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 5:10 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.

II. Board Member Reports

A. Business Diversity Outreach Program Annual Report

Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facilities Management, introduced John Wright, Chairman of the Business Diversity Outreach Program and Executive Director of the Asian Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wright introduced members of the committee: Kim Cameron, Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce; Joni Caldwell, Executive Director, and Charles Roberts of the Board of African-American Construction Council; Caroline Hanna, Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce; Rusty Orr of the Associated General Contractors of Colorado; and Sarah Fuentes of Denver Business Associates.

B. District School Improvement Accountability (DSIAC) Committee Report

Mrs. Moss introduced Leo Smith, District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC) member, who presented the report.

C. Early Childhood Education Update

Mr. Hoyt presented an update on the Task Force on Early Childhood Education, as Co-Chair of that committee. Helen Thorpe is the other Co-Chair. The task force has been meeting for four months, with plans to conclude their work in June. The committee is comprised of early childhood education experts, providers, parents, educators, and physicians, with a broad range of community support. They are focusing on the issue of school readiness in the Denver Public Schools. He presented the committee’s Vision Mission Statement and asked
Ms. Gantz Berman presented an update on the Commission on School Nutrition and Physical Activity report. The Commission presented its recommendations on December 14, 2004. Staff planned to present their reactions and recommendations to the Board in March. However, due to everything that has been going on in the district—the budget, potential school closures, contract negotiations, and the superintendent search—they have asked for additional time. So the staff report and recommendations will be presented in May.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that she wanted to correct information that had been presented in a *The Denver Post* article based on a Work Session conversation. Information regarding the number of applications at Denver School of the Arts (DSA) was incorrect. There were actually 1,026 applicants; 328 students did not show up for the auditions; therefore, 234 students were accepted and 464 students were not accepted.

Rev. Guzman stated that on March 2, 2005, the Board received the report and recommendations from the Commission on Secondary School Reform. She publicly acknowledged the hard work and dedication of all the Commission members. Commission members represented the civic community, the education community, and the business community, as well as parents and teachers. In the near future, we will begin to work and dialogue about these recommendations in order to come up with a plan for implementing, at least, major parts of the reform plan.

Mr. Woodward thanked Rev. Guzman and Dr. Dorothy Horrell, Commission Co-Chairs, for an excellent report.

Ms. Peña reported that five of the district ten high schools sent teams to the state championship basketball playoffs that started last week.

### III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow asked John Youngquist, Northwest Area Superintendent, to introduce the newly appointed principal at Brown Elementary School. Mr. Youngquist introduced Suzanne Loughran, currently principal at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School in the Cherry Creek School District. He said that Suzanne is a veteran educator and has been principal of two Blue Ribbon-recognized elementary schools in the State of Colorado, both of them in Colorado Springs.

### IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie 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-D-1 Proposal Recommending the Closure of Gove Middle School

Mr. Patterson moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda not held be approved. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of February 3, 2005 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-1.

2. Finance and Audit Committee

a. Motion to Approve Purchase of Classroom Furniture from Highsmith, Inc., Mity-Lite, OfficeScapes, Palmer Hamilton, School Specialty, and Virco, based on the Cooperative Educational Purchasing Council’s Award of Bid #CEPC 04-12 - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2a.

b. Motion to Approve Award of Invitation to Bid #BD 1039 to AA American Moving and Storage and Great Plains Moving and Storage - A copy of this motion, to solicit responses from qualified vendors to establish contracts for the provision of moving services, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2b.

c. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Centennial Elementary School Renovation Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2c.

d. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Renovation Project at Three Schools - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2d.

e. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Hilltop Parking Lot Renovation Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2e.

f. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Renovation Project at Various Schools - A copy of this motion, the construction contract for the renovation project at Amesse, Fairmont, and McGlone Elementary Schools, and East High School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2f.

g. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Renovation Project at Various Schools - A copy of this motion, the construction contract for the renovation project at McMeen and Newlon Elementary Schools, and Merrill
Middle School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2g.

h. Motion to Approve Construction Contract for the Jefferson County Driver Training Facility Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-A-2h.

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 05-06, IV-B-1a.

2. Facility Management

   a. Motion to Approve School Bus Driver Training Course Agreement with Jefferson County School District - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-B-2a.

C. Budget and Finance – Financial Services

1. Resolution Approving the Supplemental Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this resolution, to approve the specific adjustments to the revenues and expenditures of all funds which have been identified, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-C-1.

2. Resolution Authorizing the Use of the Beginning Fund Balance During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this resolution, to authorize the expenditure of the beginning-fund balance of specified funds as anticipated in the supplemental budget, to state the purpose for which the expenditure is made, and to state the district’s plan to ensure the use of beginning-fund balance will not lead to an ongoing deficit, in accordance with SB 03-149, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-C-2.

3. Resolution Approving the Supplemental Budget Appropriation for Expenditures During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this resolution, to change the appropriation for all the funds based on the adjustments, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-C-3.

