MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (04-07) 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 19, 2003

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 5:12 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mr. Bruce Hoyt, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, Ms. Theresa Peña, and Mr. Lester Woodward. Rev. Lucia Guzman was absent and excused.

II. Board Members Reports

Mr. Woodward reported that Dr. Wartgow is attending a conference out of town; Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent of Research, Planning, and Special Programs, would act in his stead.

Mr. Patterson reported that he had recently attended East High School’s Angel Foundation wonderful community reception and that the Mayor also attended.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

A. Gift Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes as Appendix 04-07, III-A.

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-1a Ratification of Tentative Agreement – Professional Compensation System for Teachers
IV-B-2a Motion to Approve Award of Solicitation #BD 920 to 3M Security Systems Division
IV-C-1 Motion to Approve Plan for Implementation of the Elementary Arts Program, as Enhanced by the 2003 Mill Levy
IV-C-2 Motion to Approve Plan on Future of Ebert Elementary School
IV-C-3 Motion to Approve Relocation of the Polaris Program at Crofton Elementary School
Ms. Gantz Berman moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda, not held, be approved; Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the Board members in attendance and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. **Minutes of February 5, 2004** - A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, IV-A-1.

B. Administrative Services

1. **Human Resources**
   
b. **Motion to Approve Personnel Transaction Report** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, IV-B-1b.

C. Educational Services

4. **Motion to Approve Amendment to Northeast Academy Charter School Contract**
   
A copy of this amendment is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, IV-C-4.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**IV-B-1a** Ratification of Tentative Agreement – Professional Compensation System for Teachers

Ms. Gantz Berman explained that this agenda item asks for Board approval of a tentative agreement for a new Professional Compensation Plan. She said this plan is a unique, bold, and courageous experiment that has been designed by the district and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA). She reported that ballots would be going out to all teachers that are members of DCTA to give them the opportunity to vote between March 8 and March 18 on the plan. She said that the plan, if approved by teachers, is predicated on the district going for a mill levy in 2005 to fund it.

Mr. Woodward asked Becky Wissink, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, to comment on the process. Ms. Wissink said that this is a landmark agreement that has the support of the DCTA Board of Directors, which she would next take before the Association’s Representative Council, and then there would be a series of voting meetings for the teachers.

Ms. Gantz Berman moved adoption of the Tentative Agreement of the plan. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all Board members in attendance. A copy of this plan is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, IV-B-1a.

**IV-B-2a** Motion to Approve Award of Solicitation #BD 920 to 3M Security Systems Division
Mr. Hoyt reported that the Board’s Finance Committee has reviewed the agenda item to replace the security systems in the libraries of twenty-one secondary schools over the next three years. The Committee has asked for more information on the procurement process. Therefore, he moved that this motion be tabled for two weeks. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all Board members in attendance.

IV-C-1   Motion to Approve Plan for Implementation of the Elementary Arts Program, as Enhanced by the 2003 Mill Levy

Mrs. Moss said that the Board would like to delete the word “few” from page three, Section Four, line two, of the proposed Plan for Implementation of the Elementary Arts Program. She moved that the Board of Education approve the staff recommendation, as amended, for the elementary arts program. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all Board members in attendance. A copy of the amended motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, IV-C-1.

IV-C-2   Motion to Approve Plan on Future of Ebert Elementary School

Ms. Gantz Berman explained that it became apparent to the Board and staff, early in the year, that the enrollment at Ebert Elementary School had dropped quite dramatically due to the fact that a large housing project, directly across the street from the school, was torn down. The enrollment currently is approximately 100 students; next year the enrollment is projected to drop even further. She said that teachers are allocated to schools based on the number of students—the fewer the students, the fewer the teachers; next year, based on this formula, Ebert would receive only three and one-half teachers.

She said that the Board had to take a hard look at whether it made sense to keep Ebert open or look at the surrounding schools and redraw the boundaries and redistribute Ebert students. The surrounding schools—Gilpin, Wyman, and Whittier Elementary Schools—are also under-enrolled and have the capacity to receive more students. She said that after studying the situation, meetings were held with the principal, staff, and community to discuss the redistribution of Ebert students. She said that DPS has not closed a school in a decade, and that closing a school is a very serious decision—one that the Board tries to avoid. Due to the fact that there are homeless children who attend Ebert, meetings were held with the Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless to discuss the ramifications of moving this population.

Mr. Patterson asked John Youngquist, Assistant Area Superintendent for the Northeast Area, and Dave Lowry, Executive Director of Planning and Research, to report on the discussion that was held with the Denver Housing Authority on the redevelopment of the area. Mr. Youngquist stated that in their discussion it was pointed out that each of the schools in the area has the capacity for many more students. Mr. Lowry said that when redevelopment is complete in 2009-2010, they have projected that approximately 150 students would come out of the 875 units planned, which could be handled by the three existing schools, not including Ebert.
Ms. Pena said that this was one of the toughest decisions she had to make and that the financial consideration, money saved by closing the school, was absolutely not the reason for her voting to close Ebert. Instead, she does not believe that it is in the best interests of the children of Ebert to be served by three and a-half teachers, that the depth and breadth of the district’s curriculum could not be offered at a school that has less than a hundred children. She wanted to clarify that this decision has always been intended to do right by those children and it was never a financial decision.

