of Education

17. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 1, 2003, Meeting (IV-A-17).

The Board of Education approved the minutes of the above listed Board of Education Meetings.

B. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

a. Personnel Transaction Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-B-1a.

b. Motion to Ratify the Agreement between the Denver Public Schools and the Vocational Teachers Federation – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Motion to Ratify the Vocational Teachers Federation Agreement. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-B-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 this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-B-2a.

D. Student Services

1. Student Support Programs

   a. Motion to Accept Funding Awarded for the P.R.E.P. Refocus Middle School – It was recommended that the Board of Education accept the funding awarded by the Colorado Department of Education: Expelled and At-Risk Student Services Grants for P.R.E.P. Refocus Middle School in the amount of $300,000. A copy of this agreement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-D-1a.

   b. Motion to Accept Funding Awarded to the Psychological Service Department – It was recommended that the Board of Education accept the funding awarded by the Colorado Department of Education: Expelled and At-Risk Student Services Grants to the Psychological Services Department in the amount of $357,427. A copy of this agreement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-D-1b.

   c. Motion to Accept Funding Awarded to the Social Work Services Department – It was recommended that the Board of Education accept the funding awarded by the Colorado Department of Education: Expelled and At-Risk Student Services Grants to the Social Work Services Department in the amount of $353,182. A copy of this agreement is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-D-1c.

E. Denver Public Schools Retirement System

1. Motion to Approve Amendment to the Denver Public Schools Retirement and Benefit Plan – It was recommended that the Board of Education act upon recommendations from the Denver Public Schools Retirement System Board of Trustees to amend the retirement plan with regard to adding a death benefit feature to the straight-life benefit, utilizing a unisex mortality assumption, and creating joint and survivor annuity options. A copy of this Amendment to the Denver Public Schools Retirement and Benefit Plan is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-E-1.
DISCUSSION AGENDA

IV-A-1 Minutes of October 2, 2003, Meeting

Mrs. Edwards said that, as Secretary of the Board, she wanted to acknowledge and thank Mary Ellen McEldowney, School Attorney, for steering the process of getting the Board minutes from the last year caught up; but she especially wanted to express a special note of gratitude to Judy Steffen, retired DPS secretary, who was contracted to work on the minutes, acknowledging that she did them in a timely manner and very comprehensively.

Mrs. Edwards moved the acceptance of the Minutes of October 2, 2003. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the minutes is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-A-1.

IV-C-1a Resolution – To Accept Five Nonpublic School Applications in the Colorado Opportunity Contract Pilot Program

Ms. Gantz Berman asked Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent of Research, Planning, and Special Programs, to explain what has changed regarding the application from Silver State Baptist School. Dr. Eckerling said that originally Silver State Baptist School did not meet the district’s standards regarding its policy on hate against a particular group of people, and that since that time the school has written a letter stating that they have revised its policy. A copy of their new policy is included in the report. He said that staff believes that the school now meets the standard that is prescribed in the law.

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that Resolution 2848 accepting the 5 nonpublic school applications from Colorado State High School, Denver Street School, Character Leadership Academy, University Hills Lutheran and Silver State Baptist which were initially denied by the Board of Education to participate in the Colorado Opportunity Contract Pilot Program conditioned on receipt of additional information on or before March 1, 2004, be adopted. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the policy is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-C-1a.

Mr. Woodward asked that the resolutions concerning the charter school applications and equal educational opportunity be held until further discussion could be held in the Board’s Work Session.

V. Old Business

There was none.
VI. New Business

A. Policy Review

1. Policy Revision – BEDG – Minutes – The Board will be asked to adopt staff recommendations concerning the preparation of Board of Education meeting minutes. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, VI-A-1.

B. Student Services

1. Expelled Students Report – The Board will review a report on the students who have been expelled during the past month. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, VI-B-1.

C. Educational Services

1. English Language Acquisition Program Annual Report – The Board will receive the October staff report on the English Language Acquisition Program for the 2002-2003 school year. This report is required by the ELA Court Order. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, VI-C-1.

Dr. Wartgow commented that the district has worked for the last two-and-a-half years towards the merger of the DPS retirement plan with the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). He said that the current Executive Director the Retirement Office, David Stella, is leaving the district and thanked him for his incredible leadership. He asked Mr. Stella to say a few words and to introduce his replacement.

