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.

C. Recognitions

Mr. Woodward introduced Student Board of Education member John Panter; who is the Student Board member from the Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center.

Melanie Haas, Southwest Area Superintendent, introduced Andrea Feinberg, the new Interim Principal; and Cheri Wrench, the new Interim Assistant Principal, of Knapp Elementary School.

II. Board Members Reports

A. Mill Levy Revitalization Committee Report - Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs, introduced Steve Kaplan and María Guadajardo Lucero, Co-Chairs of the 2003 Mill Levy Revitalization Initiative Committee, to present the committee’s report. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, II-A.

Ms. Gantz Berman thanked Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Guadajardo-Lucero and the committee for their hard work. In response to a question from Ms. Gantz Berman, Mr. Kaplan urged the Board to promptly identify a group of schools to implement the revitalization programs at the identified schools immediately next school year.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

There was none.
V. **Old Business** (This Agenda item was taken out of sequence)

A. **Educational Services**

1. **K-8 Program and Dual-Language Proposal for Bryant-Webster Elementary School** – The Board will discuss the proposal presented on February 5, 2004, to convert Bryant-Webster Elementary School to a K-8, dual-language school.

   Dr. Wartgow introduced Joe Sandoval, Northwest Area Superintendent, and Pat Salazar, Principal of Bryant-Webster Elementary School to explain the proposal for a K-8 Program and a Dual-Language Program.

   Ms. Peña said that the Board needs more information from staff on the dual language component of the proposal but are ready to vote on the K-8 proposal, with an intent to vote on the dual language sometime in the future.

   Rev. Guzman moved that the K-8 Program at Bryant-Webster Elementary School be approved and that implementation begin in the 2004-2005 school year; and that the Board of Education consider the dual language proposal at a future meeting. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, V-A-1.

VI. **New Business** (This Agenda item was taken out of sequence)

The following was presented for information.

A. **Educational Services**

1. **High School Transportation** – Further discussion to use RTD to provide high school transportation to allow high schools flexibility around schedules.

   Dr. Wartgow said that there are many reasons to outsource high school transportation but the most important one is that it would increase flexibility in academic programs to improve student achievement. The issue of high school transportation can be made independently of starting time for high schools, but the issue of flexibility in high school scheduling could not be considered unless the issue of outsourcing high school transportation is approved.

   Dr. Wartgow introduced Scott Mendelsberg, Principal of Abraham Lincoln High School; Kathy Callum, Principal of East High School; Hansell Gunn, Principal of Montbello High School; Darlene LeDoux, Principal of North High School; Angela Bodenhamer, Principal of West High School; and Pete Hergenreter, Principal of Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center’s Middle College, to discuss the proposed flexibility of high school scheduling.
Ms. Callum said that high school principals have met many times to discuss the late start proposal and they do support the flexibility of that component. She has also met with members of her community, PTSA, Collaborative School Council (CSC), Student Council, students, and faculty and her students have a lot of questions about extra-curricular activities and how they will work it in their jammed pack schedules. She has explained that flexibility will benefit them and that traditionally many students already find a way to not have a first period class.

Mr. Gunn said he has had discussions with staff and students and he feels that creative planning would eliminate any problems, and that the flexibility component would let him run his school like a college.

Ms. Bodenhamer said that she has discussed this with staff and students, and consistently students are concerned that this would affect their ability to carry out their responsibilities regarding daycare and taking care of siblings, work conflicts, and athletic practices. Parents are concerned about RTD and safety.

Ms. LeDoux said she has received various comments from her staff, students, and parents and feels that people would see the flexibility possibilities if it is presented to them correctly. She said that as principals they are aware that this would be a challenge but they believe that the potential to help their students achieve would be worth it. There is still controversy about the proposal, because change is difficult, but once people discuss the opportunities they get excited about it.

Mr. Hergenreter said that the proposal would present the opportunity to open up the cooperative arrangement they have with their key partner, the Community College of Denver. The key part of the proposal is the flexibility and principals are ready to deal with it and to meet the challenge.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the agenda items by number and sequence in accordance with Consent Agenda procedures. Members of the Board of Education did not request that any items be held for discussion. Mrs. Moss moved adoption of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of February 19, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, IV-A-1.

B. Administrative Services
1. **Human Resources**

   a. **Personnel Transaction Report** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, IV-B-1a.

2. **Facility Management**

   a. **Boundary Line Adjustment** - A copy of this report, to approve a county boundary line adjustment from Adams County to the City and County of Denver, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, IV-B-2a.

