I. **Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.**

The Swansea Elementary School ballet students 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.

II. **Board Members Reports**

Reverend Lucia Guzman said that for many years the district has faced a challenge in regards to the academic achievement of students and graduation rates, and that when the mill levy passed in November it provided the district a financial opportunity to secure a formal process to move forward with secondary school reform. As part of that reform, the district is launching a commission on secondary school reform which will set in motion movement towards eliminating, as much as possible, the deplorable drop out rates and unacceptable graduation rates. By working to close the gap between higher achieving and lower achieving students, we will offer students an equitable opportunity to succeed, to learn, to move forward with their visions and be able to become outstanding citizens in whatever arena of life they choose.

Dr. Wartgow said that Rev. Guzman and Dr. Dorothy Horell, will be Co-Chairs of the Secondary School Reform Commission. He stated that he believes that secondary school reform is the most challenging and the most important initiative the district will be taking on, and that there will be no higher priority for the staff to support. We cannot get to where we want to be in this district without tackling and improving the graduation rates and decreasing the drop out rates for high schools.

Rev. Guzman moved adoption of Resolution 2885. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, II-A.
III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow said that on March 18, 2004, the district approved the new transportation plan and collaboration with the Regional Transportation District (RTD) for high school transportation, and that the first round of proposed bell times for the various high, middle, and elementary schools has been posted on the district’s web site. Principals, working in conjunction with their Collaborative School Councils (CSC), will be asked to review these bell times. If there are any changes requested through a CSC, those will be forwarded to the Board over the next month so that the Board can review and talk about exceptions and modifications.

Dr. Wartgow reported that the Resource Allocation Methodology (RAM) budget process was sent to all schools today. In order to close the budget gap, he said, significant changes and adjustments need to be made. Central administrative staff, non-school based, will be taking reductions in excess of 13 percent; but, it will still be necessary for the schools to reduce their budget by 3 percent; and three percent can very traumatic for some schools. He said it is a very difficult time for principals, and that staff will be working, in every way possible, to see that what happens in the classroom and individual contact between the teachers and students will be protected.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that many people might be wondering, given that we passed the mill levy in November for 20 million dollars, why we are having to make budget cuts. She clarified that the mill levy was specifically targeted to various areas, such as adding art and music teachers, all-day kindergarten, early childhood education, textbooks, and revitalization of the schools, therefore, we cannot use those monies to fill any of our budget gaps.

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 The American School, Inc. Contract

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:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of April 1, 2004 - A copy of these minutes are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, IV-A-1.

2. Gift Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, IV-A-2.
3. Finance and Audit Committee
   a. Motion to Approve Award of Invitation to Bid #BD 968 to Avant Datacomm Solutions, National Network Services, and Telesupport Services – A copy of this award, a solicitation to secure competitively priced offers to furnish and install wire and cable for telecommunications, data, video, and security systems at ten schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, IV-A-3a.

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 04-12, IV-B-1a.

C. Budget and Finance
   1. Financial Services
      a. Appointment of Underwriting Team for Refunding of General Obligation Bonds – A copy of this report, to appoint the underwriting firms for the refunding of the 1999 General Obligation Bond issue, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, IV-C-1a.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

IV-D-1 The American School, Inc. Contract

Mr. Woodward asked Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Research, Planning, and Special Programs to give a brief description of this agenda item.

Dr. Eckerling said that previously the district had received a charter school application from the American School, Inc., but it had been rejected because of concerns that it served students over 21, populations that we were not charged to serve; that it was to operate at multiple sites; and the curriculum was unclear. Board members felt that the original proposal, to serve 16 to 21 year old immigrants who would not otherwise be appropriately served in a traditional high school setting, had merit. So as part of the denial the Board asked staff to go back and meet with the American School applicants to see if we could develop a contract.

A contract has been developed. The school has been limited to a single site to serve 16 to 21 year olds, has a reasonable budget, and with a reasonable curriculum. Through this contract, with service provided by an outside group, Denver Public Schools will extend service to students who otherwise would not be in school learning English and getting support to earn a high school diploma, and move on to either higher education or a productive career.
Mr. Patterson moved adoption of the contract with the American School, Inc. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, IV-D-1.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

The following matters were presented for information:

A. Policy Review

1. Policy Deletion – Policy GCBD, Professional Staff Fringe Benefits
2. Policy Deletion – Policy GCCAG, Instructional Staff Restoration of Health Leave
3. Policy Deletion – Policy GCCBA, Administrative Staff Sick Leave
4. Policy Revision – Policy GCCBC, Administrative Staff Maternity/Paternity/Parental Leave
5. Policy Revision – Policy GDBD, Support Staff Fringe Benefits
6. Policy Revision – Policy GDCA, Support Staff Sick Leave
7. Policy Deletion – Policy GDCC, Support Staff Maternity/Paternity/Parental Leave
8. Policy Deletion – Policy GDCG, Support Staff Restoration of Health Leave
9. Policy Deletion – Policy GDQC, Retirement of Support Staff
10. Policy Adoption – Policy IMDB, Patriotic Exercises

Lita Weinstein, Director of Employee Benefits, explained the policies that have to do with Human Resources and Mary Ellen McEldowney, Attorney for the district, explained the policy on patriotic exercises. A copy of these policies are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, VI-A-1, VI-A-2, VI-A-3, VI-A-4, VI-A-5, VI-A-6, VI-A-7, VI-A-8, VI-A-9, VI-A-10.

B. Student Services

1. Expelled Students Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-12, VI-B-1.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education