I. Call to Order

The band from Rishel Middle School played several selections for the audience.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward. Mr. James Mejía was absent and excused.

C. Recognitions

Ms. Gantz Berman asked the Rockwell family, Bruce, Sarah, and Jane, to join her in the front. She said that Virginia (Ginny) Rockwell was a beloved member of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) School Board who served on the Board for many years during a tumultuous time in the history of DPS. She passed away a couple of weeks ago. There was a service to celebrate Ginny’s life last Thursday, and it was a beautiful and meaningful memorial service, she said, a tribute to the love, respect, and admiration that the community had for her. She asked Rev. Guzman to read a resolution in memory of Ginny Rockwell. Rev. Guzman read Resolution 2820 in its entirety, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, I-C.

Ms. Gantz Berman said there were several people there to support the family and to honor Ginny, and two of them were very special in the life and history of DPS. She welcomed back Dr. Evie Dennis, superintendent during the time that Ginny served on the Board, who would make some remarks.

Dr. Dennis said when they heard of Ginny’s passing, they were all saddened. Her only consolation, she said, was the knowledge that they were privileged to have known and worked with her over the years. During the time that she spent in the courts over on Stout Street—some 14 years—during the days of desegregation, Ginny was always there, Dr. Dennis said. Ginny believed in providing an education second to none for all of the children, regardless of their background, race, religion, or economic status. She worked very hard along with Naomi Bradford and Kay Shomp as they struggled to put together what was now the Denver School of the Arts. On behalf of Ginny, she said she wanted to thank the Board, the Superintendent, and the staff for moving the district forward. She said Ginny would have been proud.
Ms. Gantz Berman introduced Omar Blair, 85 years young and doing terrific. Mr. Blair said it was nice to be back in that room where he fought many a battle, but Virginia Rockwell was one person who was always on his side. They did a lot of things that led to the desegregation of the schools and put them in a position where they could do more things for children. Folks must always remember, as Ginny did, that the real reason for being there was kids, serving kids, and helping kids. Ginny Rockwell was his right arm, he said, and Kay Shomp was the other arm.

Ms. Gantz Berman said it was important for them to remember the history of DPS, and hearing from Dr. Dennis and Mr. Blair was certainly a reminder of that history.

Bruce Rockwell thanked the Board for the wonderful tribute to his wife. He said the resolution was lovely, and his family appreciated it ever so much. The DPS had been vital to the lives of their family, he said.

D. **Approve Agenda**

Mrs. Edwards made and Mr. Patterson seconded a motion that the Board of Education approved the agenda for this meeting. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mejía was absent and excused.

**II. Board Member Reports**

While waiting for the room to clear, Ms. Gantz Berman asked if Board members had any comments or announcements that they wanted to make. Ms. Gantz Berman said that she had the opportunity to observe the jump rope competition at Manual High School. Colleague Michelle Moss was one of the judges, and it reminded her of how many kids they could touch with very little resources. There were many people there who were very excited about the competition and enjoying themselves.

Mrs. Edwards said she had attended the Shaffroth competition, an extemporaneous speaking competition, which was begun by Governor Shaffroth in 1923. It took place every year, and students from all the high schools gathered, basically drew a topic from a hat, and then had a half-hour to prepare a five-minute speech. A young man from East and a young woman from George Washington were the winners this year, she said.

**III. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr Wartgow said there was a lot to report, but he would try to keep it brief. First he said he wanted to thank Darlene LeDoux and the staff of Bryant-Webster and others for arranging a visit from a group of young mariachis from Los Angeles who performed at many of the schools. He said he was at Bryant-Webster to see the little kids rock the place with their group. It was packed, and they were dancing in the halls. That was a forerunner for the mariachi group that they were starting at Bryant-Webster and hoped to start in a middle school and at North High School as well. It was kind of a reminder to him, after hearing the
testimony tonight, he said, of how far it was possible to go with something like Denver School of the Arts, when someone had a vision and stuck with it.

Secondly, he said they had a committee led by Rich Allen, Assistant Superintendent of Budget and Finance, and others who were working on a teacher compensation policy under the Pay for Performance program. That had been rolled out last week, and it had received a lot of attention. He said the details on that were exciting, and it was revolutionary. He said there would be ongoing discussions about that. It was a partnership involving DPS staff and DCTA’s Becky Wissink, Brad Jupp, and Gary Justice, and all the members of the team had done a remarkable job, and it was now attracting national attention. If indeed it could be implemented and the details worked, he said he thought it would be a key piece of the whole mosaic that will continue to move DPS forward.

Dr. Wartgow said that because it had been in the news a lot, he wanted to comment on where the 2003-2004 budget process currently stood. In March the Board approved $11.6 million in reductions from the current year budget, about 2% of the General Fund. Estimates were that the gap in the budget between revenue and expenditures, when compared to business as usual, could total up to $30 million, representing another 6% or so of their spending. Thanks to the foresight and wisdom of the voters, Amendment 23 had helped protect and shield K-12 public education from many of the cuts faced by other agencies. However, Amendment 23 was not completely sacred, and things that they thought were set in concrete were changed, and K-12 would accept a share of the shortfall. He said the legislature would adjourn on May 7th, and hopefully they would have school finance resolved by then. Department heads already had moved forward with what would amount to $8.25 million in reductions from central staff. They tried to keep the budget reductions and adjustments as far away from the classroom as possible, but he said he could assure them that a reduction of that magnitude in central staff would affect the classrooms. They would be discussing the issue of class size and student-faculty ratios, he said. That was a difficult and tough topic, because it would directly impact schools. Principals putting together next year’s budgets and schedules would like to have information now, and staff was doing their best to resolve some of the issues. He said they were in negotiations with DCTA, and he hoped they would come together in a true partnership to address the issues that needed to be negotiated. There would be a public hearing, and the Board would have to vote on the budget in June. His commitment, he said, was that they not let the budget process detract them from their primary mission and that they not lose the positive momentum the district now had.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacque Lucero read the consent agenda items by number and sequence, in accordance with consent agenda procedures. The following item was held for discussion:

IV-A-1 Collaborative Decision-making (CDM) Commission Report – This represents the final report of the Board appointed CDM Commission. A copy of the report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix IV-A-1.
The following items were included under the consent agenda:

B. Superintendent’s Office

1. Gift Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the gift report, which details public gifts received by the schools with a value of $500 or more. A copy of the report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-B-1.

