I. Call to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. James Mejia, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

C. Recognitions

There were none.

D. Approve Agenda

Mr. Mejia moved that the Board of Education approve the agenda for this meeting. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Board Member Reports

Ms. Gantz Berman thanked the voters of Denver and the State of Colorado for defeating Amendment 31. She said she thought there was a very strong message from the voters that a better job needs to be done to make sure students transition into English as quickly as possible. She said the Board took the message very seriously and would look at ways the district could improve on what was being done.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Superintendent Jerry Wartgow said the district has said all along that it was not an issue related to teaching students English quickly, efficiently and effectively. He said there were programs in place to improve district performance in that arena and progress was being made but there was a long way to go. He said it was a major district priority to do whatever could be done to ensure that students were transitioned into English. He said the district appreciated the opportunity to work without the constraints of a tightly written Constitutional Amendment.
Dr. Wartgow congratulated the West High School Cross Country Team on becoming the State Champions. He said this was a great accomplishment for the team and DPS.

Dr. Wartgow announced that Cindy Rundstrom, Assistant to the Superintendent, had decided after 34 years to retire at the end of December. He said she had been a mainstay in the district for many years and she would be missed. He said that Laura Gallegos would replace Ms. Rundstrom.

He showed a copy of the publication *DPS Today* and said it presented great information about DPS programs. He said it emphasized the number of choices available in DPS.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

Assistant Secretary Jacque Lucero read the consent agenda items by number and sequence, in accordance with consent agenda procedures.

A. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Personnel Transaction Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Transaction Report. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-20, IV-A-1a.

B. Facility Management

1. Final Settlements – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Final Settlements for Contracted Services as described on the attached schedule. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-20, IV-B-1.

2. Use of Additional Contingency Funds for the Swansea Elementary School Two-Classroom Addition Project - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the use of additional contingency funds in the amount of $50,000 for Swansea Elementary School Two-Classroom addition project. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-20, IV-B-2.

3. Architect Selection for the Asbury Elementary School Window Restoration Project - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the firm of TSP Five, Inc., as the architect for the Asbury Elementary School Window Restoration Project. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-20, IV-B-3.
Mr. Mejia moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda for this meeting. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

1. Charter School Applications

Sherry Eastlund, Project Leader for Charter Schools, reminded the Board of a timeline approved in August for consideration of Charter School applications for 2003-2004. Applicants were to make presentations on November 7, on November 21 the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) would make recommendations, and the Board would make final determinations on December 5.

a. Denver Big Picture High School #1 and #2 (Appendix 02-20, VI-1a)

The proposal was presented by Jeff Park, Miguel Bernal of Denver Big Picture High School and by people from the Providence, Rhode Island, MET school, and a representative from the Big Picture Company. They said the proposal is a replication of a proven design based on six years in Providence, Rhode Island, and had shown to be one of the most effective models for working with students of high poverty and minority backgrounds. Denver was one site selected by the Big Picture Company. The application proposed small non-traditional charter high schools in the Northeast (#1) and the Northwest/West (#2). They described the mission, design elements, goals and objectives, timeline, and proposed facilities.

Board members asked for and received clarification on the following issues:

Mrs. Moss had questions regarding direct instruction versus internship and how district and state standards would be met.

Rev. Guzman asked at what grade level students could enter the program, if the school would act as a magnet, and what the elective opportunities would be.

Mr. Patterson asked about the difference between traditional classes and the learning opportunities described in the application and about the mediation and discipline process. He also asked if they had letters of intent to enroll.
Mr. Mejia asked about student achievement data and how the district could be sure that in the scheduling of classes standards were being met. He also asked how they addressed English language learners.

Dr. Wartgow asked about the Providence program’s relationship to the Providence public school district, the performance of that program, and about what standards were used in Rhode Island.

Sally Mentor Hay, Chief Academic Officer, asked about the program’s relationship to the Coalition of Schools and asked for clarification of a statement regarding their position on uniform standards.

Mrs. Edwards asked about the typical student coming into the MET at ninth grade, and what would be the motivation to acquire an education.

b. Harriet Tubman Charter School (Appendix 02-20, VI-1b)

Ms. Eastlund explained that the Mollie Badager was unable to attend to make the presentation.

c. Cole and Clayton Neighborhood Learning Centers (Appendix 02-20, VI-1c)

Beverly Lumumba presented the proposal to establish a charter school that is based on the “school-within-a school” model. She described the initiatives happening within the Cole and Clayton neighborhood. She emphasized parent and community involvement as a priority of the program, and said the goal and objective was to bring a neighborhood objective to academic achievement.

