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 5:15 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 10 Female Athletes in the Denver Public Schools

Ms. Peña read a Proclamation recognizing February 9, 2005, as National Girls and Women in Sports Day, and honored the following outstanding female athletes from ten high schools: Jenny Oul, Abraham Lincoln High School; Amy Freedman, East High School; Tiara Scott, George Washington High School; Taylor Bleidt, John F. Kennedy High School; Sandy Santucci, Manual High School; Chelsea Taylor, Montbello High School; Alexandria Baca, North High School; Clair Vaughn-Uding, South High School; Cari Smith, Thomas Jefferson High School; and Kelly Granado, West High School.

II. Board Member Reports

A. Semi-Annual Report by the Citizen’s Committee on Bond Expenditures

Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facilities Management, introduced Tom Buescher, Chairman of the 2003 Citizen’s Committee on Bond Expenditures, who presented the committee’s semi-annual report to the Board.

Dr. Wartgow thanked the citizen’s committee for the hard work and effort they put into the report. The report and recommendations are thoughtful and helpful. He said that they will respond to the recommendations and pay attention to the cautionary elements of the report.

Mr. Woodward added his thanks to the committee. He said it is very important for the committee to continue to assist the district in assuring the citizens of Denver that the district is carrying out their obligation to Denver taxpayers.
In response to Ms. Peña’s question regarding future projects, Mr. Buescher said that the committee has studied future projects with the Department of Facility Management and has developed a schedule of bids and projects.

In response to Mrs. Moss’ question regarding possible scenarios for the Byers building, Mr. Buescher said that the committee could not come to a consensus regarding the Byers facility. He feels that the Board has the flexibility to make a considered, thoughtful decision.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow introduced Christopher Clements, the designated principal of KIPP Core College Prep Charter School, formerly Cole Middle School.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacque Lucero 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-C-1 Motion to Postpone Action on P.S. 1 Charter School Renewal Application

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

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of January 6, 2005 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, IV-A-1.

2. Finance and Audit Committee

a. Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD 1017 for Wide-Area Network Services - A copy of this motion, to solicit responses from qualified vendors to implement transformation of the existing network to a multifunction academic network at 88 schools and the new northeast bus terminal, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, IV-A-2a.

b. Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD 1027 for Network and Communication Services - A copy of this motion, to solicit responses from qualified vendors to provide network and communication services for the district’s voice and data network for all facilities, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, IV-A-2b.
c. **Motion to Approve Award of Invitation to Bid #BD 1033 for Nortel Network Upgrades Year Eight E-Rate** - A copy of this motion, to solicit responses from qualified vendors to furnish, configure, and implement upgrades to the district’s existing Nortel Network PBX system at Abraham Lincoln, East, George Washington, John F. Kennedy, Manual, Montbello, North, South, Thomas Jefferson, and West High Schools; Baker, Gove, Kepner, Martin Luther King, Jr., Lake, Horace Mann, and Rishel Middle Schools; CEC, CLA, Emily Griffith Opportunity School, Food Services, 1330 Fox Street, Pension Office, 780 Grant Street, and 900 Grant Street, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, IV-A-2c.

d. **Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD 1038 for Wireless Network Design and Installation/90 percent Schools Year Eight E-Rate** - A copy of this motion, to solicit responses from qualified vendors to implement transformation of the existing network to a multifunction academic network at sixty schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, IV-A-2d.

**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 05-03, IV-B-1a.

   b. **Motion to Accept the Arbitrator’s Report Regarding Case No. 77 390 00375 04, Denver Classroom Teachers Association and School District No. 1, DCTA Grievance #04-44** – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, IV-B-1b.

**DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS**

**IV-C-1 Motion to Postpone Action on P.S. 1 Charter School Renewal Application**

Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Research, Planning, and Special Programs, said staff had put two different possibilities before the Board. One was denial of the application for postponement by P.S. 1. The other was to postpone action on P.S. 1 Charter School Renewal Application until April 21, 2005, in order to give the charter school an opportunity to present a restructuring plan that would address concerns about student achievement at the school. If the Board chooses to let the school present a restructuring plan, then the delay is to give the school time to develop a plan and for staff to review it.

Mr. Patterson said his fundamental opposition to the motion to postpone is that P.S. 1 has already been given adequate time to present a plan. Dates have been known for some time about what information needs to be provided. We need to consider what has already happened, rather than a
promise of what could happen. He expressed his opposition to delaying this decision. He said we should move forward and make a decision at the February 17, 2005, meeting.