C. **Budget and Finance**

1. **Financial Services**

   b. **Resolution on Authorizing the Use of the Beginning Fund Balance During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2003, and Ending June 30, 2004** – A copy of this report, 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 04-08, IV-C-1b.

   c. **Resolution on Supplemental Budget Appropriation for Expenditures During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2003, and Ending June 30, 2004** – A copy of this report, to change the appropriation for all the funds based on the adjustments, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, IV-C-1c.

   d. **Resolution on Identification and Filing of Supplemental Adopted Budget and Appropriation Resolution and Copies Thereof** – A copy of this report, 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 04-08, IV-C-1d.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**IV-C-1a Resolution on Supplemental Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2003, and Ending June 30, 2004**

Mr. Hoyt explained that the budget has continued to tighten up due to a number of unfavorable variables—low ownership tax returns, investment income, and a big negative variance regarding the number of kids enrolled in charter schools. Based on these variables, we had to use the entire new student growth reserve. He moved adoption of the Supplemental Budget. Mrs. Moss
seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this plan is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, IV-C-1a.

The Board recessed at approximately 6:25 p.m., for dinner and further Work Session. The Board reconvened at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Woodward introduced Student Board of Education members John Panter and Lydia Vliet from South High School. He asked Dr. Wartgow to comment on two of the topics that would be brought up at the Public Hearing—the proposed change in high school start time and high school transportation.

Dr. Wartgow explained that one of the proposals before the Board is a change in the transportation policy for high school students. Essentially, if the proposal is adopted, high school students that are currently receiving transportation on yellow buses would receive transportation through the Regional Transportation District (RTD); this is one part of the proposal that has received much discussion in the community. One of the most important reasons for this proposed change is to provide additional flexibility for academic programming because we believe by giving high schools additional flexibility we would have a better opportunity to achieve district goals.

He said that the issue related to high school transportation, but not directly tied to it and not part of the same motion, is changing high school start times. He said if the Board votes to work with RTD to provide high school transportation that would not mean that high school starting times would automatically change. However, without dealing with transportation it would not be possible to consider changing high school start times, they are related but it also separate. He said that they are glad that everyone is here, that these issues have generated a lot of interest in the community.

VII. Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

CHANGE IN HIGH SCHOOL START TIMES

Elizabeth Kenny and Cheri Wright, teachers; Alice Sprouse and Mayra Mena, students, from the Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center – Ms. Kenny expressed her opposition to proposed start time change for high schools because of the economic hardships that would occur with the increased cost for after-school childcare and for safety issues. Alice Sprouse said she opposed the change because time conflicts would mean she would have to quit her job and that it would add more hours to a student’s day because it would take longer to get home on RTD. Myra Mann said she is opposed to students riding the RTD because of safety issues. Ms. Wright reiterated that the change in times would cause a lot of issues with child care.

Alice and Karla Fleckenstein – Mrs. Fleckenstein said that the proposed change in transportation would jeopardize her daughter’s safety, that they live in northwest Denver and in order to get to George Washington High School her daughter would
have to transfer at least once which would mean she would have to wait for a bus in the dark. Karla Fleckenstein, an International Baccalaureate student, said she is in favor of the flexibility of start times but would not like the fact that RTD would add more than an hour and a half to get to school, and that the issues of child care, after school activities, jobs, sports are things that needs further consideration.

**Tami Pevey** – Representing a group of football parents at Thomas Jefferson High School presented copies of correspondence from this group regarding the proposed change in start time. She said that students that are involved in sports are also involved in many other extra-curricular activities, and the later start would severely curtail practices and interaction with other school districts for scrimmages. Copies of the correspondence is appended to these minutes as Appendix 04-08, VII.

**Evan Eskridge** – A senior at East High School, reiterated that this change would create difficulties for parents and for students, and that he has to be at his job at 3:00 p.m., and he needs the funds from his job.

**HIGH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION/RTD**

**Guillermo Ruiz** (a Spanish-speaking parent) – His comments were interpreted. He is a parent from West High School, he belongs to the PTA, and he is concerned about safety, increased distance, and the possibility that students would not go to school.

**Laura Jaramillo and Celeste Gallegos, with a Group of Concerned Parents** – Ms. Jaramillo, West High School parent, said that school transportation is needed for the safety of their children. Ms. Gallegos, a parent, said she is a DPS school bus driver but as a parent she too is concerned about safety of students, the lack of supervision on RTD buses, children who have to transfer and wait for a bus in downtown Denver in the cold and dark, drop-out and attendance rates, and that RTD drivers will not be looking out for students as school bus drivers do.

**Beverly Baldwin** – A parent who had questions about the risks involved when students ride the bus unsupervised, safety issues, the effect this would have on minority children’s attendance, and cost to families.

**Eric D. Dennis** – A parent who is concerned about the psychological problems students will have from the stress of worrying about missed connections, who will be liable if any injuries occur, and the danger of exposing students to street people. He said that the mission of the DPS is to provide students the opportunity to achieve the knowledge and skills necessary for life.

