I. Call to Order – 4:00 PM

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

B. 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, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward. Mrs. Michelle Moss was absent and excused.

C. Recognitions

Rev. Guzman recognized and congratulated the Montbello Girls Track Team for winning the State Track Championship, and all of the individual athletes who won awards.

II. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow mentioned that tomorrow is the last day for the traditional calendar around the District and it’s been a very good year for DPS. He thanked all of the teachers, principals, students, and parents for making this such a positive year in spite of the difficulties over the last month or two with budget dilemmas. He wished everyone a relaxing summer and looked forward to visiting those that are on an extended year calendar over the next month.

III. Board Member Reports

Upcoming meetings

Ms. Gantz Berman announced that there will be two important Board meetings coming up. One will be on June 5th, when the Citizens Bond and Mill Levy Committee will be presenting to the Board of Education their recommendations for a package to take to the voters in November for a Bond and Mill Levy Override. The other will be on June 19th, when we’ve invited Mayor Wellington Webb to come to the Board meeting so that we can thank him officially and formally for his twelve years of excellent service to the City of Denver and the wonderful working
relationship that DPS has had the fortune to have with him. The Board will also be approving the budget on the 19th.

Services for former DPS principal Ruth Lane

Mrs. Edwards: I just received word that Ruth Lane, a former principal in our school district, passed away on Tuesday, and services will be held for her on Saturday at 4:00 at Holy Cross Church at 45th and Wadsworth. She helped us open up, on an interim basis, Southmoor Elementary School, she was the principal at McMean for quite awhile, a wonderful woman.

Services for DPS teacher Jill Connett

Ms. Gantz Berman: On another somber note, Jill Connett, a 25-year-old first year teacher with the District was killed in an automobile accident. She was a teacher at Columbine Elementary, and had only worked there for one year, and it was a real tragedy. Her memorial is also this Saturday at noon at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at 9th and Emerson, and our deep sorrow goes out to her family.

IV. Approve Agenda

Mr. Patterson made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mejia seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed, with all members present voting “aye”.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the Consent Agenda:

A. Superintendent’s Office

B. Administrative Services
   1. Human Resources
      a. Personnel Transaction Report (IV-B-1a) – This report contains information regarding employee activity such as appointments, resignations and transfers.
      b. Arbitrator’s report in the matter of DCTA Grievance #03-14 Administrative Transfer (IV-A-1b) - The district has agreed to expedite this DCTA request to arbitrate area/asst superintendent decisions to administratively transfer teachers.
      c. Arbitrator’s report in the matter of DCTA Grievance #03-15 Administrative Transfer (IV-A-1c) - The district has agreed to expedite this DCTA request to arbitrate area/asst superintendent decisions to administratively transfer teachers.

C. Policies and Procedures
1. **JEB – Entrance Age Requirements (IV-C-1)** – Staff recommends revising Policy JEB so that children would be allowed to enter kindergarten if they reach the age of five on or before November 15th of the year of enrollment, rather than September 15th as is currently stated in the policy. Parallel changes would be made in enrollment guidelines for early childhood education and first grade. The policy revision would be mandated effective for the 2004-2005 school year and optional in 2003-2004.

D. **Educational Services**

1. **Wyatt Edison Charter School (IV-D-1)** - The Board of Education will vote regarding the renewal of the contract between the district and the charter school.

2. **Connections Academy (IV-D-2)** - The Board of Education will vote regarding proposed revisions to the contract between the district and the Academy.

Board members requested that the following items be held for discussion:

- **IV-B-1b** Arbitrator’s report in the matter of DCTA Grievance #03-14 Administrative Transfer
- **IV-B-1c** Arbitrator’s report in the matter of DCTA Grievance #03-15 Administrative Transfer
- **IV-C-1** JEB – Entrance Age Requirements

Mrs. Edwards made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as modified, which was seconded by Mr. Mejia. A roll call vote was taken and all members present voted “aye”.

**Held Item: Arbitrator’s Report - #03-14 Administrative Transfer (IV-A-1b)**
Rev. Guzman read the motion (Appendix IV-A-1b) and moved that the Board accept the arbitrator’s opinion and award. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion.

