MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (05-04) 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
5:00 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005

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 5:40 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, Ms. Theresa Peña, and Mr. Lester Woodward. Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman was absent and excused.

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:

IV-B-1b Motion to Reject the Arbitrator’s Report Regarding AAA Case No. 77 390 00269 04
IV-C-3 Denver Arts and Technology Academy Charter School Renewal Application
IV-C-5 P.S. 1 Charter School Renewal Application

Mr. Hoyt moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda not held be approved. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of January 27, 2005 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-1.

*This Agenda item was taken out of sequence
2. Finance and Audit Committee

a. Motion to Approve Invitation to Bid #BDE 1016 for Filter Media - A copy of this motion, to solicit responses from qualified vendors to establish a contract for the purchase of filter media and frames, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-2a.

b. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Thomas Jefferson High School Fire Sprinkler Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-2b.

c. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Renovation Project at Various Schools - A copy of this motion, for the renovation project at ten schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-2c.

d. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Columbine Elementary and Columbine PEC Renovation Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-2d.

e. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the John F. Kennedy High School Boiler and Temperature Controls Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-2e.

f. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Roof Replacement Project at Various Schools - A copy of this motion, for the roof replacement contract at four schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-2f.

g. Motion to Approve Bid #BD 1042 for Networking Switches to Qwest Communications - A copy of this motion, to solicit proposals for networking switches at 24 E-Rate-eligible schools, the estimated contract value is $3,945,642.44, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-A-2g.

B. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

a. Motion to Approve Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-B-1a.
2. Facility Management

   a. Motion to Approve Easements for the New K-8 Schools in Green Valley Ranch and Montbello - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-B-2a.

C. Educational Services

1. Challenges, Choices, and Images Charter School Renewal Application – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-1.

2. Community Challenge Charter School Renewal Application – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-2.

4. Pioneer Charter School Renewal Application – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-4.

6. Proposal to Change Fairmont and Greenlee Elementary Schools to ECE-8 Schools – A copy of this motion, recommending changing Fairmont and Greenlee Elementary Schools from schools serving grades ECE-5 to schools serving grades ECE-8, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-6.

7. Tuition Rates for Early Childhood Education, Extended-Day Kindergarten, and Montessori – A copy of this motion, recommending tuition rates for 2005-2006 for the identified programs, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-7.

8. Proposed Contract with KIPP Cole College Prep Charter School Schools – A copy of this motion, the proposed contract with the independent charter school KIPP Cole College Prep Charter School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-8.

9. Resolution to Request Exclusive Authorizing Charter School Authority for the 2005-2006 School Year from the State Board of Education – A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-9.

D. Policy Revisions

1. Policy BEDH, Public Comment - A copy of this policy, clarification of the Board of Education’s prerogative to group speakers, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-D-1.
Mr. Woodward introduced Student Board members, Lydia Vliet, from South High School, and Evan Eskridge, from East High School.

**DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS**

**IV-C-5 Resolution - P.S. 1 Charter School Renewal Application**

Rev. Guzman moved approval of the resolution. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. A role call vote was recorded as follows: Voting “aye,” Rev. Guzman, Mr. Hoyt, Mrs. Moss, Ms. Peña, and Mr. Woodward. Voting “no,” Mr. Patterson. Ms. Gantz Berman was absent and excused. A copy of this Resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-5.

**IV-C-3 Denver Arts and Technology Academy Charter School Renewal Application**

Ms. Peña stated that as she reviewed the DATA proposal she clearly saw a need for improvement in academic achievement. She reiterated that it is absolutely critical for this Board to see significant and dramatic academic achievement by year one. This is not just a three year charter renewal. After year one, we need to see very significant improvement—improvement that continues over the three years or we will close the school, despite impressive community support. Our job, as the Board of Education, is to hold all of our schools accountable for academic achievement.

Mr. Patterson reiterated his point that the Board needs to be consistent. All of our schools must be held to high standards, whether they are charter contracts or neighborhood magnets.