Mr. Stella expressed his appreciation and thanks for all the support he has received from the Board over the last two years. He introduced Bob Scott, former Controller for the State of Colorado and former Executive Director of PERA, who is replacing him for the next 13 months, as the district works toward the merger with PERA.

Mr. Woodward said that he has had the opportunity to serve as the Board representative on the DPS Retirement Board and that he wanted to express his gratitude to Dave Stella for his exceptional leadership in the potential merger, and that he personally believes that this merger will benefit all district employees and retired employees.

DISCUSSION AGENDA CONTINUED

The Board recessed at approximately 6:00 p.m., for dinner and further Work Session. The Board reconvened at approximately 7:10 p.m.
IV-C-2d  Resolution 2849 – Southwest High School Charter School

Mr. Woodward moved the adoption of Resolution 2849, presented to the Board, providing for the approval of the application of the Southwest High School Charter School. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of Resolution 2849 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-C-2d.

IV-C-2b  Resolution 2850 – Green Valley Ranch, an Edison Charter School

Mr. Woodward moved the adoption of Resolution 2850 accepting the Charter School application from Green Valley Ranch Edison Charter School. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of Resolution 2850 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-C-2b.

IV-C-2c  Resolution 2851 – Highline Academy Charter School

Mr. Woodward moved the adoption of Resolution 2850 accepting the Charter School application from Highline Academy Charter School. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting “aye,” Mrs. Edwards, Rev. Guzman, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Peña, and Mr. Woodward; voting “no” Ms. Gantz Berman. The motion was duly carried. A copy of Resolution 2851 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-C-2c.

IV-C-2a  Resolution 2852 – American Charter School

Mr. Woodward moved the disapproval of Resolution 2850 accepting the Charter School application from the American School. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: voting “aye,” Mrs. Edwards, Rev. Guzman, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Peña, and Mr. Woodward; voting “no” Ms. Gantz Berman. The motion was duly carried. A copy of Resolution 2852 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-C-2a.

IV-C-3  Resolution 2853 – Equal Educational Opportunity

Reverend Guzman moved the adoption of Resolution 2853 affirming the Board of Education’s commitment to English Language Learners to provide and maintain appropriate educational programs and services to help them overcome language barriers that impede participation in the instructional program. Mr. Woodward seconded the motion. A copy of Resolution 2853 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-21, IV-C-3.
Mrs. Edwards remarked that she was excited to see this resolution because she believes that it is the next step in a long journey to better meet the needs of the children of our district that come to us whose native language is not English, that the district is committed to meeting the needs of every child that crosses our threshold, many of whom do not speak English but it is our firm commitment, attested to in this resolution, that we will provide them with equal educational opportunities, and that as fast as it is humanly and educationally appropriate, that they will be able to meaningfully participate in the educational program in the district.

She said that this resolution was being brought forth as a First Reading, that there will be the opportunity for public input, and that she encouraged everyone to look at the resolution and advise the Board of your thinking on it, and that action will be taken on this resolution in about a month.

Dr. Wartgow said that the staff is committed to this resolution and to everything that it represents, that the district cannot achieve the goals that have been set for the district without addressing straight on and aggressively the needs of our English language learners. He said he looked forward to the discussion and action after receiving public comments.

VII. Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Kim Ursetta, Vice President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) – She urged the Board to adopt the Association’s salary recovery plan. She distributed the DCTA’s Input Form on the district’s budget, a DCTA chart of budget and compensation work group, and charter school budget comparison. She recommended that the Board align charter school application consideration with Board budget approval.

Rafael Quintero, Kim Allen, Amy Werner, and Wendy Steinway, from the Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools – They spoke about the mill levy proposal concerning school revitalization or transformation. Mr. Quintero congratulated the Board on the results of the Mill Levy election. Ms. Steinway asked for the timeline for availability of bond and mill levy dollars. Dr. Wartgow responded that the Board and staff would begin working immediately on implementing the proposals. Ms. Werner urged full parental involvement in such implementation.

David Sega, President of the Denver Association of Gifted/Talented Association - Mr. Segal announced that his association will be honoring retiring Board member, Sue Edwards, for her work by naming its teacher of the year award after her.

Joanne Roll – She urged the Board to give parents a vote in its decisions around school revitalization/transformation. She indicated that the district school redesign policy recognizes parental involvement but that it should specify the degree of support necessary for a design change.
VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education