4. Resolution Approving Identification and Filing of Supplemental Adopted Budget and Appropriation Resolution and Copies Thereof – A copy of this resolution, to direct that the Supplemental Budget be labeled as such and signed
by the Board President and to cause the Board Secretary to have this Supplemental Budget on file for public inspection, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-C-4.

5. Resolution Approving Two Lease Purchase Agreements and an Official Statement Providing Other Details, and Approving Other Documents in Connection with the Lease-Purchase Financing – A copy of this resolution, for the restructuring of the 1997 taxable certificates of participation to create a level annual lease payment schedule and generate savings to the district, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-C-5.

D. Educational Services

1. Proposal Recommending the Closure of Gove Middle School - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-D-1.

2. Proposal on Pupil Assignment Plan Revisions: Baker and Grant Middle Schools
A copy of this motion, to change the Baker and Grant Middle Schools attendance boundaries, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-D-2.

3. Proposal to Change Garden Place Elementary School to an ECE-8 School – A copy of this motion, to change 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 05-06, IV-D-3.

DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS

IV-D-1 Proposal Recommending the Closure of Gove Middle School

Ms. Gantz Berman said that whenever the Board of Education considers closing a school it is a very serious issue, one we do not take lightly. We understand that we are disrupting the education of the students and families in the school, as well as the teachers. We also believe that it is our fiduciary responsibility to all of our schools to ensure student achievement. Gove met a number of different criteria in terms of under enrollment and student achievement. We will work with all students, families, and teachers to ensure they find the right school next year. She reiterated that this is a decision that the Board takes extremely seriously.

Mr. Patterson said that it is the responsibility of Board members to consistently apply the same criteria across the district. We have a duty to ensure that we have a single standard that is applied consistently to all situations across the district.

Rev. Guzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, IV-D-1.
V. **Old Business**

A. **Educational Services**

1. **Proposal to Change Del Pueblo Elementary School to an ECE-8 School** – Recommended for Action on March 17, 2005 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, V-A-1.

2. **Proposal Recommending Sixth Grade at Swansea Elementary School** – Recommended for Action on March 17, 2005 - A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, V-A-2.

3. **Proposal to Adopt New High School Textbooks for U.S. History, Biology, Algebra I and II, and Geometry I and II** – Recommended for Action on March 17, 2005 – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, V-A-3.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Educational Services**

1. **School Redesign Update**

   a. **Mitchell Elementary School Update** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-1a.

2. **Revitalization Reports**

   a. **Henry Middle School Revitalization Update** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-2a.

   b. **Skinner Middle School Revitalization Update** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-2b.

   c. **Remington Elementary School Revitalization Update** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-2c.

3. **Status Reports**

   a. **Randolph Middle School Status Report** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-3a.

   b. **Smith Elementary School Status Report** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-3b.
4. School Closures

a. Closure of Schools per Board Directive on February 23, 2005 – A copy of this report, staff recommendations for school closures for Baker Middle School and Rosedale Elementary School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendices 05-06, VI-A-4a(1) and VI-A-4a(2).

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Mitchell Elementary School Update

Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs, presented the update on the Mitchell Elementary School redesign proposal process. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-1a.

Henry Middle School Revitalization Update

Dr. Wartgow introduced Wendy Lanier, Principal of Henry Middle School, to present the school revitalization update. Ms. Lanier introduced Laurel Trasky, teacher, and Paul Alexander, a community member. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-2a.

Mr. Hoyt commended the committee for their great work. He is excited about this recommendation because it aligns so well with the district’s reform policy. He said that he had noticed in the report that they are planning to hire a marketing professional. He suggested that, since the district has many schools in the process of revitalization, they contact the principals of these school and encourage them to collaborate on some of the elements of marketing.

Ms. Peña thanked them for their report. She said that they represent what Board members hoped would happen when they established the revitalization plan—the community coming together.

Rev. Guzman stated that it is the responsibility of the Board and the district to look at the potential of these projects and then align and realign mill levy funds to ensure that programs such as this are funded.

Skinner Middle School Revitalization

John Youngquist, Northwest Area Superintendent, introduced Angela Norwinder, from Young Audiences; Jamie True, teacher; Keith Painter, representative of parents who do not have their children at Skinner; and Jessica Baker, Skinner parent. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-2b.

Rev. Guzman said that she is very supportive of the Integrated Arts program. She expressed concern that only certain students will attend AP classes. All students must have the opportunity to reach that level of academic achievement. High expectations are one of her priorities.
In response to Ms. Peña’s concern about the Integrated Arts model supporting academic achievement, Mr. Youngquist said that their program will focus and strengthen that piece so it will improve the educational experience for every student.

In response to Mr. Hoyt’s concern regarding buy-in by staff, Ms. True stated that staff is completely and enthusiastically behind this program.

Mrs. Moss said that she has seen a demonstrated demand for quality art programs in Denver and that it is exciting to see different kinds of arts programs being developed to meet the needs of students. She said that she shares with her colleagues a concern about academic achievement. Academic achievement must remain the primary focus of schools.