Mr. Hoyt moved approval of the Resolution. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. A role call vote was recorded as follows: Voting “aye,” Rev. Guzman, Mr. Hoyt, Mrs. Moss, Ms. Peña, and Mr. Woodward. Voting “no,” Mr. Patterson. Ms. Gantz Berman was absent and excused. A copy of this Resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-C-3.

**IV-B-1b Motion to Reject the Arbitrator’s Report Regarding AAA Case No. 77 390 00269 04**

Mrs. Moss said that the district did not do a good job, in Case No. 77 390 00269 04, of communicating the terms of the appointments for literacy coaches. She moved to reject the arbitrator’s conclusion and the recommended award.

As a Board, she said they have directed staff to clarify the process of the literacy coach placement so that in the future people will understand what they are applying for as a literacy coach. She thanked the literacy coaches for the incredible work which they do. Their role is critical to the district.

Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, IV-B-1b.
C. **Recognition of Teachers Earning National Board Certification**

Dr. Wartgow asked Robin Kane, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Becky Wissink, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, to recognize the teachers who have earned National Board Certification. Ms. Kane said that National Board Certification is a rigorous process and that the Denver Public Schools now have forty-six National Board certified teachers, more than any other district in the state. They introduced the following teachers: Nina Barber, Debra Boetel, Stephanie Csikos, Gregg Heid, Jodi King, Kathy Leerssen, Karen Patz, Richelle Ramirez, Carmen Rubino, Rebecca Sauer, Angela Simmering, and Anne Thulson.

D. **Summer Scholars Receive El Pomar Excellence in Education 2004 Award**

Mr. Patterson introduced Anne Byrne, Executive Director of Summer Scholars, and congratulated them for being awarded El Pomar Foundation’s prestigious Award for Excellence in Education. They won the award for their research-based, evaluation-driven programming that relies on teamwork with the Denver Public Schools and other diverse groups.

II. **Board Members Reports**

A. **ProComp Update**

Dr. Wartgow asked John Leslie, Co-Chair of the Transition Team, to present the Professional Compensation System for Teachers (ProComp) Update. Mr. Leslie said the Transition Team is a joint venture. He introduced Connie White, teacher and Co-Chair; Brad Jupp, ProComp Coordinator; Carla Santorno, Northeast Area Superintendent and Chair of the Marketing Center Project of ProComp; and Richard Allen, Assistant Superintendent, Budget and Finance.

Mr. Leslie said that the district had received $2.1 million in support from the Rose Community Foundation, the Daniels Fund, and the Broad Foundation.

Dr. Wartgow stated that nothing is more important for the Denver Public Schools than ProComp. ProComp has been developed jointly by the Board of Education, district administration, and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA). The amount of national attention that has been given to the Denver Public Schools cannot be overstated. The nation is watching and cheering for us to bring this to a successful fruition with a mill levy election in November 2005.

In response to Mr. Woodward’s questions regarding the Teacher Compensation Trust, Mr. Allen said that the Trust will continually monitor the salary projections that are being made and assure that the system stays in balance. The Trust has to guard against over-expenditure and eventual dissipation of the Trust.
Mr. Woodward said he cannot over emphasize how important and complex this work is. He expressed his appreciation to both the teacher members and the administrative staff.

A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, II-A.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

A. Gift Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, III-A.

Dr. Wartgow reported he had announced last week his resignation as Superintendent of Denver Public Schools, effective June 30, 2005. He stated that he believes the timing is right for a smooth leadership transition and continuation of momentum of district priorities. The Board of Education is working diligently to select a new Superintendent. He has been overwhelmed by the hundreds of e-mails he received after he made his announcement. It has been deeply gratifying.