Rev. Guzman said the motion is to accept a decision regarding the administrative transfer of a DPS teacher, and noted that the Board has deliberated quite a bit on this, several of them having met with parents and students who have a great concern about this situation. She said the Board has taken this information in a very serious light and all sides have been considered, and it is with that understanding that she moves that the Board accept the arbitrator’s report, hoping that the Board can explain to the public that a great deal of time has been spent looking into this issue and supporting the situation in the best way possible so as to reach this decision.

A roll call vote was taken and all members present voted “aye”.

**Held Item: Arbitrator’s Report - #03-15 Administrative Transfer (IV-A-1c)**
Mr. Patterson read the motion (Appendix IV-A-1c) and moved that the Board accept the arbitrator’s opinion and award. Mr. Mejia seconded the motion.
Mr. Patterson said this is the grievance arbitration filed as a result of a teacher grievance, and the arbitrator has ruled against the administrative transfer of the teacher in this matter and sustained her grievance, and he is simply moving that the Board accept the arbitrator’s report.

A roll call vote was taken and all members present voted “aye”.

**Held Item: JEB – Entrance Age Requirements for Kindergarten (IV-C-1)**
Mr. Woodward read the motion (Appendix IV-C-1). Mr. Mejia seconded the motion.

Mr. Woodward said this is a very important issue on behalf of our students in the DPS, and said he will vote for this proposal, believing strongly that this particular change in policy, in light of the ECE opportunities which have been reduced within the District, will give at least those students who are near the previously designated cut-off age for entering kindergarten an opportunity to receive educational experience in the kindergarten environment. He noted that it will be on a voluntary basis, so children whose parents believe they are not ready for this experience will not be required to come, and certainly children who are in ECE programs here or elsewhere, are not being forced to leave those programs early. Because schools will be permitted to adopt it this year or later, the Board will look at this carefully next year and determine how it moves forward. He said he believes this is going to be a solid addition of educational assistance to the kids in this District that fall within that 2-months period between September 15 and November 15 when they reach age five.

Ms. Gantz Berman invited Cheryl Caldwell, Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE) for the District, and John Crawford to review the proposal’s modifications.

Ms. Caldwell noted that the original proposal was for this policy to be implemented this coming fall for the 2003-2004 school year, but based on feedback from the community, parents, and teachers, the proposal has been modified so that it will now be a pilot policy, and schools are being given three options: with Option 1, they would implement it this fall; with Option 2, they would wait over the summer and see what their enrollment is and then implement it; with Option 3, they would not implement until fall of 2004-2005.

Mr. Mejia said he shares the concern, especially in the first drafting of this proposal, about children entering kindergarten without being ready. However, given the fact that this is a decision between the principal and the parent, that could be an issue whether or not this timeline has been moved, and certainly that’s a decision that needs a great deal of scrutiny, regardless of the time frame, he doesn’t believe one or two months will make that great a difference. His other concern had been the immediacy of the implementation of this new policy, but he said that having this as a pilot, evaluating that, and then coming back with suggestions for next year, has allayed that concern as well. He asked that the Superintendent and staff ensure that there be access in all regions of the city under the pilot so that it can be fairly assessed, so that good information will be available after the first semester.

Mr. Patterson said he agreed with a lot of what Mr. Woodward said about the need to have ECE, especially with the decision that the Board had to make earlier regarding ECE programs. He said he’s not concerned with the issue of changing the entrance age, nor the educational merits of that change, but that his lingering concern is the timing of the implementation, and whether it may be overly burdensome for the schools to try to get this up and running in that time. He also felt that the issue of parents not having been given enough notice on the choices that they can make for their kids been addressed, and for these reasons said he will be voting against the proposal.
Ms. Gantz Berman stated that her biggest concern is that the Board has heard from so many kindergarten teachers, and said that when staff asked schools whether they were interested in participating, they asked the principal, whereas she would like to see the principals coordinate with their kindergarten teachers to make sure that everybody’s on the same page regarding participation, which may or may not change the numbers of schools that want to participate.

Ms. Gantz Berman said the biggest complaint that she has heard regarding the proposal is the issue of the developmental appropriateness of some of the District’s kindergarten classes, and said she would be counting on the staff to make sure that they are developmentally appropriate.

