I. **Call to Order**

A. **Roll Call**

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. James Mejía, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

B. **Recognitions**

There were none.

II. **Board Member Reports**

Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facility Management, introduces a presentation on the Learning Landscapes and said that in 1999 the Board approved an agreement with the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD). UCD developed a graduate course curriculum where UCD students would go to school communities to develop learning landscape master plans, full exterior development of the schools. The program was a great success and was headed by Professor Lois Brink. That lead to the Learning Landscape Alliance, whereby funds from the city, private foundations, and private companies were used to develop Learning Landscapes for the master plans in focus elementary schools. They completed eight schools in 2001, six in 2002, and several more would be done in 2003. The overall process was lead by Tom Casemire, Executive Director of the Gates Family Foundation. Mr. Casemire described how the Foundation became involved, how the 17 focus neighborhood schools were selected, the number of schools completed, the funding sources, and the role of the Alliance. He said Professor Brink was the designer of the project, and she and her students were the driving force. Professor Brink introduced the video about the project that was shown to the Board. Mr. Casemire said that the projects are not just playgrounds; they are parks and playgrounds for schools and communities. He said there was an evaluation and they knew that school culture had improved, that discipline problems, vandalism, and injuries had declined.

III. **Superintendent’s Reports**

There was no report.

IV. **Consent Agenda**
Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the consent 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-B-3 Resolutions – Charter School Applications**

The following items were included under the consent agenda:

A. **Board of Education**

   There were no reports.

B. **Superintendent’s Office**

   1. **Grant Proposal – Coordinated Comprehensive School Health Program** – It was 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 this recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-1.

   2. **Semi-Annual Grant Report** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approved the Semi-Annual Grant Report submitted by the Office of School Community Partnerships. A copy of this recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-2.

   4. **Motion – Special Transportation Report** – It was recommended that the Superintendent be authorized to establish a special transportation area for selected parts of Rachel B. Noel Middle School attendance area and, further, that transportation to Rachel B. Noel Middle School be provided from such identified areas. A copy of this recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-4.

C. **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 02-22, IV-C-1a.

   2. **Facility Management**
a. **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 02-22, IV-C-2a.

b. **Construction Contract for Dora Moore Elementary School Restoration Project** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the construction contract for the Dora Moore Elementary School Restoration Project and the firm of Wilderness Construction Co. be approved for the construction contract and the amount of $1,687,235 be approved as the construction budget. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-C-2b.

c. **Transport Gas Contract** – It was recommended that the Board of Education grant authority to the Executive Director of Facility Management to negotiate the purchase of Denver Basis Natural Gas and to extend the existing transport gas contract with Kerr McGee during the period of December 6, 2002, to March 1, 2003; and to determine and fix the NYMEX pricing with Kerr McGee during the period of December 6, 2002, through June 30, 2003. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-C-2c.

d. **Xcel Lighting Retrofit** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve Xcel Energy’s proposal for lighting upgrades throughout the district as part of the district’s utility budget. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-C-2d.

C. **Budget and Finance**

1. **Resolution 2812 - Certification of Levy for 2002** – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve Resolution 2812 certifying the amounts necessary to be raised from levies against the valuation of assessment of all taxable property within the boundaries of School District No. 1 to be $7,782,521,607 for its General and Bond Redemption Funds during the ensuing year beginning January 1, 2003, and ending December 31, 2003. A copy of this motion is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-C-2c.

Mrs. Edward made and Mr. Mejía seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**RECESS**

Ms. Gantz Berman recessed the meeting for a special reception in honor of Gully Stanford, who was leaving the State Board of Education. She explained that the Board would reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for continuation of the regular meeting and for the Public Hearing segment of the meeting.
Recognitions

1) Gully Stanford
Ms. Gantz Berman asked Mr. Stanford to join her and Dr. Jerry Wartgow, Superintendent. Dr. Wartgow thanked Mr. Stanford for his service to the district and the city. Ms. Gantz Berman described many of the ways Mr. Stanford had been involved with the district, his accomplishments as a State Board of Education member, and presented him with a token of the district’s appreciation.

