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.

II. Board Member Reports

A. Student Board of Education Report to the Board of Education

Ms. Moss thanked the Student Board members for their participation and dedication. She introduced facilitators Karen Higel, Manager, Athletics and Student Activities, and Troy Garner, Special Projects Manager, Facility Management. Ms. Higel introduced the following members of the Student Board: Roxanne Aeschleman and Lydia Vliet, South High School; Francis Annan and Tim Mapoles, Thomas Jefferson High School; Phil Casey and Evan Eskridge, East High School; Sarah Joyce and Katie Duncanson, John F. Kennedy High School.

Phil Casey, President, and Tim Mapoles, Vice President, presented their report. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix, 05-11, II-A.

In response to Ms. Peña’s question regarding condom distribution in the high schools, Evan Eskridge responded that they recommended that condoms be made available.

Ms. Gantz Berman reported that district students participate in many academic competitions locally, statewide, and nationally. She said that this year an unprecedented number of teams have advanced to represent the district in national competitions: Destination Imagination—six district teams will compete in the global finals at the University of Tennessee; National History Day—eighteen district teams will compete at the University of Maryland; and ten district students will compete in the national debate tournament in Philadelphia, PA.
Mrs. Moss thanked Janet Montgomery and the Arts Coordinators who put together the Westside Salute to the Arts this weekend. Next weekend, the Eastside Salute to the Arts will be at the Denver School of the Arts.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced the Third Annual DPS Foundation Gala, a tribute to Jerry Wartgow, will be held Thursday, May 12, 2005.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow reported that two weeks ago he had the opportunity to be in Washington, D.C., at the Milliken Family National Awards where they recognized 100 outstanding teachers in the United States. Diane Palmer from Schenck Elementary School was one of the honorees.

He said he is pleased and excited that the citizens of Denver recently voted to approve the Justice Center by a significant margin. He congratulated everyone who worked on this endeavor especially Mayor Hickenlooper. He feels it bodes well for the next significant elections in November: the Tabor Amendment and the ProComp election for the district. All who supported the Justice Center are fully behind the district on ProComp.

The district’s annual Shakespeare Festival takes place Friday, May 6, with thousands and thousands of district students participating.

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-B-1a Motion to Ratify the Agreement between the Denver Public Schools and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association

Ms. 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 March 3, 2005 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, IV-A-1.

2. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Motion to Approve the Construction Contract for the Beach Court, Del Pueblo, and Smedley Elementary Schools Renovation Project - A copy of this
motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, IV-A-2a.

b. **Motion to Approve the Use of Additional Contingency Funds for the New Northeast Bus Terminal Project** - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, IV-A-2b.

**B. Administrative Services**

1. **Human Resources**
   a. **Motion to Approve the Personnel Transaction Report** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, IV-B-1a.

2. **Facility Management**
   a. **Motion to Approve the KIPP/Cole Use Agreement** - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, IV-B-2a.

**DISCUSSION OF HELD AGENDA ITEMS**

**IV-B-1a Motion to Ratify the Agreement Between the Denver Public Schools and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association**

Mr. Woodward expressed his appreciation and congratulations to the two negotiating teams. Teachers approved the new three-year contract by a large margin. He recommended that Board members join the teachers and approve the contract.

Ms. Gantz Berman moved approval of the motion. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, IV-B-1a.

**V. Old Business**

A. **Educational Services**

1. **Recommendation to Approve the Timeline for Charter School Applications**
   A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, V-A-1.

2. **Revitalization Plan for Ford Elementary School** - A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, V-A-2.

3. **Revitalization Plan for Stedman Elementary School** – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, V-A-3.
4. Independent Center for International Studies, CIS - A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, V-A-4. Board Action is recommended on June 2, 2005.

B. Policy Review

1. Revision of Policy

   a. Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements - A copy of this report, revising graduation requirements to provide additional options for students, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, V-B-1a.

VI. New Business

The following matters were presented for information:

A. Policy Review

   1. Revision of Policy KF, Community Use of School Facilities – A copy of this report, revisions to the policy which will standardize the use of district facilities, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VI-A-1.

   2. Revision of Policy GCCBB, Administrative Staff Personnel/Emergency/Legal/Religious Leave – A copy of this report, revisions to the policy which combine leave policies for administrative and support staff, eliminate restrictions on the use of personal leave, and reflect the three-day reduction on the work year recommended as a budget reduction, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VI-A-2.

   3. Repeal of Policy GDCB, Support Staff Personal/Emergency/Legal/Religious Leave – A copy of this report, recommendation to repeal Policy GDCB, since it is being combined with policy GCCBB, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VI-A-3.