Rev. Guzman said she agreed with Mr. Patterson but for a different reason. She expressed concern that if action is not taken until April 21, 2005, the decision would be too close to the end of the school year and could, depending on the Board’s decision, make it hard for students and families. She felt that they should be more proactive and have staff work with P.S. 1 on a plan immediately in order to make a decision as soon as possible, instead of in a couple of months.

Mr. Patterson said that we need to consider that the district has schools in need of revitalization and the staff has limited resources and time. Any extra effort would take additional time away from our own district schools. Priorities have to be set; a schedule has been set and we need to stick to it.

Mr. Hoyt said that at this point he did not have all the information he needed to make a decision on P.S.1’s renewal application. It is a difficult decision. There are a lot of extenuating circumstances behind P.S. 1’s unsatisfactory rating. P.S. 1 has an extremely large number of special needs students, students who have failed elsewhere, and a large number of students who did not take the CSAP test. This has been a wake-up call for the P.S. 1 community and they have expressed a desire to make some major changes. He said he is anxious to see their plan before he makes a decision either way. Therefore, he would like to give them adequate time to present a restructuring proposal.

In response to Ms. Peña’s request for clarification, Dr. Eckerling said that if the Board decided to deny the request for a postponement it would not preclude P.S. 1 from submitting an updated plan or new information by February 17, 2005.

Mr. Patterson read the motion. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. A role call vote was recorded as follows: Voting “aye,” Ms. Gantz Berman, Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Woodward. Voting “no,” Rev. Guzman, Mrs. Moss, Ms. Peña, Mr. Patterson. The motion failed. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, IV-C-1.

Mr. Woodward asked Board members to agree by consensus to defer the presentation of staff reports until after the Public Comment Session in order to allow the people who are here for that session to leave. The reports under New Business will be heard after the Public Comment Session. Board members agreed to this request.

**Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)**

Denver Arts & Technology (DATA) Charter School Renewal

Student Joe Bustillos, President of DATA’s Student Council, said that he has attended DATA for three years and that he enjoys attending the school. DATA is like one big family; every teacher is very understanding and the smaller classes allow for a one-on-one relationship with teachers.

*This Agenda item was taken out of sequence.
Mark Brown, DATA teacher, said that this is his second year at the school. The reason he is teaching at DATA is because of their practice of incorporating technology into the classrooms. He feels very comfortable at the school. It is like a small community. He is able to get to know the students and their families.

Sharon Healey, DATA Board member and parent of a DATA student, said that she is very happy with how well her child has done at the school. She said that they realize there are a number of concerns that need to be addressed. They have expended efforts to ensure they have a talented and stable leadership to improve their students’ educational experience and improve their CSAP scores. They have hired an experienced interim principal and are looking to hire the best qualified teachers. They have implemented the Black Board Curriculum Program and have implemented plans to address concerns raised by DPS staff. They are ready to work with DPS to find ways to enhance their children’s education.

Pierre Jimenez said, as a historical perspective on the partnership relationship DATA has with their management company Mosaica, that the basic reason for the partnership was due to limited resources and Mosaica’s expertise in working with inner-city neighborhoods. They merged with Mosaica because they had zero resources when the school first started. They did not expect it to be easy. They need an opportunity to prove that this can be a successful merger of community and management company working cooperatively to make it happen for kids.

**Skinner Middle School Revitalization**

Tony Curcio, Chairman of the Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools, said he had come to talk about how difficult and divisive the process has been to submit the Skinner Middle School Revitalization report to the Board. The road ahead is even more challenging as they work toward implementation of the plan. In order to focus on implementation efforts, Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools will host a forum on March 16. This forum will provide information on how to work through the revitalization process and what the community needs to do to foster implementation. At the forum, they will have an honest discussion about school revitalization and will provide a summary report to the district.

**Teacher Acknowledgement**

Roger Armstrong said that he had come to acknowledge and honor a very special kind of teacher—teachers who deal with children with special needs. He said both his children were special needs children and attended public schools. They would not have made it without the support of teachers in public education.

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Public Comment Session at 6:32 p.m.

V. **Old Business**

   A. **Educational Services**
1. Report on Future of Gove Middle School – Recommended for Action on February 17, 2005 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-A-1.

2. P.S. 1 Charter School Renewal – Recommended for Action on February 17 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-A-2.

