I. **Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.**

The Hamilton Middle School Jazz Band performed for the Board and audience.

A. **Pledge of Allegiance**

B. **Roll Call**

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 5:10 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 Two State Wrestling Champions**

Ms. Peña introduced Henry Kofa, East High School student, who won the 145 pound weight class 5A Colorado State Wrestling Championship; he is the first state wrestling champion from East High School in 51 years. She also introduced Abe Alvarado, Abraham Lincoln High School student, who won the 112 pound weight class 5A Colorado State Wrestling Championship; he is a three-time state wrestling champion and the 2004 Co-Colorado High School Wrestler of the Year.

II. **Board Members Reports**

There were none.

III. **Superintendent’s Reports**

Dr. Wartgow reported that, in the spirit of the DPS resurgence in athletics, this weekend East High School won the 5A State Basketball Championship.

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-D-1 High School Transportation
IV-D-2 Textbooks
IV-D-3 Motion to Approve Revitalization Initiative
Ms. Gantz Berman moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda, not held, be approved; Mr. Patterson 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 as Appendix 04-09, III-A.

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of March 4, 2004 - A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-A-1.

2. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Motion to Approve Appointment of External Auditors for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2004 - A copy of this appointment, the fourth renewable term for the firm of Deloitte & Touche to perform the independent audit of the district’s financial statements and federal grants, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-A-2a.

   b. Motion to Approve Award of Solicitation #BD 938 to National Network Services - A copy of this award, the solicitation done to secure competitively-priced offers to provide and install security systems in the schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-A-2b.

   c. Motion to Approve Award of Solicitation #BD 939 to Rocky Mountain Mechanical Systems - A copy of this award, the solicitation done to secure competitively-priced offers to provide repair, maintenance, and preventive maintenance for food service refrigeration equipment in the schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-A-2c.

   d. Motion to Approve a Three-Year Contract with Qwest Communications - A copy of this contract, a three-year contract to provide telecommunication lines for local access services for Baker, Cole, Gove, Grant, Hamilton, Henry, Hill, Horace Mann, Kepner, Kunsmiller, Lake, Merrill, Morey, Noel, Place, Randolph, Rishel, Skinner, and Smiley Middle Schools, to support the E911 project, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-A-2d.

   e. Motion to Approve Award of Solicitation #BD 920 to 3M Security Systems Division - A copy of this award, the solicitation proposed to secure offers to furnish, install, and service library media security systems to meet the needs of schools in the schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-A-2e.
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 04-09, IV-B-1a.

b. Review and Accept Administrative Judge’s Recommendation on Grievance No. 773900037203CRMA, DCTA v. DPS - A copy of the arbitrator’s award is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-B-1b.

C. Budget and Finance

1. Financial Services
   
a. Resolution Designating Eligible Public Depositories – A copy of this report, to update the list of eligible banks and savings institutions, as determined by the State Division of Banking and State Division of Financial Services, in which the school district and schools can deposit their funds, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-C-1a.

D. Educational Services

4. Southwest Early College - A copy of this report, a proposed charter school contract between Southwest Early College and the Denver Public Schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-D-4.

5. Highline Academy – A copy of this report, a proposed charter school contract between Highline Academy and the Denver Public Schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-D-5.

5. Denver Arts and Technology Academy – A copy of this report, a second amendment to the charter school contract between the Denver Arts and Technology Academy and the district clarifying that per-pupil revenue for this school includes any funds deducted for state payments to the district for Intercept Agreements, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-D-6.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

IV-D-1 High School Transportation

Dr. Wartgow said that this proposal has generated a great deal of interest from parents, students, staff, and the community, and that cooperation and partnerships with different organizations, such as the Denver Public Library, Denver Police Department, the City Attorney, Parks and Recreation, and Denver Health and Hospitals, has contributed to the district making significant progress in focusing on district goals and the educational program. He said that this proposal
would expand this collaboration with a new partnership with the Regional Transportation District (RTD), that Denver is very fortunate to have such an outstanding transportation agency, and that RTD was awarded the American Public Transit Association Award as the best transit agency in north America.

Many concerns about providing safe and secure transportation for students were presented at the March 4, 2004, Public Hearing, through telephone calls, e-mails, letters and that these concerns have been taken seriously and have been addressed. He clarified that, as a side benefit, this proposal will provide expanded flexibility in high school scheduling; that it does not mean that start times for high schools will change, but it does mean that high schools now will have an opportunity to change start times. High school principals are unanimously supportive of this flexibility, and the preponderance of research indicates that high school students function better later in the morning, research is clear that for biological and chemical reasons high school students do not function well early in the morning; and serendipitously this proposal will save $750,000.

Dr. Wartgow introduced Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs. Dr. Eckerling said that the following people were present and available to answer questions: Jeff Becker, Supervisor of the Regional Transportation District (RTD), Scott Mendelsberg, Principal, Abraham Lincoln High School; Guy Champlin, Executive Director, and Phil Bowser, Director of Operations, of Transportation and Support Services.

In response to Mr. Hoyt’s and Rev. Guzman’s concerns regarding the safety of passengers, Mr. Becker said that RTD has a substantial safety and security force. He said that many students currently ride the bus so they have a system in place for being in contact with the schools, and that they are prepared to respond quickly to any situation.

In a response to Ms. Peña’s question regarding change of some elementary school start times, Dr. Wartgow said that research has shown that elementary school students would not have a problem with learning readiness with an early start time, that younger students are prepared to learn at a faster rate than high school students. He stated that an overwhelming majority of elementary principals, practically all of them, have advocated for an early start time.