B. Educational Services

   1. Revitalization Plan for Martin Luther King Middle School – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VI-B-1.
DISCUSSION AGENDA

Revisions of Policy KF, Community Use of School Facilities

Mark Stevens, Director of Communication/Media Relations, presented the report. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VI-A-1.

Revision of Policy GCCBB, Administrative Staff Personal/Emergency/Legal/Religious Leave and Repeal of Policy GDCB

Mary Ellen McEldowney, Chief Counsel for the district, presented the report. She said there is one revision to the policy due to the budget reduction that central departments were required to make. The change eliminates restrictions on the use of personal leave and reflects the three-day reduction in the work year for administrators, professional technical, and unaffiliated support staff. It does not deal with any employees who belong to union groups. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VI-A-2 and VI-A-3.

Revitalization Plan for Martin Luther King Middle School

Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Research, Planning, and Special Programs, introduced Kelly Leid, Executive Director for the Foundation for Educational Excellence, and Michael Gaither, Principal, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School. They presented the report. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VI-B-1.

In response to Mrs. Moss’ question regarding estimated number of students and space availability, Dr. Eckerling replied that they expect approximately 1400 students, 800 middle and 600 high school.

Mr. Leid stated that under the early-college model, by the time they are seniors, students will be spending more time at the community college than they will in MLK. So, the 125 to 150 seniors that would be in that program would spend probably 70 to 80 percent of their time actually off-campus at their community college partner.

Mr. Patterson commented that at the start of the conversation regarding focusing on a new identity for MLK, a number of community people were quite skeptical about whether anything could really take place. At the last meeting he had the opportunity to attend, those same skeptics were totally excited about the possibilities and the vision that has been laid out for this school. He expressed his appreciation for the work that they have done in engaging the community and getting them excited about the possibilities for the school.

Mr. Patterson said they need to remember that the schools in Green Valley Ranch are already over capacity, so they need to make sure that they are looking at ways to cope with the growth there. The issue is not how many students they can fit in; it is how to deal with the students that will not be able to attend.
Mr. Woodward gave an update on the current status of the Superintendent Search. He reported that the search firm the Board hired to assist in the search has met with over thirty different groups discussing what the community feels are the most important attributes the new superintendent should have and priorities for the district. Bill Attea, who is leading the search, stated that he expects a list of strong candidates will be presented to the Board later in the month. It is the Board’s intention, to extend the opportunity to the community to meet and ask questions of the final candidates.

Public Comment Session (first Thursday of Each Month)

Thank you and Introduction of New DCTA President

Becky Wissink, President of Denver Classroom Teachers Association, expressed her thanks to the Board for ratifying the agreement between the Denver School Board and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association. She said that this is the last time she will address the Board at a public hearing in her capacity as President of DCTA. Over the last 17 years that she has worked for the district, she has seen many changes, both positive and negative. She expressed her appreciation to the Board and staff, current and past, for their collaborations and conversations. She introduced the President-Elect of DCTA, Kim Ursetta.

Kim Ursetta expressed her thanks and said she is looking forward to representing the teachers of Denver and working with the Board.

Rev. Guzman expressed her appreciation to Ms. Wissink for her stamina, passion, integrity, and intelligence.

Ms. Peña thanked Ms. Wissink for her years of service to the district, and for caring very deeply about Denver students.

Center for International Studies (CIS)

Joanne Kron, a member of the CIS alumni association and the CIS Foundation Board, said that CIS offers a hands-on experience with other cultures and an opportunity to better understand the world around us. CIS offers students a chance to look outside their textbooks and actively engage in learning. The Center for International Studies will celebrate its 20th year anniversary next year. Allowing CIS to have a stand-alone school will bring more prestige to Denver Public Schools. CIS will be able to attract more students of diverse backgrounds from throughout the city; it will more than double the number of students impacted by the program who will then pass their knowledge and understanding on to others.

Fernando Hernadez, member of West High School Parent Organizing Committee and the Voices Heard Committee with Metropolitan Organization for People (MOP), presented a letter. A copy of this letter is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-12, VIII-I
David French, from the Orbis Institute, an educational institute for cross-cultural diversity with high school and college kids, said that he has worked with CIS for over 10 years and has seen their growth and the wonderful work that the board and Dan Lutz has done.

Marcia Johnson, member of the Denver City Council, member of the Board of CIS, and former member of the DPS Board of Education, said that CIS was already in existence when she was a member of the DPS Board. She said that it was during her term that the Denver School of the Arts was started. They were in another school at that time. When they went to a building of their own, they soared. Students enter CIS because of their interest, not because they are in the top ten percent of a particular class, but they become top scholars in the program. It is important for Denver, for Denver city, as well as the Denver Public Schools, to have another school that takes kids to the top level based on their interest.