2. CDM Waiver Request – Centennial Elementary School – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve a request to waive certain requirements in the DCTA contract as it applies to Centennial School. A copy of the request is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-B-2.

C. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Personnel Transaction Report – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Transaction Report, which contains information regarding employee activity such as appointments, resignations, and transfers. A copy of the report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-C-1a.

2. Facility Management

   a. Final Settlements for Contracted Services – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the final settlements for contracted services as described on the attached schedule. A copy of the schedule is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-C-2a.

D. Policies and Procedures

1. JEC – Tuition-based Programs – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the amendment that would make the policy concerning tuition-free programs consistent with the Board’s recent action on Early Childhood Education. A copy of the recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-D-1.

F. Educational Services

1. Comprehensive School Reform Grant Proposal – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve a comprehensive school reform Colorado Department of Education Grant opportunity for participating middle schools in the district. A
copy of the recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-F-1.

2. Comprehensive School Reform Grant Proposal for Challenges, Choices, Images Charter School – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve a comprehensive school reform Colorado Department of Education Grant opportunity for participating charter schools. A copy of the recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-F-2.

3. Colorado High School Charter School Contract – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve language to amend the Colorado High Charter School contract. A copy of the recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-F-3.

4. Community Challenge Charter School Contract – It was recommended that the Board of Education approve language to amend the Community Challenge Charter School Contract. A copy of the report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, IV-F-4.

Mr. Woodward made and Mr. Patterson seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified. A roll call vote was recorded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mejia was absent and excused.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

IV-A-1 Collaborative Decision-making (CDM) Commission Report – Mrs. Moss read the motion on the CDM Commission Report as follows: “It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following recommendations from the CDM Commission: to adopt a Board policy concerning CDMs with the purpose and scope recommended by the committee and to re-name the collaborative committee consistent with the revised scope; to create a school personnel committee, which shall have the powers and duties of the former personnel subcommittee; to direct staff to negotiate such other changes in the DCTA Agreement, which are consistent with this motion.” Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion.

Mrs. Moss, Board representative on the Commission, said it was exciting to see the recommendations start to solidify, to watch the Board and DCTA take those recommendations that the Committee worked so hard on and begin to develop them into a policy that would help to revitalize CDMs and really help to make them more meaningful in DPS.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that this was a momentous day, at least for her, since she was involved in the original establishment of CDMs. She praised the work of the Commission, and said they had learned a lot in the last 10 years, in terms of what had worked and what did not with the CDM committees. The recommendations that the Commission proposed would help strengthen and clarify the roles and help improve student achievement. She
commended her colleague Mrs. Moss, Rev. Gray, and Becky Wissink of the DCTA for being a partner in the Commission that led to these recommendations.

A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mejía was absent and excused.

V. **Old Business**

There was none.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Student Services**

1. **Expulsion Report** — This report contains information regarding student expulsions for the month, a copy of which is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, VI-A-1.

B. **Policies and Procedures**

1. **First Reading of Proposed Policy Adoption** — FF — Naming of Facilities — This policy would supercede previous rules regarding naming of facilities and includes criteria for choosing the names of district facilities. The policy is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, VI-B-1.

C. **Budget and Finance**

1. **Financial Services**

   a. **Financial Services Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2002, to March 31, 2003** — This report provides a status report of year-to-date revenues, expenditures and interfund transfers for each fund as compared to the current year budget and as compared to the year-to-date for the prior year. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-08, VI-C-1a.

Mrs. Edwards thanked Ms. Berman for allowing her to bring forth this matter. She said that everybody knew that she was the sports fiend on the Board. She said she went to the Pepsi Center quite often, hoping to see champions, but out of all those trips and events, she said she saw only one champion, and he was with them tonight. She said she was excited to be able to recognize Abe Alvarado, who was a true champion from Denver Public Schools. Ms. Edwards read a proclamation that said Abe had distinguished himself by winning the 112 pound weight class Colorado 5A Wrestling Championship tournament, which ended on February 22, 2003; that the excellence demonstrated was achieved through the joint efforts of Andrew Alvarado, coach, the Abraham Lincoln High School Boys Wrestling Team, with the support of Principal Kathy Callum and Athletic Director Hans Kayser; and
that his participation in the championship meet added to the growing achievements of Abraham Lincoln High School and to those of the Denver Public Schools. It proclaimed that the Board of Education of School District Number One in the City and County of Denver and State of Colorado on this date expressed its congratulations to Abe Alvarado for his outstanding performance in athletics and sportsmanship, thereby bringing great honor and pride to Abraham Lincoln High School and the Denver Public Schools. The proclamation was entered into the official records of the school district.

Mrs. Edwards said that this young man was outstanding. He wrestled for Lincoln for three years, and in those years he lost only one match, in the championship match his sophomore year. She said he was an extraordinary young man who had done a great job, was a great student, and there was no doubt that he would be back next year. Abe thanked the Board and said it was an honor to be there.

VII. **Adjournment**

Ms. Gantz Berman said the Board would continue budget deliberations upstairs, and she adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education