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.

II. Board Members Reports

There were none

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow reported that a massive water main break inundated the lower basement of the Administration Building last week. He commended Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facility Management, for the remarkable effort put forth by his team to reopen the Administration Building in record time. He thanked him for his leadership throughout the clean-up.

Mike Langley said that it was a total team effort including: Bud Bullard and the Department of Technology Services (DoTS); Ed Ray, Director of Safety and Security and his people; Stephen Finley, Manager of Risk Management; Morgan Rusty Deane, Director of Operations and Maintenance, and his people; Richard Cosgove, Director of Construction Services, and his people; Steve Wells, President of Building and Grounds Association, his maintenance people worked around the clock; Richard Archuleta, President of the Facility Managers Association, and his people; and Marlene Orozco, Vice President of Communication Workers of America, and her custodial people.

Dr. Wartgow announced that he had asked Don Manzanares, Principal at Bruce Randolph Middle School, to be the Director of the reorganized division of Alternative Education and he has accepted that position.
IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the agenda items by number and sequence, in accordance with Consent Agenda procedures.

Mr. Patterson moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda be approved. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

III. Superintendent’s Reports

A. Gift Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, III-A.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of February 17, 2005 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-A-1.

2. Finance and Audit Committee

a. Motion to Appoint External Auditors – A copy of this motion, to appoint the external auditors for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, with the option for four subsequent fiscal years, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-A-2a.

b. Motion to Approve Purchase of Diesel, Unleaded and BIO-diesel Fuel from Gray Oil, Inc., based on the City and County of Denver’s Award of their Bid #FUEL-0568a - A copy of this motion, the purchase of diesel, unleaded, and BIO-diesel fuel from Gray Oil, Inc., per the stated bid—the solicitation has cooperative language that allows members of the Cooperative Educational Purchasing Council, of which the district is a member, the opportunity to piggyback on the award—is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-A-2b.

c. Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for the Abraham Lincoln High School Site Improvement Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-A-2c.

d. Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for the Renovation Project at Maxwell and Valdez Elementary Schools, Cole and Place Middle Schools, and George Washington and Montbello High Schools - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-A-2d.
e. **Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for the Cheltenham Elementary School and West High School Boiler Repair Project** - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-A-2e.

f. **Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for the Cole Middle School and East High School Renovation Project** - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-A-2f.

g. **Motion to Approve the Use of Additional Contingency Funds for the Hilltop Transportation Building Renovation Project** - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, 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 05-07, IV-B-1a.

**C. Educational Services**

1. **Proposal to Change Del Pueblo Elementary School to an ECE-8 School** – A copy of this proposal, to change Del Pueblo 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 05-07, IV-C-1.

2. **Proposal Recommending Sixth Grade at Swansea Elementary School** – A copy of this proposal, 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 05-07, IV-C-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 proposal is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-C-3.

4. **Motion to Approve the School Improvement Plans for Unsatisfactory-Rated Schools Smith Elementary School and P.S. 1 Charter School** – A copy of this motion, to approve the School Improvement Plans for Smith Elementary School and P.S. 1 Charter School, schools rated unsatisfactory, which will be operating under these plans during the 2005-2006 school year, pursuant to CRS 22-6-609, is attached. The Superintendent is directed to advise the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education that no plan will be submitted for two other district schools: Gove Middle School, which the Board of Education has closed effective at the end of the 2004-2005 school year; and Mitchell...
Elementary School, which the district will be redesigning effective during the 2005-2006 school years. All documents are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, IV-C-4.

V. Old Business

A. Educational Services

1. Revitalization Reports

   a. Henry Middle School Revitalization Update – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, V-A-1a.

   b. Skinner Middle School Revitalization Update – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, V-A-1b.

   c. Remington Elementary School Revitalization Update – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, V-A-1c.

2. School Closures

   a. Proposal to Recommend the Closure of Baker Middle School, Per Board Directive on February 23, 2005 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, V-A-2a.

   b. Proposal to Recommend the Closure of Rosedale Elementary School, Per Board Directive on February 23, 2005 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, V-A-2b.

