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 – Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Ms. Gantz Berman said that the Board wanted to recognize and thank members of the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, a consortium of neighborhood associations throughout Denver that have for eight years distributed dictionaries and Thesauruses to every third grader in the Denver Public Schools; she introduced Cathee Fisher, Chairman of the Dollar Dictionary Committee.

II. Board Members Reports

A. Citizen’s Committee on Facilities Needs

Ms. Gantz Berman said that the Board had invited members of the Citizen’s Committee on Facilities Needs to attend this evening to formally thank them for the incredible work they did to ensure the successful passage of the bond and mill election. She introduced Steve Kaplan, Chairman of the committee; and Bruce Benson, Chairman of the campaign finance committee.

Dr. Wartgow said that at this meeting, the Board would approve a resolution to formally establish a Citizens Committee on Bond Expenditures; and approve oversight committees for each of the six mill levy initiatives, and that these oversight committees are comprised of district staff, parents, and community members.

Dr. Wartgow also said that they are establishing an outside blue ribbon commission on secondary school reform, that this commission will thoroughly look into improvements at the secondary level and would bring in experts on high school reform from all over the nation.
B. Horizons at Colorado Academy Partnership with the Denver Public Schools

Mrs. Moss said that on behalf of the Board she wanted to recognize the Horizon Student Enrichment Program at Colorado Academy, as a partner in our community, and for its unique summer enrichment program for at-risk students from the southwest neighborhoods of Denver. She introduced Chris Babbs to explain how the program works at Colorado Academy.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

A. School Accountability Reports

Superintendent Jerry Wartgow said that the Denver Public Schools has had a good week, and that it has been a very exciting time due to the fact that the district has shown positive results and improvement on the state School Accountability Reports. He said that the district had once again distinguished itself with the number of schools that have improved, and that these results reflect the hard work of students, parents, individual classroom teachers, principals, district administrators, and community members who are dedicated to the work of improving student achievement.

B. Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) Program at North High School

Dr. Wartgow introduced Joe Sandoval, Area Superintendent for the Northwest Area; and Darlene LeDoux, Assistant Superintendent for School Community/Partnerships and Principal of North High School, to describe the Mesa Program at North High School. Mr. Sandoval introduced George Moreno, teacher and sponsor of the MESA Program, and some of his mathematics students to explain the competitive programs he uses to embrace all of the goals the district has set.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the agenda items by number and sequence. Ms. Gantz Berman moved acceptance of the consent agenda. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The following items were approved under the consent agenda process:
A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2003, Meeting - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2003. A copy of these minutes is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-A-1.

2. Motion to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and County of Denver, School Resource Officers, and School District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver, State of Colorado. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-A-2.

3. Motion to Approve Naming of Library Facility - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the motion to name the library at Cory Elementary School the Sue Edwards Library. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-A-3.

4. Motion to Approve Naming of Theater Facility - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the motion to name the theater at the Denver School of Arts the Kay Schomp Theater. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-A-4.

5. Resolution – Citizen’s Committee on Bond Expenditures - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the resolution to establish a citizen’s committee to oversee the implementation and accountability of the 2003 General Obligation Bond. A copy of this resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-A-5.

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 03-24, IV-B-1a.

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 03-24, IV-B-2a.

   b. Easement - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve an Easement to Denver Water at All City Stadium. In exchange for the payment to DPS of $156,800, this agenda item approves granting an easement to Denver Water.
Water over a very low-use area of the All City Stadium property, allowing Denver Water to construct and operate a pump station and a re-use (non-potable) underground water pipeline that will connect to the city’s main re-use water pipeline providing non-potable irrigation water for Washington Park, City Park, and other properties. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-B-2b.

C. Budget and Finance

1. Financial Services

   a. Certification of Levy for 2003 – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2003 mill levies for the General Fund and Bond Redemption Fund; these funds are required by statute to be certified to the City and County of Denver by no later than December 15th. A copy of this resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-C-1a.

D. 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 approve the Retirement and Benefit Plan amendment that provides for a sunset of the Denver Public Schools Retirement System optional forms of allowance on January 1, 2007. A copy of this amendment is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, IV-D-1.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

A. Educational Services

1. Cole-Randolph Boundary Change – The Board will be asked to review the middle school assignment of a small area of Cole Middle School to Randolph Middle School. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-24, VI-A-1.

Richard Smith, Assistant Area Superintendent, Northeast Area, introduced William Ewing as the new interim principal of Archuleta Elementary School.

The Board recessed at approximately 6:25 p.m., for dinner and further Work Session. The Board reconvened at approximately 7:05 p.m.
VII. Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Becky Wissink, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) – She urged the Board to adopt the Association’s salary recovery plan and urged cooperation on the professional compensation system.

Ben Davis from the Colorado Public Interest Research Group; and Laura Buhs Spoke about the danger of irradiated food, which is a way of killing bacteria and increasing storage life, and asked the Board to consider passing a resolution to ban the use of irradiated food in the district.

Joanne Roll – She urged the Board to post the Board minutes on the district website, because it is very difficult to understand how district policies are developed, and that posting the minutes would help parents. She also urged the Board to formalize their policy on how parents are involved in school design and allow parents and students enrolled in that school to vote in its decisions around school revitalization/transformation.

Zoe Soane – She said that her preschool age son is quite advanced educationally, but that his birthday does not meet the district requirements and he will not be able to attend kindergarten. She suggested that the district allow children be evaluated for early entrance if they do not meet the age-specific requirements.

Keith Lucero, Zia Klamm, Kathy Bougher, and Phil Wade, members of the district’s Gay and Lesbian Education Advisory Council (GLEAC) – They came to support the recommendation from the Policy Committee that would include gender identity in three existing district policies: Policies JB, JBBA, JK.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education