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 5:10 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.

C. Recognition of South High School, 4A Cross Country State Champions

Ms. Peña introduced Jamie Lofaro, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, and Nancy Gregorio, Cross Country Coach, from South High School. She recognized the South High School Cross County Team for winning Colorado State 4A Boys’ Cross Country Championship on October 30, 2004.

D. Recognition of Diana Howard

Richard Smith, Northeast Assistant Area Superintendent, introduced Dr. Diana Howard, Principal, Polaris Elementary School, recipient of the Wright Way Award from the Colorado Principals’ Center and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented.

II. Board Member Reports

None at this time.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow said that the State Board of Education informed us that they have selected the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) to manage the charter school at Cole Middle School. It is the responsibility of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) to negotiate a contract with KIPP by February 15, 2005. The contract must meet a number of conditions that were attached to the recommendation. He asked Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs to report on the process.
Dr. Eckerling stated that copies of the following reports are available: The K8 report, presented a few weeks ago to the Board of Education, is available on the web in Spanish and English; the State Board of Education conditions, that the Superintendent referred to, are also available in both Spanish and English; and the agenda from the community meeting at Cole is available, both in Spanish and English.

Dr. Eckerling reviewed the student assignment options for Cole Middle School, if the K-8 recommendation is approved. Every sixth grader will probably be assigned to their current elementary school for sixth grade, which would be their home school assignment. They will have options to attend that school, Merrill Middle School, or any other middle school, with some transportation provided. Students can choose any other middle school or K-8 school in the district, based on space availability through the Choice process. There will be multiple options available for new sixth grade students in the Cole area. Seventh and eighth grade students will be assigned to Gove, Morey, or Randolph Middle Schools, based on a variety of factors. Students can remain at the new charter at Cole, but if they choose not to stay, they may attend one of the surrounding middle schools. They would be able to attend any other middle school in the district through the Choice process and provide their own transportation, or attend Merrill and other designated middle schools with transportation.

He also said that Area Superintendents will meet one-on-one with each Cole teacher to ascertain their needs and desires for a new assignment. We have to take into consideration the DCTA contract, the interest of the teacher, and jobs available.

In response to Mrs. Moss’ question regarding what steps the district will take to communicate options to Cole parents, Dr. Eckerling said that everyone will be sent information in writing. Information will be available in a variety of ways through the Choice Office.

IV. Consent Agenda

Mary Ellen McEldowney, attorney for the district, 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-D-3 Resolution 2921 to Deny the Charter School Application for the 21st Century Charter School at Denver.

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

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of November 4, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, IV-A-1.
2. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Schenck Elementary School
      Eight-Classroom Addition - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of
      this meeting as Appendix 04-27, IV-A-2a.

   b. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the new Stapleton II, K-8 School
      A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as

B. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Motion to Approve the Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this report is
      appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, IV-B-1a.

   b. Motion to Accept the Arbitrator’s Report Regarding AAA Case No. 77 390
      00179 04 - A copy of this motion, the arbitrator’s recommendation regarding the
      Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) North High School leave
      arbitration, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27,
      IV-B-1b.

   c. Motion to Ratify the Agreement with the Association of Food Services
      Employees – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as
      Appendix 04-27, IV-B-1c.

2. Facility Management

   a. Motion to Approve Utility Easements at Schenck Elementary School – A copy
      of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27,
      IV-B-2a.

C. Budget and Finance – Financial Services

1. Resolution to Approve Certification of Levy for 2004 – A copy of this resolution,
   the 2004 mill levies for the General Fund and Bond Redemption Fund, which are
   required by statute to be certified to the City and County of Denver no later than
   December 15, 2004, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27,
   IV-C-1.

D. Educational Services

1. Resolution to Approve the Charter School Application for the Denver Peak
   Academy – A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as
Appendix 04-27, IV-D-1.

2. **Resolution to Deny the Charter School Application for the Academy International**
   A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, IV-D-2.

4. **Resolution to Deny the Charter School Application for the Baker Arts and Technology Academy** – A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, IV-D-4.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

IV-D-3 Resolution 2921 to Deny the Charter School Application for the 21st Century Charter School at Denver.