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 February 28, 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 05-07, VI-A-1.

2. 2005-2006 Preliminary Budget – A copy of this report, identification of the portion of the 2005-2006 projected revenues that are from the state for purposes of implementing Board of Education Policy DAB Contingency Reserve, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, VI-A-2.
B. Educational Services

1. Recommendation on the Future of Randolph Middle School – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, VI-B-1.

2. Update on the Redesign of Martin Luther King Middle School – A copy of this report, a staff update on the revitalization of Martin Luther King Middle School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, VI-B-2.

3. Motion to Approve the Lease of Cole Middle School Building to Community College of Denver – A copy of this report, the lease of the first floor of the Cole Middle School building to the Community College of Denver, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, 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 05-07, VI-C-1.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Proposals to Recommend the Closure of Rosedale Elementary School and Baker Middle School

Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Research, Planning, and Special Programs, summarized the report. Copies of these reports are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendices V-A-2a and V-A-2b.

In response to Rev. Guzman’s questions regarding the number of students at Rosedale and their rating, Dr. Eckerling replied that the projected enrollment at Rosedale is 131 students. Rosedale is rated low, but they have improved for two consecutive years.

In response to Rev. Guzman’s question regarding English Language Acquisition (ELA) students, Dr. Eckerling said that McKinley-Thatcher Elementary School will become an English-As-a-Second-Language (ESL) resource school. They will get a .5 ESL teacher. Asbury Elementary School is currently an ESL resource school.

Rev. Guzman stated that she intended to vote in opposition to splitting Baker students between Horace Mann Middle School and Grant Middle School. She believes that splitting students would damage Horace Mann.

Dr. Eckerling said that if all the students were sent to one school, the only school with available space is Horace Mann, which would be fine with the district. When parents were explicitly asked at community meetings about splitting students between schools, they did not get a clear indication of what parents want.
In response to Mr. Hoyt’s questions regarding staff and special-needs students, Dr. Eckerling said Rosedale staff will have priority to interview for positions at Asbury and McKinley-Thatcher. Rosedale special-needs students would be accommodated through mild/moderate programs in place at both Asbury and McKinley-Thatcher.

**Skinner Middle School Revitalization Update and Remington Elementary School Revitalization Update**

John Youngquist, Northwest Area Superintendent, presented the reports on these revitalizations. Copies of these reports are attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendices V-A-1b and V-A-1c.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Wartgow said that on Thursday, March 24, 2005, the Board would have a special meeting to take action on Remington Elementary School and Henry and Skinner Middle Schools Revitalization plans. He also requested that the Board hold a Special Public Comment Session on Mitchell Elementary School Revitalization proposals, Martin Luther King and Randolph Middle Schools plans.

Mr. Woodward clarified that on Thursday, March 24, 2005, the Board would hold a Special Meeting to act on these reports. Action regarding the school closures of Rosedale Elementary School and Baker Middle School will not be presented for Board action until April 7, 2005.

Dr. Wartgow said that the district is going through a process to redesign schools that have been rated unsatisfactory. Redesign is a term used in the contract with the Denver Classroom Teachers Association and provides procedures and policies under which people apply for jobs within redesigned schools. The redesign proposals implement the essential recommendation of the Secondary School Reform Commission to give more flexibility to principals to manage their own schools. These proposals do exactly that. They place with the principal the authority to hire staff that will be implementing that school’s academic program.

Dr. Wartgow stated that Randolph Middle School has been rated unsatisfactory, so he issued a challenge to district principals to come up with a proposal for improving student achievement in this highly-impacted middle school. Kristen Waters, Principal of Morey Middle Schools, one of the district’s outstanding middle schools under her direction, presented a proposal for fundamentally redesigning and creating a whole new school at Randolph. He appointed Kristen Waters as Randolph’s new principal beginning in the 2005-2006 school year.

