I. Call to Order – 7:26 PM

At 7:26 PM, Ms. Gantz Berman announced the convening of a special meeting, which has been noticed for personnel.

Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mr. James Mejia, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced that the purpose of this special meeting is to announce the vacancy on the Board of Education that will be open as of June 26, 2003.

Mr. Patterson read Resolution 2820, a copy is attached to these minutes. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Edwards. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting “aye” except for Mr. Mejia, who abstained. The resolution passed.

Ms Gantz Berman explained the process that the Board of Education is going to use to appoint Mr. Mejia’s replacement. It is the Board’s intention is to have as much continuity as possible, so the process will begin and be concluded by the same date that he resigns, June 26th. On that date a new Board member will be appointed. Effective immediately, the Board is announcing the vacancy, and an application as well as a list of four questions which potential applicants will be expected to answer will be made available to the public. The four questions are:

1. Why are you seeking this seat on the Board of Education?
2. Please identify two major challenges facing Denver Public Schools, and tell us what steps you would pursue to solve them.
3. The District and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association are collaborating on changes to the approach to teacher compensation. What is your opinion of the recently outlined proposal, and do you endorse the general direction of this reform? If so, why?
4. DPS plans on going to the voters this November for a bond and mill levy increase. The District projects basically a flat enrollment, yet there are needs for new schools in northeast Denver. What suggestions do you have to ensure the passage of this bond and mill levy package?

In addition to these four questions, applicants must submit a resume. The applications and resumes will be due to the Board on June 2nd at 1:00 PM. Following that, the Board will narrow down the group of applicants to a group of finalists, who will be individually interviewed by the
Board. The League of Women Voters will host a public forum here on an evening around June 18th, the date has not yet been finalized, and during that time members of the public, teachers, parents, and community members, are welcome to ask the group of finalists questions. The Board will then take into consideration the public forum, the individual interviews, and select a replacement. The replacement will be appointed on Thursday night, June 26th.

Rev. Guzman, spoke about the characteristics the Board will be looking for in the new Board member. She said that serving on the Board of Education is a broad job with a lot of work. One of the characteristics is a high level of respect for public education, teachers, the educational process, children, the understanding of academic performance and so forth. She said a major conviction to the democratic process, how decisions are made, how they’re made in a Board meeting, how they’re made with colleagues, should also be evident. The individual must be able to make hard decisions, not only in terms of fiscal management or fiscal issues such as the Board is facing now, but also in terms of policies, students, the life of students; important, hard decisions like the Pay For Performance Plan we’re working on now. The candidate must have the ability to communicate well with others, to be able to speak passionately, and act passionately. Finally, the person should have the energy and the time to give to public service, knowing that this is a voluntary position. She noted that there are other attributes, but those are some of the most critical characteristics that the Board must look for.

Ms. Gantz Berman reiterated that this at-large position will serve until November 2003, at which time Mr. Mejia’s seat was going to be up anyway. Then there will be a general election and at-large candidates will run. She added that on May 28th, the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) is holding a meeting for the Denver area on the nuts and bolts around school elections and school board elections, so the timing of this is very appropriate, and we can provide more information on that as well.

Mrs. Edwards noted that two other seats on the Board of Education will be up for election in November. Her southeast Denver seat will be vacant because of term limits, and Ms. Guzman’s seat from northwest Denver, will be up for election, although she’s running again. Mrs. Edwards encouraged anyone who is considering running for any of these positions to attend the CASB meeting because it will be very informative for anyone who is beginning the journey to serve on the Board of Education.

Ms. Gantz Berman reiterated that Mr. Mejia is serving through June 26th. He is not resigning tonight. He is just announcing that he will be resigning on June 26th.

Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman announced the adjournment of the second Board meeting at 7:37 PM.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education