Board members asked for and received clarification on the following issues:

Mr. Mejía asked about the locations of schools that would be involved, and asked if the principals had been approached.

Mr. Patterson asked about the relationship of the program to the district, since it was different from a traditional charter school.

d. Northeast Academy (Appendix 02-20, VI-1d)

Janet Darnell and Kay May explained how individuals from the Green Valley/Montebello community got together for the purpose of providing their children with an academic choice. The applicants intend to create a high achieving school that offers the Core Knowledge curriculum. Members of the Academy board expressed their support for the program and discussed the need for such a program in the Montbello/Green Valley community.

Board members asked for and received clarification on the following issues:
Mr. Mejia asked about the student population comparison to other Core Knowledge schools and about the budget and funding for the program.

Mr. Patterson asked about the selection of the Board of Governance and about the time frame for including parents and community on the Board.

Mrs. Edwards asked about the curriculum and how often foreign language, arts, music, etc., would be taught.

Mr. Woodward asked about the enrollment policy and if there would be economic, racial, and ethnic diversity representative of the community.

e. **Compass Academy** (Appendix 02-20, VI-1e)

Gerald Dare presented the application for Compass Academy and described the success of students who had participated in similar programs. He emphasized that the program is an individualized, one-on-one, ability appropriate program aimed at attracting students who are low achieving, high risk, and with special needs.

Board members asked for and received clarification on the following issues:

- Mrs. Edwards asked about the possible location outside of Denver and if it would reach targeted students. She also asked about the salary structure for teachers in a year around school.

- Mrs. Moss asked about one-on-one teaching and if teachers taught more than one subject. She asked for statistics about success where the program has been implemented.

- Mr. Mejia asked how the program addressed the learning of English language learners and about funding.

f. **Walsingham Academy** (Appendix 02-20, VI-1f)

Marcy Contizano and Jerry Frank said Walsingham Academy would be a school for children who need more, academically and emotionally. The school would be different in the way children are addressed, how the day is structured, as well as in the community support. They feel there is no place for young children who have behavior problems and are looking to continue education. They feel this is the best opportunity for mainstreaming those children.

Board members asked for and received clarification on the following issues:
Mrs. Edwards asked about the location of the site, children to the site, if physically disabled children would also be served, and about funding resources.

Mr. Woodward asked if there were other schools using the same approach.

g. **Summit Academy** (Appendix 02-20, VI-1g)

Ken Campbell from MOSIACH said the school intended to meet the educational needs of the children and the community of Northeast Denver. She described the mission of the Academy and their intent to become a model school with an innovative curriculum, strong community and parental involvement, and intensive teacher training. They are planning their school in partnership with Mosaica Education, Inc., a company that currently manages the Denver Arts and Technology Academy (DATA).

Board members asked for and received clarification on the following issues:

Mr. Patterson asked about the budget for staff people, the site location, and what services were provided by Mosaica...

Mr. Mejia asked about financing of the full day kindergarten, about English language learners, and the number of students at the start of the program.

Mrs. Edwards asked about potential locations, teacher certification, and teacher school days and salary.

Rev. Guzman voiced her support of DATA, but expressed concern about a large enough facility for DATA and the new academy.

Ms. Gantz Berman asked about the DATA program and if student achievement was as anticipated.

h. **Life Skills Center of Denver** (Appendix 02-20, VI-1h)

Pierre Jimenez said in educational reform one area had not been addressed and that was dropout recovery. They tried to locate a program where a student could mediate academic skills and become eligible for a high school diploma. They also talked to employers to determine what it would take to hire a dropout. They determined the Life Skills Center program would address those needs.

Rev. Guzman and Mr. Patterson expressed their appreciation of the need for this type of program.

Mrs. Edwards asked for clarification on items in the application regarding funding and the ages of potential students.
Mr. Patterson asked how this program would increase the motivation for students who have already left school.

2. **Grant Proposal – Colorado Online** - It will be recommended that the Board of Education approve submission of the grant application as described in the proposal summary and that the Superintendent be directed to submit all necessary documents consistent with grant application guidelines and be authorized to make any technical or administrative adjustments that may be necessary. A copy of the report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-20, VI-2.