A roll-call vote was taken with the following Board members voting “aye”: Ms. Gantz Berman, Mrs. Edwards, Rev. Guzman, Mr. Mejia, and Mr. Woodward. Voting “no” was Mr. Patterson.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced that the proposal is passed as a pilot. She directed the staff to put together the parameters of the pilot and come back to the Board of Education with an evaluation, making sure that it is geographically dispersed so that children from all parts of the Denver District have access to the new policy.

V. Old Business

There was none at this time.

VI. New Business

Textbook Adoption (VI-A-1)

Ms. Gantz Berman noted that there is one new item that the Board is not voting on tonight. Regarding Textbook Adoption (VI-A-1), staff recommends that new textbooks be adopted to support further implementation of the elementary literacy program and to conform to current textbook usage for high school algebra. More information on the District’s proposed textbook adoption policy can be found on the DPS website. Chief Academic Officer Sally Mentor Hay reviewed the textbook proposal which includes Carnegie Learning’s *The Cognitive Tutor: Algebra; Phonics and Friends* from Hampton-Brown and *Avenues* from Hampton-Brown.

Rev. Guzman asked if all of the schools will receive *Cognitive Tutor*. Ms. Mentor Hay explained that we will buy the site license for every school, which gives us the right to put the software on the school’s server, and also gives us a discount on the actual printed book, which will be available this coming year in both Spanish and English.

Rev. Guzman asked whether schools like North High will have everything they need to offer this to their students. Ms. Mentor Hay said yes, and that the response back from the principals is that the highest number of sections, in terms of what they plan to offer next year, came from North and West High Schools.

Mrs. Edwards asked whether this will mean that all algebra taught in our District eventually will be taught using this system. Ms. Mentor Hay said their recommendation is that two algebra programs be adopted, so the schools have their choice of either *Cognitive Tutor* algebra, or the Integrated Mathematics Program (IMP). Some schools in the District currently use IMP. In this
phase-in period, some of the students enrolled in algebra will be involved in a course that’s comparable to what’s been going on in that school for a number of years, whereas others will be in the Cognitive Tutor sections, with the intention then of expanding those.

Mrs. Edwards asked for confirmation that IMP’s curriculum will not be affected. Ms. Mentor Hay confirmed that it will not be affected.

Rev. Guzman asked if this is the outcome of a previous discussion the Board had regarding the need to assure that the language acquisition and transition was occurring rapidly. Ms. Mentor Hay said yes, this provides the instructional materials and the curriculum support. Also, as part of Year Two of our literacy implementation, in addition to the skills block, we are supporting our English language learners with English language development and supporting the transition. Ms. Mentor Hay congratulated Susanna Cordova, Director of Literacy for the professional work she and her staff, in particular Elma Ruiz, have done on this.

Mr. Patterson asked her to explain what she meant by trying to make sure that we can support these new textbooks as they roll out. Ms. Mentor Hay said absolutely, because too often when a program is adopted in a school district, that only means books are purchased, without consistent support in how they’re used, whereas the example we set this year with our literacy program, is to make sure that there is full support in surrounding our expectations and the use of materials.

Mr. Patterson asked whether, as we’re adding textbooks to our textbook list, a process is being developed to remove some textbooks that may not fit within what we can support through professional development, or what we doesn’t fit with the direction that the District is going. Ms. Mentor Hay said yes, and she thinks that’s something that we need to have some good process around. She said one of the goals, or strategies, that the Superintendent set was to get to the point where we had consistent use of materials across the District, and that will mean that teachers will need to give up programs and materials that they may have grown accustomed to, in favor of joining the District effort, and moving the program forward as a whole, and to provide more consistency, so that when children move from school to school, they have that common program.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM, after noting that applications for the Board vacancy as a result of Mr. Mejia’s resignation are due this Monday, June 2, by 1:00 PM, and the Board will be meeting on June 5th to come up with a list of finalists, who will be present at a candidate forum hosted by the League of Women Voters on June 18th at 7:00 PM at 900 Grant in the first floor boardroom. She encouraged the public to attend that forum to ask candidates questions, and said the Board will hold individual interviews with those candidates on Monday, June 23rd, and will appoint the new Board member at the June 26 meeting as they bid farewell to Mr. Mejia. She reminded the public that whoever is elected will serve out the remainder of Mr. Mejia’s term, which expires this November, and anyone who is interested can call the school board office at 303-764-3211, or access the DPS web page.