Mr. Patterson expressed his concern bus service in far northeast Denver is not capable of transporting students in an expeditious or timely manner, and that changes will have to be made. He expressed the hope that any changes made would be handled in a public process involving members of that community.

Mrs. Moss expressed her concern that the plan for transportation exceptions be quickly finalized so that parents are aware of those exceptions when accessing the choice policy.

Ms. Gantz Berman clarified that high school start times will officially be at 7:30 a.m., with the school day extended to 4:15 p.m., to allow flexibility for students to attend classes based on school design. Staff will try to meet the needs of students in outlying areas of the city for transportation to magnet programs.
Ms. Gantz Berman moved adoption of the High School Transportation Plan. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this plan is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-D-1.

IV-D-2 Textbooks

Dr. Wartgow introduced Wayne Eckerling and Chief Academic Officer Sally Mentor Hay to discuss the proposal for the use of 1998 and 2003 mill levy funds for textbooks.

In response to questions from Ms. Peña, Ms. Mentor Hay said that in the past not all schools had the resources to purchase textbooks approved by the Board, that they have been working to correct that situation, and that with this proposal, using a consistent schedule, it will be possible for schools to purchase textbooks in the quantity needed. With a consistent effort schools will not have any unfunded district mandates without resources being provided.

Mr. Patterson moved adoption of the Textbook Proposal. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this proposal is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-D-2.

IV-D-3 Motion to Approve Revitalization Initiative

Wayne Eckerling and Sally Mentor Hay also presented information on the 2003 Mill Levy Revitalization Staff Report.

In response to Ms. Gantz Berman’s request to describe the community process that will be used, Mr. Eckerling explained that each school revitalization process will begin with an open forum with a broad reach for participants. At that forum a committee will be established, which will be supported by staff, and will include parents of existing students, parents of students in the neighborhood who do not attend the school, representatives from the Collaborative School Council (CSC), non-parent community members, the principal, the Area Superintendent, and an external facilitator. This committee will work together to formulate a plan for the school, in an open process, that will have broad community support. Anyone who would like to be a participant on these committees should call the principal of the school.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that the Revitalization Initiative Report will be posted on the district’s web site.

Mr. Patterson reiterated that schools that did not make the list for revitalization will still have the chance next year since these mill levy funds will be available year after year. He said he wanted to encourage schools to begin a planning process in order to be prepared for the next round of schools for revitalization and in order to continue the community involvement and support that was generated by this whole process.

Ms. Peña expressed concern that there are schools that have started the revitalization process, that have worked hard at school improvement and are just on the cusp of succeeding, that did not
get on the list of thirteen schools to receive revitalization money. She said that she would like to recommend that Cheltenham, Columbine, Fairview, Fairmont, and Greenlee Elementary Schools, be somehow included for consideration for some amount of the mill levy money. These schools have made significant improvement over the last school year and she would like to find some way to give them the opportunity to continue forward.

Ms. Peña stated that she could not vote to approve the staff recommendation without some exception opportunities for other deserving schools, that there are schools with great needs that will be hurt by denying them access to mill levy funds, and that she is not sure that the process was truly equitable and fair when it came to how schools were submitted for consideration.

Mr. Hoyt said that he sees the revitalization process as an opportunity to enhance academic achievement, to provide choice, and to increase enrollment in district schools. He urged staff to make marketing an important element of revitalization efforts.

Mrs. Moss agreed that revitalization is key to bringing students back to neighborhood schools, that the southwest area is losing massive numbers of children to neighboring districts, and that revitalization is critical to the southwest area to hold on to children and give parents viable options. She said that the initial criteria proposed by the citizen’s committee did not allow for all quadrants of the city to participate in the process, and as a result every southwest area school was excluded from participating. She said that, while the committee did an incredible job and had incredible obstacles, it was not an open process. She said that she is comfortable with the fact that their recommendations were accepted and that also the staff recommendations were accepted to allow other schools the opportunity to participate.

Mr. Patterson asked if schools not on the revitalization list are being told that they are going to have to wait two years to be considered for the next round. Ms. Mentor Hay said that many variables have to be worked out and they hope to be able to start new schools in two years, but they don’t want to make a definitive statement about when the next round will begin.

Mr. Hoyt moved that the Board of Education approve the staff recommendation on school revitalization. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. Ms. Gantz Berman, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Hoyt, Ms. Moss, and Mr. Woodward voted “Yes.” Ms. Peña and Mr. Patterson voted “No.” Mr. Woodward declared the motion passed. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, IV-D-3.

Dr. Wartgow introduced Becky Wissink, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA), to give an update on the culmination of the voting by district teachers on the groundbreaking Professional Compensation System for Teachers (ProComp), and thanked her for her leadership throughout the four-year process.

Ms. Wissink reported that final vote will begin tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. and a press conference would be held at 2:00 p.m. to announce the results.
V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

The following matters were presented for information:

A. Budget and Finance

1. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2003, to February 29, 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 04-09, VI-A-1.

C. Student Services

1. Expelled Students Report – A copy of this report of students expelled during the past month is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, VI-C-1.

The following reports were presented at the Board Work Session following this meeting.

B. Educational Services

1. AVID Report – A copy of this report, proposing expansion of the AVID Program at district middle and high schools and that 2003 mill levy funds be allocated for this purpose, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, VI-B-1.

2. Advanced Kindergarten Classroom Program Report – A copy of this report, proposing an Advanced Kindergarten Classroom Program that will serve 100 kindergarten students who have advanced academic needs, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-09, VI-B-2.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education