3. **Proposal – Retiree Life Insurance** – A copy of this proposal is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-20, VI-3.

4. **Staff Analysis – School Re-Design Proposal for Lincoln Elementary School Montessori Program** – A copy of this analysis is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-20, VI-4.

   Allan Balczarek, Research, Planning and Special Programs, briefly reviewed the proposal. He said there would be a negative or very slight impact on the surrounding schools, as well as Denison Montessori. Transportation would not be an issue; the start-up for the actual school was only for actual start-up materials; and the staffing allocation that is there will be self-sufficient by year three.

   Rev. Guzman asked about the concern about a school-within-a-school, if there was any movement toward reforming the entire school to a Montessori curriculum. She asked how students would be recruited to insure equity in terms economic ability and ethnicity.

   Mr. Balczarek responded that the design was to monitor the program closely to watch the growth and if the demand exceeds the number of classrooms or number of students in the traditional program, then perhaps they would revisit that.

   Mr. Balczarek said the staff recommendation is that the Board approves the budget as presented, which is $87,000 over three years.

**RECESS**

Ms. Gantz Berman recessed the meeting and explained that the Board would reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for the Public Hearing segment of the meeting.
RECOVENE

VII. Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Ms. Gantz Berman said that in the earlier meeting there were two people who did not have the opportunity to speak on the Lincoln Montessori proposal and she asked them to speak.

Shelley Bridge and Jules Baley - Lincoln Montessori Program – Ms. Bridge discussed the advantages of the location of the school and said she felt the program might bring back the area students who had transferred to private schools. She said that the Montessori program had been successful as far as test scores and that it had a beneficial value system. Mr. Baley said the district had a tremendous opportunity to introduce a program at Lincoln that was a proven educational model nationwide. He said there is a tremendous amount of excitement in the Lincoln area about this program.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced that the beginning of the Public Hearing meeting was being co-hosted with the Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) Commission. A notice had gone to the community requesting recommendations regarding changes that should be made to the CDM process. Deb Mumford, Co-chair of the CDM Commission, introduced members of the commission.

Bill Johnston, Joanne Roll – CDM Process – Mr. Johnston said there was little hard data on the effectiveness of CDM, but indications are that CDMs had not lived up to their intent or expectation. DSIAC consistently found that many school programs had failed to define the school’s instructional program, relate strategies to improve student achievement with instructional program, and provide evidence that the school budget supports the strategies. He said CDMs were not held accountable. Ms. Roll did not feel CDMs were representative and should not have a role in determining school design. She felt there should be a policy whereby CDMs would be excluded from making those decisions.

Jamie Kaplan, Cindy Silverman, Bridget Larkin, Dan Ridgeway, and David Gaass – CDM Process – The speakers spoke in support of CDMs and described ways they are a valuable, effective resource and that they should be part of the decision making process. They felt CDMs should remain part of the DCTA agreement. They also felt that CDMs were accountable. They spoke of positive experiences in their schools, the support that was offered to the principal, and the positive outcomes for students and parents.

Bridget Larkin – CDM Process – Ms. Larkin said that she had become very frustrated with the CDM process and the way it was handled at her school in Montbello. However, she had visited other CDMs and found them to be effective and felt the CDM process should be continued.

Frank McLaughlin, Charles Black, and Bill Moland – Transportation Issues – Mr. McLaughlin said they had been coming to the Board often regarding inequities within the Transportation Department, primarily failure of management to honor the contract. Lately there had been a big improvement. Mr. Moland said that though there was a long way to
go, there had been much progress, and he thanked Andre Pettigrew, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, the Board, and the administration.

**Nyahuma Macharia – Hallet Elementary** – He had issues with Hallet and Park Hill schools and said that over the last year and a half he tried to contact district administrators in writing and had received no response. One issue was that on occasions children were made to stay out in rain and snow and not allowed inside. Another issue was school safety—the children must wait outside where there are busy streets, and he had no response to requests for security.

Ms. Gantz Berman said she wanted to announce a major event to take place in January, a celebration to honor the 100th anniversary of DPS. DPS and the DPS Foundation will co-host a celebration at the Downtown Marriott that will honor the anniversary, the history, and the accomplishments of DPS.

**C. Adjournment**

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education