Mr. Hoyt said that Board members are asked to make tough decisions in the best interests of all 72,000 children of the district, and that the easy decision would be to never consider closing a school and disrupt the lives of these families. He said that he has thought about this decision for weeks and that he personally believes that the right decision is to relocate Ebert students because from an educational standpoint having three and a-half teachers serving six grades would be a disservice to those students. He said that the Board has to make tough budget decisions and the $350,000 that will be saved by closing Ebert would buy a lot of programs and fund teachers. For the district to remain viable, we do have to watch every penny we spend.

Ms. Berman said that Mr. Youngquist and Joan Wamsley, Principal of Ebert, will meet individually with every Ebert family to discuss the best educational options for their children. She said that Ms. Wamsley has been a phemonal educational leader at Ebert and has incredible support from all the Ebert families.

Mr. Patterson said that as many of the community as possible have been included in all meetings, and that as difficult as this may be it stills seems to be the best decision that we could make. Mr. Patterson moved adoption of the proposal for the future of Ebert Elementary School. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all Board members in attendance. A copy of the motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, IV-C-2.

**IV-C-3 Motion to Approve Relocation of the Polaris Program at Crofton Elementary School**

Mr. Patterson moved approval of the motion. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all Board members in attendance. A copy of the motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, IV-C-3.

**V. Old Business**

There was none.

**VI. New Business**

The following matters were presented for information:
A. Budget and Finance

1. Financial Services

   a. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2003, to January 31, 2004 – To provide a 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. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, VI-A-1a.

B. Student Services

1. Expelled Students Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, VI-B-1.

C. School Community Partnerships

1. Grants Report – A copy of the semi-annual grants report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, VI-C-1.

D. Educational Services

1. International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program at Bradley Elementary School – A copy of this report regarding implementation of an IB program at Bradley Elementary School is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, VI-D-1.

Dr. Irene Martinez-Jordan, Area Superintendent of the Southeast Area, introduced Angelo Spataro, Principal of Bradley Elementary School; Jennifer Fuhrmeister, Intermediate Teacher; and Deborah Johnson, parent, to explain their International Baccalaureate Primary Years proposal. A copy of this proposal is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-07, VI-D-1.

   2. High School Transportation – The Board continued to discuss staff’s recommendation to change high school transportation to RTD and change high school starting time, which was submitted to the Board of Education on February 5, 2004.

Wayne Eckerling said that many staff were available to answer questions regarding the proposal. The changes do not impact special education or athletic transportation for eligible students.

Joe Sandoval, Area Superintendent for the Northwest Area, introduced Scott Mendelsberg, Principal of South High School; Mario Williams, Principal of George Washington High School;
Darlene LeDoux, Principal of North High School; William Kohut, Principal of South High School; and Patti Bippus, Principal of the Denver School of the Arts, to discuss the impact of the proposal on their schools.

Mr. Williams said that Phil Gallegos, Principal of Manual Arts and Cultural Studies High School, and Marsha Pointer, Principal of Manual Leadership Academy, had been in attendance but had to leave because they had Orientation. He said that they wanted to come in front of the Board as a group of high school principals to show their support for the proposal and to respond to any questions. Since this proposal was introduced in November they have been included in the ongoing discussions with staff. He said that there are some obvious difficulties that can be overcome, athletics is one that comes to mind; and that it should be noted that not all high school principals agree that this would be best.

Some of the concerns include how this will affect magnet programs, low-income students, safety, and timely discussions have been planned with each school community.

In response to Dr. Eckering’s question asking why they supported the proposal, Mr. Williams said that the primary reason is that research says high school students perform better academically with extra sleep in the morning. He feels that a later start would have a strong impact on attendance and the fact that schools aren’t restricted by transportation schedules opens up many possibilities for programming and flexibility in what can be offered, and that it allows for creative-thinking and problem-solving.

Ms. Gantz Berman had questions regarding scheduling, transportation, and athletics and said that since this is such a big decision she hoped that each high school does have a plan to solicit teacher, students, and parent input.

John Leslie, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, said that the issue of athletics has been discussed with Leslie Moore, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, and all the athletic directors. He said they see two major impacts: school ending later may preclude other students and staff from attending games scheduled while school is still in session and the possible drop in revenue to the athletic department.

Mr. Hoyt also encouraged all high schools to solicit input from their community. Mr. Patterson stated that he was concerned about access to RTD in far northeast Denver. All Board members questioned how athletic schedules and academic schedules would be accommodated.

Staff members Guy Champlin, Executive Director of Transportation and Support Services; Alan Balczarek, GOB Program Manager; Shirley Farnsworth, Director of Community Education; and Lysa Bradford, Area Supervisor of Kaleidoscope Korner, responded to questions regarding transportation, working with RTD, and the impact on Kaleidoscope Korner.
VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education