**Recommendation on the Future of Randolph Middle School**

Sally Mentor Hay, Chief Academic Officer; Kristen Waters, Principal, Chrisanne Laltue, Literacy Coach at Morey Middle School; and Taylor Betts, Mathematics Coach at Cole Middle School, presented the report.
Ms. Gantz Berman expressed her appreciation for the superb presentation of an amazing proposal.

Mr. Patterson commented that this proposal speaks directly to parental concerns in that area, which makes him equally as excited as Ms. Berman about this proposal.

In response to Rev. Guzman’s question regarding graduation goals, Ms. Waters said that their goal is to have 100 percent of students graduating by the time the program is fully implemented.

**Update on Redesign of Martin Luther King, Jr., Middle School**

Carla Santorno, Northeast Area Superintendent; Kelly Leid, from the Foundation for Excellence; and Michael Gaither, Principal, Martin Luther King, Jr., Middle School, presented the report.

Mr. Patterson said that in conversations he has had with the community, people are much more positive about the direction the school is taking. He said that Mr. Gaither’s influence has caused a very evident change in the climate of the building.

**VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Special Public Comment Session**

**Skinner Revitalization Plan**

Michelle Barnard-Hauser, representing the staff and faculty of Skinner Middle School, said that their philosophy encompasses what is best for each of their students as a total person. The faculty is extremely excited for the opportunity to integrate the arts into their curriculum. This type of program allows the staff to enhance students growth academically, socially, and emotionally.

Linda Hoffman, Skinner Middle School parent and member of the Revitalization Committee, urged the Board to approve their revitalization plan. Currently, the Rocky Mountain region does not have any arts-integrated schools. This could become a pilot model for the whole region.

Arvan Sandoval, parent, encouraged the Board to approve the revitalization plan. They would like to bring the band program back to Skinner. Many parents desire their children to participate in band.

Joelle Pacheco, Skinner Middle School parent, said that her daughter has done very well with the academics at Skinner. Adding the arts program would be welcomed in the community and have a positive affect on every Skinner student.

Starr Hogan, community member and community artist, said that she works with the Day Dreams Project, dedicated to bringing arts back to the community. She works with Skinner
students in after-school programs. Keeping students excited about the arts keeps them coming back to school.

Dr. Luis Torres said that he has worked with the Denver Public Schools’ Alma Project. The Skinner integrated-arts curriculum would use Alma curriculum units, which are standards-based and written by district teachers. He encouraged Board members to vote for Skinner’s revitalization plan.

Ruth Scheier, community member and member of the Revitalization Committee, expressed her desire that the Board vote for this art-based curriculum. It meets the needs of all students and will bring students back to Skinner, which will revitalize the community.

Revitalization for Remington Elementary School

Rosemary Sanchez, Remington Elementary School teacher, spoke in support of Remington’s Revitalization Proposal. It is a rigorous, content-driven program known as Core Knowledge. She feels this program would benefit students by providing structure and stability.

Theresa Navarra, parent, said she is very excited about the possibility of revitalization with the Core Knowledge Program and the Alma Project curriculum being integrated into Remington.

Garciela Mayo Rosales, Spanish-speaking parent, said she agrees with the teachers and principal’s support of this plan. The Hispanic population in this area is 85 to 90 percent. Parent participation is very important, but they need the Board to support their teachers.

Inez Catbagan, Administrative Assistant at Remington Elementary School, said Board members had asked if they had consensus for this plan from their staff. A survey was taken and 86 percent of staff are in support of the Revitalization Plan. She supports this plan because it will foster continuity.

Henry Middle School Revitalization

Carolyn Alexander said she is a parent, Bear Valley Improvement Association Board member, and school liaison representative for the community. Her husband spoke to the Board last week presenting the Henry Revitalization Plan for the Middle Years Program. She asked the Board to fully support the Middle Years Program and vote for the proposal.

Ben Blanchard, President of the Bear Valley Improvement Association, said he had come to support the revitalization plan. They have been very concerned with the amount of students in the area who attend other schools and they feel this program will bring students back.