3. Challenges, Choices, and Images Charter School Renewal – Recommended for Action on February 17 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-A-3.

4. Community Challenge Charter School Renewal – Recommended for Action on February 17 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-A-4.

5. Pioneer Charter School Renewal – Recommended for Action on February 17 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-A-5.

6. Denver Arts and Technology Academy Charter School Renewal – Recommended for Action on February 17 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-A-6.

7. Proposal to Change Fairmont and Greenlee Elementary Schools to ECE-8 Schools – Recommended for Action on February 17 – A copy of this report, a staff recommendation 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 05-03, V-A-7.

8. Tuition Rates for Early Childhood Education, Extended-Day Kindergarten, and Montessori – Recommended for Action on February 17 – A copy of this report, a staff report recommending tuition rates for 2005-2006 for identified programs, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-A-8.

B. Policy Revisions

1. Policy BEDH, Public Comment – A copy of this policy, which clarifies the Board of Education’s prerogative to group speakers, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, V-B-1.

VI. New Business

A. Educational Services
1. Proposal Entitled Pupil Assignment Plan Revisions: Baker and Grant Middle Schools – A copy of this report, recommending changes to the Baker and Grant Middle Schools attendance boundaries, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, VI-A-1.

2. Proposal Change Garden Place Elementary School to an ECE-8 School – A copy of this report, recommending changing Garden Place Elementary School from a school serving grades ECE-5 to a school serving grades ECE-8, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, VI-A-2.

3. Proposed Contract with KIPP Northeast – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, VI-A-3.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Proposal Entitled Pupil Assignment Plan Revisions: Baker and Grant Middle Schools

Dr. Eckerling presented the report. He invited Ricardo Concha, Principal of Grant Middle School, and Linda Torres, Principal of Baker Middle School, to join him. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, VI-A-1.

Mr. Hoyt asked why, unlike at Gove Middle School where we moved to close the school and reassign students, we are going for a three-year gradual decline of Baker. If a school knows it will be closed in three years, how do you maintain morale in that school?

Dr. Eckerling responded that it was done to lessen the impact on the surrounding schools, to give them time to plan. They have confidence that the principal will lead the effort to hold that school and staff together. The Area Superintendent will work with her to provide a solid education for the students.

Proposal to Change Garden Place Elementary School to an ECE-8 School

Nan Baumbusch, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, presented the report. She invited Northeast Area Superintendent Carla Santorno, and Beth Morganfield, Principal of Garden Place Elementary School to join her. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, VI-A-2.

In response to Ms. Peña’s request for clarification regarding choice students and the International Baccalaureate Program, Ms. Baumbusch said that they do not have plans to remove that program from Garden Place. As a school of assignment, students in that attendance area, plus current attendees, would have priority. Also, as with all the K-8s, students currently in grade five would have a priority roll-in along with the neighborhood children.

Rev. Guzman stated that she hopes that the International Baccalaureate Program stays at the school. Garden Place has been a beacon of hope for that neighborhood.
Mr. Hoyt said that over the past two months numerous K-8 schools have been proposed. He would like to see a report on how geographically dispersed these K-8 schools are, to see if these choices are available in all quadrants of the community. We need to step back and look at the big picture and get a sense of the strategic grand plan around K-8 schools.

**Proposed Contract with KIPP Northeast**

Amy Friedman, Coordinator, School of Choice Office, presented the draft of the proposed contract for the KIPP Full College Prep. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-03, VI-A-3.

In response to Mr. Woodward’s question regarding any constraints on developing the contract because the charter school was imposed by the state, Ms. Friedman said that the critical fourteen educational conditions set forth by the State Board of Education have been included in Appendix A of the contract.

In response to Ms. Peña’s question regarding the plan for the 2005-2006 school year, Ms. Friedman said that KIPP will be providing services for Cole’s current sixth and seventh graders. These students will be seventh and eighth graders next year, so KIPP will be operating a seventh and eighth grade school next year. In year two, KIPP will bring in a new fifth grade class, as well as provide an educational program for the eighth graders who will be in their last stage of transitioning out of the Cole school.

In response to Ms. Peña’s question regarding the state-mandated conditions, Ms. Friedman said that KIPP intends to go above and beyond what the state recommended. This school will be a full KIPP school. They are committed to operate this school as they do other KIPP programs.

Dr. Wartgow reported that at the Work Session following this meeting, the only item scheduled is a closed session on negotiations.

**VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education