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 Thomas Jefferson High School’s Boys Basketball Team 4A Championship

Ms. Peña introduced, from Thomas Jefferson High School, Athletic Director Lani Nobles; Coach Grant Laman; Assistant Coach Morgan Gregory; Junior Varsity Coach Josh Davidson; Ninth Grade Coach Danny Klos; and representative members of the team: Ryan Atherton, Ian Kane, Joel Lewis, Michael Ramsey, Derrick Ratcliff, and Derrick Sprague, one of the senior captains.

II. Board Members Reports

A. Secondary Reform Commission Report Presentation

Rev. Guzman noted that the Secondary Reform Commission had presented its completed report to the Board of Education on March 3, 2005. Staff will present to the Board a proposal that will begin to lay out the formal plan and implementation recommendations. With the amount of work the Board has underway right now, the budget, negotiations, the Superintendent Search, etc., it has been difficult to schedule a time to discuss these recommendations. She asked Sally Mentor Hay to present the report. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-08, II-A.

Mr. Patterson thanked Ms. Hay for her presentation. He said that it had highlighted a number of details that would make a difference in the district’s high schools. He said that if we really are committed to closing the gap, we need to talk about when we expect this gap to be closed. We have to have good criteria that show whether or not progress is being made. When everybody understands the rules and how they will be applied, it will make it easier to communicate across the district about
what is expected, how to get there, and know they will be held accountable for the results.

Rev. Guzman agreed with Mr. Patterson. The Commission’s major recommendations are built around the common goal, the common idea that every student that enters the Denver Public Schools will graduate. Everyone—Board members, the Superintendent, the teachers’ union, parents, the community—has to understand that student achievement is the number one priority and goal of the district.

**Special Public Comment Session**

Mitchell Elementary School Redesign

Monique Lovato, parent and community education activist, said that she is a co-presenter, with Nita Gonzales, of the Escuela Tlatelolco Centro de Estudios proposal to contract with the Denver Public Schools to convert and manage a Montessori Elementary School at Mitchell. She said that the Montessori option has a solid curriculum and neighborhood students will thrive in this type of environment.

Bill Mahoney, a business man in the Cole neighborhood, said he is involved with the Mitchell Village Academy group that presented this proposal. From a business point of view, he feels that this plan will work and will raise student scores. He feels that the most important aspect of this proposal is marketing the program and they have a plan to hit all neighborhood churches and organizations to publicize this program.

**III. Superintendent’s Reports**

There was none.

**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-A-1b – Skinner Middle School Revitalization Update
- IV-A-1c – Remington Elementary School Revitalization Update

Mr. Hoyt 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:

*Agenda item taken out of sequence.
IV. Consent Agenda

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 05-08, IV-A-1a.

DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS

IV-A-1b – Skinner Middle School Revitalization Update
IV-A-1c – Remington Elementary School Revitalization Update

Ms. Peña said that when these proposals were first presented to the Board, Board members had serious questions related to academic achievement. John Youngquist, Northwest Area Superintendent, and Patricia Salazar, Northwest Area Assistant Superintendent, presented to the Board a list of comprehensive data supporting that the revitalization plans will increase the achievement levels of the students. She thanked Mr. Youngquist and Ms. Salazar for their work. Ms. Peña said she has asked that both revitalization plans establish strong quarterly academic goals.

Ms. Peña moved approval of the motions. Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Copies of these reports are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-08, IV-A-1b and IV-A-1c.

V. Old Business

A. Update on the Mitchell Elementary School Request for Proposal – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-08, V-A.

V. New Business

There was none.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Update on the Mitchell Elementary School Request for Proposal

Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Research, Planning, and Special Programs, said that the district received four proposals. A community meeting is set at Mitchell Elementary School for April 4, 2005, to present the proposals.

Dr. Eckerling; Ethan Hemming, Manager, School of Choice Office; Allen Balczarek, Associate Director, Department of Research, Planning, and Special Programs; Nanette Baumbusch,
Special Assistant to the Superintendent; and Amy Friedman, Coordinator, School of Choice Office; presented the report. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix V-A.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education