Ann Marie Kaspersen, parent, said that last year they had decided to send their children to another school district because they had concerns about Henry Middle School. When they heard that Henry had instituted the IP Program, combined with their desire to be part of a neighborhood school, they decided to try Henry. She is glad they did and is now excited that
Henry can continue to grow with the Middle Years Program. She asked the Board to support their revitalization project.

Maggie Gomer, President of Traylor Academy PTO and Henry Middle School parent, said she is impressed by the surge of energy and excitement brought about by the Middle Schools Program and revitalization plan. She said implementing this plan will help bring students back to Henry.

Cyndi Sorrell, member of the revitalization committee, said that Henry Middle School is proposing bold changes they firmly believe will result in dramatically better results for the students. She expressed the hope that the Board would not only approve the Middle Years Program, but also allocate the necessary resources and staffing needs to implement the program.

**Baker Middle School**

Tom Hanson, AVID Coordinator at Baker Middle School, read comments from his AVID students. A copy of these remarks are attached to minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, VIII-1.

Greg Knaddison, community member, suggested that a Center for International Studies Program (CIS) be placed in the school.

Robin Lopez, Baker parent, said that her daughter enjoys attending Baker and feels safe there. She suggested that if Baker has to be closed, to phase it out over two years and bring in a CIS program in the last year.

Tim Lopez, active community member, said that as a member of Historic Baker Neighborhood and the West Side Vision Coalition, they had never received any information from the district. The Baker community cares about their school but has never received information about the closing. He asked that they leave Baker open and do a better job of community outreach.

**Rosedale Elementary School**

James Duran’s remarks are attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, VIII-2.

Ruben Pedroza, Rosedale Elementary School student, said that if Rosedale is closed he would be very unhappy. He would have to leave his friends and his teachers. His friends and his teachers are a part of his family and he would never see them again.

Linda Miller, Gifted and Talented teacher at Rosedale, said that Rosedale has received recognition for significant improvement on the CSAP two years in a row. They have submitted a plan to implement the first in the state English-as-a-Second-Language (ELA) Gifted and Talented (G/T) Program that would draw students from all over the metropolitan area. She expressed the hope that the Board would take a chance on them and permit them to establish this program.
Scott Qualy, Paraprofessional at Rosedale, said that with a paradigm shift in thinking, creative programming, and a well thought-out marketing plan could generate new enrollment and revitalize Rosedale. Rosedale staff have proposed an innovative ELA G/T Program, they have proposed housing a Head Start Program for three-year-olds, and an international charter school is interested in renting space in Rosedale for their school. A copy of revenue generated from these proposals is attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, VIII-3.

Ellen Kern, representative from the Colorado International Community Charter School, said they have made a proposal to lease space at Rosedale. She said they have had a few issues with the administration in trying to lease the space, but they look forward to working with the district in the future.

Lawrence Green, Rosedale Special Education teacher, invited representatives from the Board and central administration to meet with the Rosedale Leadership Team to discuss the details of their proposed marketing plan. A copy of the marketing plan is attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-07, VIII-4.

Rob Murphy, community member, has a petition signed by 275 people willing to work, to do whatever is necessary, to save Rosedale. He said he is a realtor, he makes his living in the neighborhood, and it would be a strategic mistake to close Rosedale in light of the Gates Project.

Carey Law, disabled parent, said her children have speech and cognitive problems as a result of her illness. Rosedale teachers and staff have been fantastic working with her children. If Rosedale is closed, and her children have to attend a larger school, she is concerned that they will be lost, and that they will be considered retarded.

Steve Walsh, Second Grade teacher at Rosedale, said that one of the recommendations that the Board has made to save money is to close schools. The district proposed that Rosedale be one of the schools closed. Rosedale staff, parents, and community members have presented counter-proposals to keep Rosedale open. Rosedale has a strong track record of proficiently following through with district policies and providing a high level of service. They would like to continue offering a great education. He expressed the hope that the Board will take into consideration all the educational, community, and financial factors they have presented.

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Special Public Comment Session at 8:15 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education