2) Denver Dozen Project Report – Dr. Oscar Joseph
Ms. Gantz Berman introduced Mr. Oscar Joseph for a presentation regarding the Denver Dozen Project 2006. He said a full report would be available on the web site DenverDozen.com. He said that children were struggling to respond to the current academic expectations, but the question was why they couldn’t respond. He said there was a need to identify variables that would ensure academic success for all children. He said the Denver Dozen program had twelve strategies, including parental strategies; culture and schooling; instructor training and knowledge; instructor perceptions, expectations and behaviors; pathology of failure, and victimization. He described the project and said the task was to create a learning environment and implement a holistic achievement plan. He said they were interested in one thing—that every student at George Washington High School would graduate in 2006. He described the lack of academic achievement of some students at George Washington, Smiley Middle School, and Smith Elementary. He said they talked with parents and described what they felt were the needs of students. He said that though there were some students who were failing in those schools, there were those who excelled, and that before a school should be called a failure the school needed to be closely examined. He said they have looked at the baseline data and identified target areas: including parents to support their efforts, working with children to make them accountable, and working with teachers to help students achieve.

RECONVENE

Public Comment

Pierre Jimenez – Life Skills Center Charter School – Mr. Jimenez, President of the Life Skills Center, said they had demonstrated a need for the program for dropouts, talked with staff about recruitment, and identified three potential sites. He said they had discussed curriculum and academic standards and resolved the question about alignment with the State Board and DPS standards. He said the program would serve the needs of young people in Denver for a variety of reasons.

Mr. Mejia asked for additional information regarding possible locations. He asked if the program’s standards would align with district requirements for a high school diploma.

Mr. Jimenez gave specific information regarding the potential locations. He said they were willing to talk about requirements and that it was an issue that could be resolved...
Ms. Gantz Berman asked if all students in the program would take a GED at the minimum. She asked if they would find it acceptable if the district would require taking a GED or standards to meet the DPS diploma prior to granting the charter.

He responded that their recommendation would be more like taking a nationally normed test like the Iowa Test so that it could be compared to other school populations. He said he believed it would be acceptable if the district imposed that requirement.

Mr. Mejia asked if it would be acceptable if the district modified the enrollment age of students from 16 to 17.

Mr. Jimenez said that most young people leave early in their high school experience, are two or more years behind academically or have been retained a grade, and are leaving at 15 or 16. He said age 17 would be too late, that they want to recapture them as early as possible.

Mrs. Edwards asked about the student enrollment cycle, and how much time would lapse between when a student left high school and was eligible to enroll.

Mr. Jimenez was joined by Life Skills staff from Ohio who said that students enter throughout the year, the majority in August, September, and October and some later in January and February.

Mr. Patterson asked about recruitment and how it would impact student enrollment at Emily Griffith Opportunity School (EGOS).

Mr. Jimenez responded said they did not feel they were in competition. They would recruit through organizations that work with the type of students that probably would not go to EGOS.

Beverly Lumumba – Cole and Clayton Neighborhood Learning Centers – Ms. Lumumba requested that consideration be given to their charter school application because of the deepening disparity between the high academic expectations and the low performing schools in their community. She requested that the Board extend the timeline for ruling on the application to allow them time for collaboration with school principals so they could complete their application.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

Charter School Applications

IV-B-3a Resolution 2808 - Cole and Clayton Neighborhood Learning Centers - Mr. Patterson read Resolution 2808 in its entirety and moved that the Cole and Clayton Neighborhood Learning Centers charter application be denied for the reasons specified in the resolution. A copy of Resolution 2808 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-3a.

The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.
IV-B-3b  Resolution 2809 – Compass Academy Charter School - Mrs. Edwards read Resolution 2809 in its entirety and moved that the Compass Academy Charter School application be denied for the reasons specified in the resolution. A copy of Resolution 2809 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-3b.

The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV-B-3c  Resolution 2810 – Denver Big Picture High School #1 - Rev. Guzman read Resolution 2810 in its entirety and moved that the Denver Big Picture High School charter application be approved, subject to conditions specified in the resolution. A copy of Resolution 2810 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-3c.

The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV-B-3d  Resolution 2811 – Life Skills Center of Denver - Mr. Mejia read Resolution 2811 in its entirety and moved that the Life Skills Center of Denver charter application be approved, subject to conditions specified in the resolution. A copy of Resolution 2811 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-3d.

The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV-B-3e  Resolution 2812 – Northeast Academy – Mr. Patterson read Resolution 2812 in its entirety and moved that the Northeast Academy charter application be approved, subject to conditions specified in the resolution. A copy of Resolution 2812 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-3e.

The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV-B-3f  Resolution 2813 – Summit Academy Charter School - Mr. Mejía read Resolution 2813 in its entirety and moved that the Summit Academy Charter School application be denied for reasons specified in the resolution. A copy of Resolution 2813 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-3f.

The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV-B-3g  Resolution 2814 – Walsingham Academy - Mrs. Edwards read Resolution 2814 in its entirety and moved that the Walsingham Academy charter application be denied for the reasons specified in the resolution. A copy of Resolution 2814 is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 02-22, IV-B-3g.
The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

There was none.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education