**CHANGE OF START TIME FOR ELEMENTARY/K-8 SCHOOLS**

**Ari Gould** – A Lowry Elementary School parent presented petitions signed by over 35 parents asking that the district not change the start time of Lowry Elementary School. He said he was concerned about the length of the school day, the increased
cost of Kaleidoscope Korner, and that elementary schools would not receive any academic benefit. The petitions are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, VII.

**Norma Giron, Principal of Fairview Elementary School** – She said, speaking on behalf of her parents, that Fairview is an isolated community that cannot afford programs like Kaleidoscope Korner so teachers provide after school programs, staff development meetings are held early so teachers are free to supervise the after-school programs and the earlier start time would put an end to this practice because staff development would have to be held after school. There is little else for children to do after school in this neighborhood, that the social agencies that do service the community are upset because it also affects their schedules, and the cost of these services will increase and that’s a big issue for her community.

**Chalise Jones-Rodgers** – A parent, said that she works for a non-profit that works with inner-city kids in the DPS system and that the change in the school day would have a devastating effect because they transport high school students who mentor elementary students. As a parent she is concerned that her daughter has to ride RTD now in order to go to a decent school, that she lives close Smiley Middle School and received a letter from DPS that told her that Smiley was a low achieving school and she should consider busing her child to Merrill Middle School.

Ms. Gantz Berman asked Dr. Eckerling for perspective as to how many high school students currently ride RTD and how many ride the yellow school buses. Dr. Eckerling said that about 1500 eligible high school students actually ride yellow school buses, and that 2400 high school students ride RTD; as well 1100 to 1200 middle school students. In response to Ms. Gantz Berman questions about safety and security, Dr. Eckerling said he does not have any information on safety issues but RTD has assured them that they have increased security on all routes.

He said there will be different circumstances for different schools since individual parents who have different working situations will be impacted negatively or positively. He said many parents drop elementary students off at school between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. He has received many e-mails from elementary principals who have requested a change to a 8:00 start time.

**Joanne Roll** – She said she is a taxpayer who cares very much about how parents are involved in making decisions that impact their children. A copy of her written statement is appended to these minutes and marked as Appendix 04-08, VII.

Ms. Gantz Berman commented that Ms. Roll did not have complete information. Ms. Roll responded that, for the record, she made an open records request for a copy of the revitalization process so she would have the correct facts and that there is nothing in the report she received about voting.
REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AT HENRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Barb Sickler, Kathy Thorsland, and Chris Ollils, representing Southwest Parents for Excellent Schools - Ms. Sickler, a parent, asked the Board to keep Henry Middle School on the A list to receive funding from the 2003 Mill Levy Revitalization. She feels that the Citizen’s Revitalization Committee shut out the southwest quadrant because they did not have a southwest representative on that Committee. She said that Henry was recommended by staff to receive funding from the mill levy for an IP program in the fall of 2004.

Ms. Thorsland, a parent, Co-Chair of Henry Middle School’s PTO and member of the Collaborative School Committee (CSC), said she came to ask for the Board’s support of the original DPS staff recommendation which listed Henry Middle School in their “A” list for revitalization of neighborhood schools in the fall of 2004. Henry fits the criteria used by the revitalization committee.

Ms. Ollila said that Henry Middle School’s 2003 CSAP report makes it obvious that southwest Denver needs an IP Program. She said that since the Revitalization Committee had no representation from the southwest area she was not surprised that the only Board recommended middle school in southwest Denver was dropped from their list.

Rev. Guzman thanked the members of the Southwest Parents for Excellent Schools for their comments and said the Board will be taking their concerns very seriously.

Mrs. Moss also thanked the group for attending the meeting. She said that Wendy Lanier, Principal of Henry Middle School, is doing an incredible job. Mrs. Moss said that she believes in the revitalization process and that Henry is ready for revitalization.

STEDMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REVITALIZATION

Jessica Toll, Jackie Douglas, and Pete Maysmith, members of a Stedman Elementary School Parent Group – Ms. Toll, a parent, said she believes that Stedman Elementary School meets all three criteria for revitalization, and that neighborhood children have been choosing out of Stedman. Stedman is a feeder school for the International Baccalaureate Program at Smiley Middle School.

Ms. Douglas, a parent, said that Stedman has many great qualities including a strong literacy program, the principal and staff are dedicated to the children, and the current Stedman community supports revitalization.

Mr. Maysmith, a parent, said that the revitalization process is obviously a tough challenge, there is not enough money and the need is great in the northeast area. He said that the Park Hill has great diversity but Stedman is not diverse. Stedman
should be diverse and revitalization can make that happen, and that Stedman meets all the criteria for revitalization.