Mr. Patterson expressed his appreciation to the members of the audience in attendance regarding this charter school. He said this original application came to the Board with parent support from northwest Denver. When the applicants presented their application to the Board they did not have evidence of northeast parent and community support. He said that the motion to deny this application does not mean the district is not paying attention to the need for quality education in northeast Denver. More time is needed to work with the community and continue to find options that will work.

Mr. Patterson moved adoption of Resolution 2921. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, IV-D-3.

**V. Old Business**

A. **Expansion of Denver School of the Arts** – A copy of this report, a staff report recommending the use of the Byers facility to increase the number of students served by the Denver School of the Arts is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, V-A.

B. **Report Regarding New ECE-8 Schools** – A copy of this report, a staff report recommending changing Columbine, Gilpin, Harrington, Mitchell, and Whittier Elementary Schools from schools serving grades ECE-5 to serving grades ECE-8, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, V-B.

C. **Report Recommending Sixth Grade at Westerly Creek Elementary School** – A copy of this report, a staff report recommending that Westerly Creek Elementary School be allowed to serve students in grade six for the 2005-2006 school year only, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, V-C.

D. **Revitalization Plan for Brown Elementary School** – A copy of this report, recommending that the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program be
implemented at Brown Elementary School beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, V-D.

E. **2005-2006 Denver Public Schools Calendar** – A copy of this report, the recommended 2005-2006 DPS Traditional and Continuous-Year calendars, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, V-E.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

Dr. Wartgow said that he would not discuss the proposals listed under Old Business because they have come before the Board at earlier dates. Many of the topics listed would be addressed by people signed up to speak at the Public Forum. However, with respect to the expansion of the Denver School of the Arts (DSA), he is recommending that action, originally scheduled for December 16, 2004, be moved to January 20, 2005. Many further meetings have been scheduled because of the amount of concern by the community and they did not want to move forward without giving the community the opportunity for full input.

Dr. Wartgow advised the Board that he would be submitting a recommendation for dismissal of a teacher.

He reported that John Leslie, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, developed pneumonia and was hospitalized for a long weekend; he is home and recovering.

**VI. **New Business

A. **Revitalization Plan for Montclair Elementary School** – A copy of this report, recommending that the Early High-Strides and School-Wide Enrichment Models be implemented at Montclair Elementary School beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, VI-A.

B. **Revitalization Plan for Hill Middle School** – A copy of this report, recommending that Hill Middle School become the Campus of Arts and Sciences with a focus on technology and an expansive arts electives program beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, VI-B.

**Revitalization Plan for Montclair Elementary School**

Dr. Wartgow asked Janice Spearman, Southeast Assistant Area Superintendent, to present this report. Ms. Spearman introduced Shannon Hagerman, Principal of Montclair Elementary School and Mike Hare, Revitalization Committee member, to present the proposal. Ms. Hagerman introduced members of the Montclair Elementary School Revitalization members in the audience. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, VI-A.

Ms. Gantz Berman stated that she had lived in the Montclair neighborhood for eighteen years and that one of her sons attended Montclair. She said that the process used to survey the
neighborhood and garner community support for a new model and a new start is exactly what the Board hoped would happen when revitalization was originally put in the mill levy. She is very supportive of their proposal.

Mr. Woodward congratulated them on their hard work. He is very impressed with the work they have done. This is what revitalization should be, knowing what you need in the community, finding a way to implement it, and then generating both the possibility and the excitement for that kind of improvement in the schools.

In response to Ms. Peña’s questions regarding survey responses, Ms. Hagerman said that they received responses from community members who had sent their children to Monclair in the past, community members who had children attending other DPS schools, and community members whose children attended private schools. A real cross-section was represented.

Mr. Hoyt thanked them for all their work. In response to his question regarding the High Strides Program, Ms. Hagerman said that students would have the opportunity to be admitted at any time. Teachers would be able to nominate students to partake in this program.

Dr. Wartgow congratulated and thanked members of the community for their hard work and participation, and Ms. Hagerman for her leadership as a first-year non-traditional principal.

Revitalization Plan for Hill Middle School

Dr. Wartgow asked Beth Biggs, Southeast Area Superintendent to present this report. Ms. Biggs introduced Don Roy, Principal of Montclair Elementary School, and Sue Clinton and Kristen Tourangeau, Revitalization Committee members, to present the proposal. Mr. Roy introduced members of the Hill Middle School Revitalization members in the audience. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, VI-B.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that Hill is also in her district. She visited the school recently and had a lively discussion with many parents from Hill and found their commitment and passion for revitalization unsurpassed. She appreciated the opportunity to have that discussion and said that she thinks their proposal is excellent.