Remington Elementary School Revitalization

Pat Salazar, Northwest Area Assistant Superintendent, introduced the following members of the Revitalization Committee: Dorothy Del Castillo, Literacy Coach, Susan Cotton, community representative; Milo Rosales, parent, and Sal DiMarco, Principal of Remington Elementary School. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-A-2c.

Mr. Woodward reported that there would be a Special Public Comment Session at the Board meeting of March 17, 2005, in ordered to present the opportunity for public comment on the Remington Elementary School and Henry and Skinner Middle Schools Revitalization Plans.

Public Comment Session (first Thursday of Each Month)*

Positive Direction Under Dr. Wartgow

Michelle Delgado, Literacy Coach at Ashley Elementary School, spoke regarding Dr. Wartgow. Her comments are attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VIII-1.

Del Pueblo Elementary School Staff Support for K-8 Conversion

Carla Callahan, Special Education teacher at Del Pueblo, spoke on behalf of Del Pueblo’s staff in support of the proposed K-8 or ECE-8 Conversion.

Deann Lilgerose and Beatriz Figuero, parents, spoke in support of the proposed K-8 conversion.

Concerns about Mitchell Elementary School

Sara Crippen, parent, spoke regarding her concerns about what will happen at Mitchell next year. She is concerned that all teachers have been asked to reapply to teach at Mitchell next year and that a plan is not yet in place for next fall. Parents want the chance to respond to the proposals the district receives for Mitchell.

*Agenda item taken out of sequence
Andrea Martinez Lopez, Spanish-speaking parent, said that she is concerned about the lack of communication. They were not informed about these changes in a timely manner.

Dr. Wartgow assured everyone that if the district does not receive any proposals to redesign Mitchell, the district will operate Mitchell as a full Denver Public School next fall. School accountability reports were not available until December, which spurred the decision to move before Mitchell fell into the same position as Cole Middle School. These changes were put in place early in order to give people notice so they have enough time to make decisions. He said they are trying to balance the needs of the teachers within the timing process for staff replacements.

Dr. Eckerling said staff is bending over backing to work collaboratively with parents and staff to make sure that the needs of the community are addressed. Public hearings will be held on all proposals under consideration. Parental feedback will be invited. We believe that the district is best served if parents are in the school they want to be in to accommodate the needs of our community.

**Small School Closure**

Margaret Rogers, Steve Walsh, teacher, and parent James Duran spoke regarding closure of Rosedale Elementary School. A copy of each of their comments is attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VIII-II.

**Redesign of Schools**

Bernie Jiron, Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals, introduced members in the audience of the Educational Support Coalition, which represents classified people in the district. She spoke regarding their concerns that all classified employees would have to reapply for their jobs at low performing schools. She wondered when classified employees became accountable for CSAP scores in low performing schools. The coalition has requested a meeting with Dr. Wartgow to talk about the redesign and revitalization of schools.

**VI. New Business (Continued)**

**Randolph Middle School Status Report**

Dr. Wartgow said that they have had several meetings with the staff and principal at Bruce Randolph Middle School. Staff does not have a recommendation for Bruce Randolph as yet.

**Smith Renaissance School of the Arts Status Report**

Dr. Wartgow said that Smith Renaissance School of the Arts has been ranked unsatisfactory, but that staff is not recommending redesign. The principal, Jay Riley, is a new principal who has done a good job. The principal has instituted a great leadership team, which includes teachers, parents, and community
members. They have been working with an arts infusion program model for their revitalization program. The program includes strong support from teachers and the community, and from the Stapleton Foundation. They believe this school is going in the right direction and does not require redesign.

Mr. Patterson maintained that there are hidden costs in operating year-round schools, when a majority of schools are on the traditional calendar. He said the schools are not arranged in a way that there are efficiencies in providing bus service or arrangement of professional development days. The starting and stopping of the school does not add to the educational attainment of students.

**Baker Middle School and Rosedale Elementary School Closures**

Dr. Wartgow said that, per directive from the Board of Education on February 23, 2005, at the close of their retreat, the Board asked staff to come forward with recommendations to capture one million dollars in savings to balance the budget through the closure of schools. He said that they have two recommendations in response to that directive. He asked Dr. Eckerling to present those recommendations. Copies of these reports are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-06, VI-1.

In response to Rev. Guzman’s question regarding dividing Baker students between Horace Mann and Grant Middle Schools, Dr. Wartgow said that students south of Sixth Avenue would attend Grant Middle School and student north of Sixth Avenue would attend Horace Mann Middle School. Students would still be able to choice into any school.

In response to Ms. Gantz Berman’s questions regarding the loss of Rosedale students to other districts, Dr. Wartgow said that the district is already losing many of those kids, even with Rosedale still open.

Ms. Peña expressed appreciation for the fact that, with this closure, the district can potentially offer these children a different academic environment. While we are looking at some of these closures for cost savings, clearly academic achievement is driving some of these decisions in an equal manner.

In response to Mr. Hoyt’s question regarding capacity at Asbury and McKinley-Thatcher Elementary Schools, Dr. Eckerling said that every student could be accommodated at either school. There will be choice.

**VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education