Two important decisions have been made regarding redesigned schools. An extensive community process has been taking place regarding revitalization. One school that has been working very hard has been Brown Elementary School. Through a community process that has involved Area Superintendents and Assistant Area Superintendents, that community has decided to implement an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program for the school. The district supports that decision and congratulates the community for coming forward. The Primary Years Program (PYP) directly addresses the goals of the district. He said that he designated Brown Elementary School as a redesign school, effective for the fall 2005. As Superintendent, he said he would designate a principal and the principal will then select staff. As a redesign school, all current employees must reapply for positions for the new International Baccalaureate Program (IB). All teachers will be eligible to apply for the same positions they currently hold. At the same time, it is an opportunity for any teacher who is not committed to the IB PYP program to interview for the many hundreds of teacher positions that typically open up each spring.

He thanked Mary Ann Baca, Interim Principal, for the tremendous job she has done at Brown and in the district. He is convinced they are going to emerge with a team at Brown organized around a new common vision. Analysts who study school reform agree that a cohesive team is an absolutely essential ingredient in school improvement. John Youngquist, Northwest Area Superintendent, will meet with staff and keep everyone apprised of the process. The redesign at Brown has nothing to do with the competency and ability of current staff.

Another elementary school they have been working with is Mitchell Elementary School. Mitchell Elementary School has been ranked unsatisfactory. He has met with the principal on a number of occasions. Mitchell has been an elementary school for
almost forty years and all sorts of wonderful innovative programs have been tried, to no avail. Therefore, he has decided to declare Mitchell a redesign school. The same provisions he mentioned with Brown, with respect to the teachers and principal, will be in place. He said he is going to ask the community to help improve the academic rigor and student achievement levels at Mitchell. They are going to request the best thinking of the community. A Request for Proposal (RFP) to operate Mitchell Elementary School will be prepared. They will be asking for help from non-profit groups, private providers, community organizations, educators, colleges, and universities; the philanthropic community; governmental agencies, such as the State Department of Education and the City and County of Denver; the Denver Classroom Teachers Association; the Public Education and Business Coalition, and any other group interested in improving student achievement. The proposal would be for a K-6 elementary school, adding one grade per year, beginning with the sixth grade next year; but we would also entertain proposals to begin in the 2006-2007 school year. Proposals will be submitted to the Superintendent, staff will review the applications, with the final decision made by the Board of Education. This is a bold and innovative approach, one that has been used successfully in Chicago and San Diego.

V. Old Business

A. Educational Services

1. Report on Future of Gove Middle School – Recommended for Action on March 3 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, V-A-1.

2. Proposal Entitled Pupil Assignment Plan Revisions: Baker and Grant Middle Schools – Recommended for Action on March 3 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, V-A-2.

3. Proposal to Change Garden Place Elementary School to an ECE-8 School – Recommended for Action on March 3 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, V-A-3.

VI. New Business

The following matters were presented for information:

A. Budget and Finance – Financial Services

1. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the period July 1, 2004, to January 31, 2005 – A copy of this status report of year-to-date revenues, expenditures, and inter-fund transfers for each fund as compared to the current-year budget and as compared to the year-
to-date totals for the prior year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, VI-A-1.

B. Educational Services

1. Proposal to Change Del Pueblo Elementary School to an ECE-8 School – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, VI-B-1.

2. Proposal Recommending Sixth Grade at Swansea Elementary School – A copy of this report, recommending that Swansea Elementary School be allowed to serve students in grade six beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, VI-B-2.

3. Proposal to Adopt New High School Textbooks for U.S. History, Biology, Algebra I and II, and Geometry I and II – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, VI-B-3.

C. Student Services

1. Expelled Students Report - A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-04, VI-C-1.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Proposal to Change Del Pueblo Elementary School to ECE-8 School

Nan Baumbusch, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, introduced Julia Linkous, Interim Principal of Del Pueblo Elementary School, and presented the proposal.

Bruce Hoyt said that he is concerned that the facility is inadequate, the academic achievement has been on the low end, and the school is small. These are some of the very same characteristics that have been taken into consideration when we have moved to close certain schools.

In response to Mr. Hoyt’s question regarding projections, Ms. Linkous said that they did meet their projections this year. They were actually projected to be 20 students above where they were this year without the addition of sixth grade. She said she does not feel the facility is inadequate, just that they would need an additional room. At this time, they have two vacant classrooms that would easily serve sixth and seventh grade students. They did meet their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) this year and expect to do the same next year. They also offer a huge variety of after-school programs, which is very important to the parents in their community.