Mr. Hoyt expressed his appreciation for the campus model in their proposal and said that he feels it is a brilliant idea, not only for the educational benefits it can provide elementary students, but also because it develops such a sense of continuity that will help them get over their fear of middle school. In response to his question whether they had contacted any other schools besides Steck Elementary School, Mr. Roy replied that they had not yet had conversations with other schools simply because Steck is the closest elementary school to Hill.

Dr. Wartgow complimented them on their energy and passion. He said the whole campus concept and creative use of resources is the kind of model that he gets excited about; it is a creative plan that is destined for success.
VII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Roll Call

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 6:11 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.

PS 1 – Renewing Application for Charter School

Jennifer Derosby, teacher at P.S. 1, said she was representing the staff, community, and students in support of P.S. 1. Teachers and students are happy with the smaller class size, hands-on learning, and the many opportunities for connection between staff and students. She teaches at P.S. 1 because it affords her the opportunity to build relationships with her students.

David Springs, an eleventh grade student, said that he and his peers attend P.S. 1 because it provides them with a unique environment that fosters growth. They believe in P.S. 1 and the methods of the school. P.S. 1 prepares students to live as intelligent, caring, and active members of society.

Rebecca Lee and Kevin Kennedy, parents and CDM members, read excerpts of statements from several parents. Ms. Lee said that all parents on the CDM make it their business to see that all children receive the best education imaginable.

Out-of-District Students at DSA

Sarah Tanner, a junior, spoke on behalf of out-of-district students attending the Denver School of the Arts (DSA). She said she has many out-of-district friends at DSA. Out-of-district students would not be able to receive the many opportunities that DSA provides in their home schools. She feels that if out-of-district students were unable to attend DSA it would negatively affect the school.

Derek Begun, a senior vocal major and chairman of the student council, said he is an out-of-district student. He has represented DSA, the Denver Public Schools, and Junior Achievement at many different functions in his past five years at the school, and has met many amazing people. DSA has given him wonderful opportunities, such as singing with nationally renowned people, and has saved his life. He had been ridiculed and not accepted at the school he had previously attended in his district.
Ann Marie Bach, Hill Middle School parent, said she is against remodeling Byers to be used as a second DSA. She is very supportive of neighborhood schools and wanted her children to attend a school close to home. She is very involved with Hill and fully supports the revitalization proposal presented to the Board this evening. She expressed concern that the Board is planning to move ahead with a second DSA program, that would duplicate their efforts at Hill and cannibalize many potential students that Hill is trying to attract.

Melanie Backus, DSA and Steck Elementary School parent, said she does not support replication of DSA at Byers. DSA parents are not aware of this proposal and the changes it will bring. The proposal states that the DSA community has been informed of this and is generally supportive of it. That is wrong. DSA is not broken, do not fix it. Revitalization was passed by the voters to fix neighborhood schools. Give revitalization plans, that you have consistently approved and are excited about, a chance to work.

David Jared, member of the Hill Revitalization Committee, said he is opposed to the Byers proposal. The financial argument for this school does not make sense; it will not benefit the district as it is planned. The proposal does not examine the financial impact on neighboring middle schools where students will be pulled.

Teri Anderson said she is a Choice parent and she is opposed to this proposal to open yet another magnet program. She has spent many hours researching and visiting schools and has decided to send her child to Hill. Hill’s revitalization committee is working hard to attract students. She asked the Board to support their efforts, not add new programs that cannibalize schools that are working hard to revitalize.

Kristen Tourangeau, parent and revitalization committee member, said she is opposed to the Board’s plan to open another DSA. She requested that each member of the Board attend school revitalization committee meetings and listen to those communities, then come back and represent the wishes of their constituents.

Kathy Gibson, Steck Elementary School parent, said she does not support the district spending time, money, and resources in creating new magnet programs. She would like the Board to redirect their effort to revitalizing existing middle schools by putting these similar types of programs into those middle schools. Put those programs into existing middle schools and bring back those families that have been lost to private schools. She wants the district to revitalize and improve existing middle schools.