Mr. Patterson thanked the Stedman parents for their support for their school. He agreed there is a great need for revitalization in the northeast area and that this process will be continued because the mill levy money will be ongoing.

Jacqueline Hilgen, parent, Denver School of the Arts (DSA) – She said came to expose questionable practices at DSA which include CSAP testing and a girls only assembly held by the principal. Her son, who majors in creative writing, wrote an unsigned, satirical letter objecting to the assembly for which he was suspended. She said that this was an illegal assembly that violated Title IX and parents were never notified of the assembly.

MILL LEVY/REVITALIZATION REPORT

Cindy Sorrel, PTO President of Traylor Academy – She urged the Board to recommend Henry Middle School for the “1A” revitalization list. She said that Traylor is one of many elementary schools that feed into Henry, and that the southwest area was shutout of the citizen revitalization committee decision-making process. The decision to exclude Henry does not only affect Henry, it will also impact the various elementary feeder schools.

Sue Clinton – A member of the revitalization committee, said that she is concerned about the Board receiving thirteen schools from the staff recommendation list and sending that list back to the staff to be prioritized. Building trust between the community and DPS is critical and by reprioritizing this list there is tremendous risk of losing the community’s trust in the process. This 2.5 million dollars is not just for this budget year, the challenge of choosing schools for future budget years is still going to require community input and keeping the integrity of the revitalization committee is critical. She said she is PTO President of Hill Middle School and that currently 61 percent of the neighborhood children do not attend Hill. She urged the Board and staff to keep Hill on the “1A” list.

Bob Pena – A member of the Citizen Revitalization Committee said that he had come as an individual to ask the Board to consider making some additional money available for Cheltenham, Columbine, Fairmont, Fairview, and Greenlee Elementary Schools. He said that these schools are achieving and need to sustain their growth and in order to continue to achieve their goals. He feels they could use some additional funds to get them over the hump and if this is not done there is the probability that these schools will slide back.

Alana Smart – A member of the Citizen’s Revitalization Committee said she was not representing the committee but had come to give the Board a sense of context from which the committee recommendations emerged and why the group encountered some difficulties developing unanimous recommendations. She said they faced three major challenges: Recommendations had to be school specific; the need is so great
and only so many schools can be served in the first year, twenty-five schools met all three of the formal criteria and another thirty-two met two of the criteria; and we had an urgent deadline. Twenty of our twenty-four committee members miraculously reached agreement on which schools should receive funding in 2004. The process was tough and frustrating, with more time there might have been consensus, but the vast majority of participants, over 80 percent, did vote for the schools.

**WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jesica McCue and Leta Sharpe from Northeast Parents for Quality Education – Ms. Sharpe said it was just an oversight on the part of the committee that Whittier Elementary School did not make the revitalization list, that Whittier meets and exceeds all of the criteria, is a low performing school, and that the best hope for change is through the use of revitalization funds.

Ms. McCue, a member of the revitalization committee, said that committee was not all inclusive and did not discuss all the schools primarily because of the speed in which the process was undertaken. She believes that at least one elementary school in the Manual High School feeder system should be revitalized, that she strongly supports the committees’ recommendation to fund Gilpin Elementary School and in addition would like to request consideration be given to adding Whittier.

**BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Joelle Pacheco, parent, is concerned about the negative things being said about Brown Elementary School students and parents by some of the community, that Brown parents are not vocal but they do support revitalization for their community.

Anita Frasier, parent, said that because Brown parents are satisfied with their children’s education people assume they do not want change, that revitalization would get people to return, and that they need help in getting parents involved, some guidelines on how to reach out to the community.

Rafael Quinteiro, member of the mill levy revitalization committee and Chairman of Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools, urged the Board to have the courage to move forward with the school revitalization.

Michael Flanagin, individual, said he was protesting the fact that drama students from the Denver School of the Arts are performing in the Vagina Monologues at the Mercury Café, a off-campus location.

**VI. New Business**

The following was presented for information.
B. Educational Services

3. Revitalization Initiative – Staff recommendations regarding the schools that should be given priority for inclusion in the revitalization initiative. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, VI-A-3.

Mr. Woodward introduced Sally Mentor Hay, Chief Academic Officer, who explained staff recommendations regarding additional schools they feel should be included in the revitalization initiative.

In response to Mr. Patterson’s comment regarding the Cole Middle School improvement plan, which was approved by the Board and was the result of heavy community involvement, Ms. Mentor Hay said that by being included for revitalization should add fuel to that effort in terms of more resources and does not change the direction of their plan.

2. Textbooks – Staff proposal for the use of 1998 and 2003 mill levy funds directed to textbooks. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-08, VI-A-3.

Mr. Woodward introduced Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs, to explain the staff proposal for use of mill levy funds for the purchase of textbooks.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education