In response to Mr. Hoyt’s question regarding demographics of the neighborhood, Dr. Eckerling said that there is an enormous amount of student movement in that area between Del Pueblo,
Fairmont, and Greenlee Elementary Schools. There has been a decline in Fairmont. Greenlee is a fairly stable operation since it has a large public housing project that feeds into it. Any type of change, given the current population, would dramatically increase the size of Greenlee and Fairmont and make them quite large. They have gotten to the point of being nice sized schools, three hundred to three hundred-fifty students. With the addition of K-8, they still will only go to about five hundred, which is still is a nice sized school. If you add one hundred students from Del Pueblo to Fairmont and Greenlee each, you start getting up to six hundred-and-fifty which is a very big school, in facilities that are older and that would not accommodate those large numbers.

Rev. Guzman said she is also concerned about some of the numbers involved in this proposal. She stated that just turning a school into a K-8, without the financial support, does not solve the challenge. The district has a responsibility to add financial resources to this type of redesign.

In response to Ms. Peña’s concern about staffing, Dr. Eckerling said that they have looked at different staffing configurations and models and everything to date has suggested that you can run an effective program for grades six, seven, and eight with one classroom per grade. There are different options available. A K-8 school will not be the same as a middle school. You would not have the breadth of offerings, but they are hopeful that the ability to provide a more personalized environment will mean that students will actually learn as much or more.

Proposal Recommending Sixth Grade at Swansea Elementary School

Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Research, Planning, and Special Programs reported that this proposal completes the assignment of sixth grade students in the Randolph attendance area and sets the stage for the Board to consider a redesign of Bruce Randolph Middle School. He introduced Nan Baumbusch and Mary Salazar, Principal of Swansea Elementary School to present the report.

Rev. Guzman said that a few years ago when the district was building classrooms at Swansea, they tried very hard to add four classrooms, but it was turned down because people said you could not put 800 students in an elementary school. She said that it irks her that a few years ago, that the idea of building enough classrooms so the school could expand was turned down. Now they are planning to put up modular buildings to accommodate this program. It just reeks of trying to solve a problem at Randolph by squeezing a program into Swansea.

If the community, staff, and teachers want to go to sixth grades, and eventually to K-8, that would be something she would support. But this district needs to financially support these programs, whether it means adding more classrooms or adding efficient and sustainable structures so that kids are not packed like sardines into academic climates that really are not conducive for learning. We as a district have to be willing to make sure that we are building the right climate for the right reason and changing schools for the right reason.

Mr. Patterson said that he went through a similar process when we talked about modules for far northeast. At that time, he reminded the Board that that was the reason that the whole lawsuit came to fruition. The thing that changed his perspective on that issue was that his community
told him that they were happier having the modules because their kids could stay in their neighborhood with the rest of their friends.

Proposal to Adopt New High School Textbooks

Roseann Fulton, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced William Kohut, Principal of South High School; Darlene Le Doux, Principal of North High School; and Gilberto Munoz, Social Studies Coordinator, to present the report.

In response to Mr. Patterson’s question regarding the shortage of textbooks, Ms. Le Doux said that they are making a dent in the needs of the textbook issues across the district, but does not believe there is a sufficient number of materials for all students. We are making progress, but we are not there yet.

In response to Mr. Patterson’s questions about the replacement cycle, Ms. Fulton responded that the strategy is to go course by course. That means that they can do the curriculum revision work that needs to be done and then select instructional materials to support redesign of the curriculum. The report includes a schedule that shows the other courses that will be redesigned over the next five years. Their plan is to give schools a certain amount of money per student so they can fill in the gaps in ways that can meet some of emergency needs that come up during the next few years.

In response to Ms. Peña’s question regarding the process of linking lesson plans to standards, Ms. Fulton said the state provides the district with a framework for CSAP expectations, and then they then align CSAP expectations with courses and course materials.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education