Sue Clinton, parent and revitalization committee member, said that Denver voters voted for revitalization, for neighborhood schools to work. They want good solid programs in our neighborhood schools. They want the Board’s stamp of approval for revitalization. They want revitalization to have a chance to work.

Rev. Guzman expressed her appreciation to everyone for coming out and sharing their opinions and passions. She said she was deeply offended by some remarks challenging Board members to
work hard. She takes issue with that statement. She and her colleagues work hard. She emphasized that she knows each and every one of her families. She has gained her constituent’s respect and takes her job very seriously.

**K-8 Proposal and KIPP Proposal**

Erlinda Moreno, member of the Cole Conversion Committee and Metro Organization for People (MOP), said that they want to be part of the process and want the district to take their opinions into consideration. They want to be involved in negotiations and in defining the outcome for Cole. They continue to see the Edison/Kipp partnership as a positive solution that will raise achievement for students in northeast Denver.

Jose Arteaga, member of the Cole Conversion Committee and MOP, said that he is concerned about the K-8 proposal and the district’s motivation for keeping students in DPS schools. In order to work, the K-8 conversion must address programs proven to increase achievement, include effectively trained teachers, and principals must demonstrate leadership capacity. They are concerned about large class sizes and would like to see the money DPS gains by keeping their children in the system used to improve those schools. They want to be part of the decision the district makes for children who do not decide to attend KIPP.

**K-8 Proposal**

Becky Ruiz, Mitchell Elementary School parent, said she is concerned about the proposal to change Mitchell to a K-8 school because they have serious problems at Mitchell. Adding more grades will not be an improvement. Meetings have been held with the principal to discuss problems; they have not seen any improvements. Some of the problems include: parents do not feel welcome in the school, there is inadequate supervision of the playground, the school climate is not good, and children do not feel safe. The student academic level is very low.

Bertha Alvarez, parent with children in Mitchell Elementary School, Cole Middle School, and Manual High School, said that Mitchell has serious problems. They have discussed the problems with the principal and he does not address the problems nor work to resolve them. Teachers have to start addressing problems in their classrooms and make sure students are learning.

Maria Martinez and Sanice Young, members of the Education Committee for MOP, read a letter sent to Board members and Superintendent Wartgow. A copy of this letter is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, PC-1.

**K-8 Proposal Regarding Whittier Elementary School**

Sharon Bridgeforth, an organizer with MOP, said she was speaking on behalf of the Whittier Elementary School Organizing Committee. She read a letter from that committee. A copy of the letter is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-27, PC-2.

Bobbie Morrow, computer teacher at Whittier Elementary School and member of the Whittier Organizing Committee, said they are very excited about becoming a K-8 school. They have
been working with the Piton Foundation to become a true community school. They would like an assistant principal assigned to the school for the first year to ensure a successful conversion. They also would like funding increased so they can offer a gym elective and expansion of their after-school program to include tutoring for students and foreign language.

Project Labor Agreement

Neal Hall, Business Manager for the Colorado Building Construction Trades Council, said that the Council and the Denver Area Labor Federation had approached the district some time ago to urge the use of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) in one of the pending, new schools construction projects. A PLA is an integrated, coordinated, collective-bargaining agreement between a group of construction unions and a group of contractors to build a specific project. They feel a PLA will result in a superior, more satisfying result than the current practice of contracting; it also promotes local apprenticeship programs. The only way to prove that a PLA will work is to put it to a test. Building trades men and women prove time and time again that they can get the job done for less money and in less time. Coors Brewing Company recently signed a PLA for a new contract and the Los Angeles Unified School District renewed their district-wide PLA. In discussions with Board members, Board members have expressed concern about the cost of using a PLA. He said PLAs do not cost more money, they save money when done correctly. Nothing connected with PLAs will interfere with normal cost controls in the bidding process or the implementation of the construction contracts.

Zach Lane, a member of the building trades, said that PLAs could “make the district money” and deliver a quality product to help take the mission statement beyond the classroom.

Rick Bryant, training director for the Iron Workers Local 24, said that apprenticeship programs are very important in the construction trades and they have had a long-standing relationship with Emily Griffith Opportunity School. Since the late 1930s, Emily Griffith Opportunity School has had a relationship with most of the registered apprenticeship programs in the city.

Dick O’Brecht, President of AGC of Colorado, said they are a non-profit association representing commercial builders and have been in existence for 75 years. He said he wanted to make four points: First, a PLA is an unnecessary solution to a non-existing problem; a PLA is going to add 20 percent in costs to a project; a PLA will result in fewer bids for projects; and an all-union construction project is virtually impossible in Colorado. The district’s facilities people have done a marvelous job of contracting for district buildings and schools, spending the taxpayer’s money wisely without any of the problems that the building trades people are saying would be solved by PLAs. The record demonstrates no need to change the way the district contract’s business.

Mark Latimer, President of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), said that what the unions are actually asking for is a union-only PLA. Two reasons that ABC is opposed to a union-only labor agreement is that they are discriminatory and they drive up the cost of construction. One of the misconceptions is that unions are the majority in the state. If the district implements a union-only PLA, it will be discriminating against 87 percent of
the construction workers in the state. Just like the rest of the industry, most of the minority and women-owned business are not union companies.

Mrs. Moss and Mr. Patterson asked for more information on the Los Angeles study and on the market recovery fund.

Center for International Studies School

Rosa Herron spoke on behalf of the Center for International Studies (CIS). She said the CIS teaches students to think globally and act locally. It is important for our young people to be aware not only of what is going on in Denver and the United States, but in the world around them. The young people who commit to this program and are willing to meet the extra criteria for graduation deserve support. She said that the CIS program is very deserving of an opportunity to become a free-standing school community that will enable them to have increased control of their resources and decision-making.

Jose Sanchez, junior at West High School in the CIS program, said this program has given him a new perspective of the world; his cultural knowledge has been enhanced. Future generations of CIS students could learn even more if CIS became a stand-alone school. If CIS had its own school, its identity would grow along with its reputation. He believes that many students miss out on this opportunity because they are unaware that CIS is located at West High School.

Jeff Dawson, parent of a recent graduate from CIS, said that his daughter went into the program because she was interested in being an exchange student. With the support and helpful advice of her teachers, she achieved her goal and was a Rotary Exchange Student in the Republic of Georgia, the former Soviet Union, during her junior year. He believes that both the CIS program and her year in Georgia were crucial factors in getting into the university that she chose. He is very impressed with the CIS program. The combination of dedicated teachers and high quality teaching staff, the curriculum, project-based learning, and volunteer service help create graduates who are involved with their world and their community. They are self-motivated, creative, and highly competent. Making CIS a stand-alone school will help it to better achieve the educational goals and provide a service to the entire Denver community.

Jack Klinheksel, parent of a CIS student, said that both he and his wife are great supporters of public education in Denver. CIS is a visionary program founded 20 years ago that has gotten so big that its success has outrun it. There are many deserving students who would love to be enrolled in the program but there simply is no room. Expansion of the program would give all students a wonderful opportunity.

Colorado High School

Chris Bayes, former Colorado High School student, said that he had been unable to be here last month when his mother spoke before the Board regarding the fact that he had earned a negative 0.01 percent in history, yet he still graduated. He said he did not understand how his grades were manipulated and he was allowed to graduate. He said that in high school he had learned how to manipulate people by using rapport; and he had used it to manipulate his teachers. He does not
know if they manipulated his grades to let him graduate, but he would like to know because his conscience is burdened by it and he is willing to accept whatever punishment that would result.

Brett Cremeens, former Colorado High School teacher, said he worked at Colorado High School for seven years and that he did not return because he was concerned about the direction the school was taking and its accountability. Recently he saw the abstract that the school had submitted to DPS and most of the information given in the abstract is a flat-out lie. Charter schools, by law, must have a lottery for admission of new students. Colorado High School claims that it held that lottery. He attended meetings in which the president of the school made the decision that a lottery would not be held, that all prior students of the then private school would be admitted, with the remaining 40 spots given up for lottery. The school claimed to have an accountability committee of two board members, two staff members, and two parents. The committee never existed. There are many other lies that he did not have time to go into. This school has no integrity. They are taking money from taxpayers and graduating kids who do not have the skills to work at even menial jobs. Something needs to be done.

Mr. Woodward said the Board takes very seriously the information provided and would ask the staff look into it.

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Public Comment Session at 8:14 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education