Melanie Grant, member of the CIS Foundation Board and CIS volunteer for 18 years, presented a letter from Karen de Bartolome, Executive Director of the Institute of International Education, advocating a separate school for CIS. She expressed the hope that the Board will support this request. A copy of this letter is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VIII-II.

Starting and Ending Times for Grant Ranch School

Debbie MacGilvray, a teacher and parent, said that Grant Ranch parents and community are strongly united behind the request for an 8:15 a.m. start-time, instead of the current 9:00 a.m. time. Grant Ranch athletic teams compete against other middle and K-8 schools. Currently, their students have to leave class at least 45 minutes early in order to attend away games. During play-offs, students have to leave class an hour and fifteen minutes early. These students are missing important instructional time. Many of their coaches are also teachers and when coaches have to leave with the team their students are not receiving proper instruction. Students not involved in sports are being affected by the late start-time. Participation in after-school activities has declined because the late start-time would have students riding the bus home or walking after dark. They have been told that the late-start time is a transportation cost issue. Several Grant Ranch families left this year and enrolled in Jeffco schools due to the late start-time. They hear about transportation cost issues, but they have lost revenue due to the loss of these students. At Grant Ranch school, they base their decisions on what is best for kids and they firmly believe that an 8:15 start-time is best for their students.

Tim Russell, student-athlete at Grant Ranch School and president of National Junior Honor Society, said the current change to a 9:00 a.m. start-time has caused a great deal of frustration. This year, he participated in both football and basketball. Having to start a two-hour practice at 4:00 p.m. leaves him very little time to finish school work at home. He thinks that switching the school time to 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. next year will help students do great in academics and better themselves in sports.

Erin Ryan, student, said that she had come to discuss the concerns that she and many of her classmates have with the new schedule. They understand that the district is trying to coordinate
buses for middle and elementary school, but middle school students have more after-school commitments and more homework than elementary students. School is dismissed at 3:45 p.m. After-school activities start immediately and go until at least 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. Most nights they have an hour to two hours of homework; sometimes they have so much homework that they get to bed late. As a result, they have little time for themselves and barely enough time for reading.

Nikki Mitchell, parent CSC representative, said parents fully support an earlier start-time for all the reasons listed. They ask that the Board support them for this early start-time.

Mary Ann Barwick, incoming PTO president, said they support this request for an early start-time. PTO funds the after-school programs. It is unfortunate that they provide these funds and the children are not able to participate due to the late start-time.

Mrs. Moss commented that she has some thoughts that she would like to share about this issue. A year ago the district and the Board approved a K-8 RAM, for the first time, in order to provide more equity across the district in all K-8 schools. The implementation of that RAM cost Grant Ranch just over $200,000 in resource allocations for this school year. At that time and today, Grant Ranch serves hundreds more students than any other K-8. It has doubled the number of middle school children, more than any other K-8, and was the only K-8 school of attendance rather than a school of choice. The Grant Ranch community accepted those cuts. It was only months later that the Grant Ranch community learned that they would not be treated the same as all other K-8s and middle schools in the district. They would instead have another kind of budget cut that resulted in an elementary start-time for the school. We have heard the impact of that decision tonight.

Grant Ranch is the single exception in this district for a start-time for middle school students. If the decision to make all K-8s follow a common RAM was to provide equity and fairness across the district, she believes it has failed. Grant Ranch remains the largest K-8 school in the district. It is a school of attendance that shuts off other middle school options for students. Every other student who attends a K-8 has an option to attend a middle school in their neighborhood. Grant Ranch students do not have that option and thereby, when they have a later start-time, they have no options to go anywhere else to have an earlier start-time. Our decisions have resulted in unequal treatment of the students in their after-school activities and their academic achievement. If these students and their teachers are forced to take academic time to travel to competitions, their academic progress suffers. She asked staff to find a creative solution to this problem. We have never until now penalized schools due to their geographic location. As we develop more and more alternatives to traditional schools in our district, we must find ways to accommodate students, not buses. If we indeed are losing choice middle school students to Grant Ranch due to the schedule, the solution may have the added benefit of increasing our revenue due to increased numbers of children.
Rosedale Elementary School Closing

Donnal Duvall, member of the Overland Neighborhood Association, John Collins United Methodist Church and the Rosedale community, presented a list of talking points. A copy of her remarks are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VIII-III.

Budget Ideas

Debra Sanchez, parent, said she had come to ask the Board to reconsider their decision to close Rosedale Elementary School from a fiscally responsible perspective. On April 7, Dr. Wartgowa admitted that the district was closing schools without a strategic plan. Without a plan, you can not know what effect those decisions are going to have on Denver schools in the future. As many as 22,000 Denver children are now being educated elsewhere. The estimated 2005-2006 per capita rate of $7200 per student, times 22,000 students lost to other schools districts, equals lost revenue of $158.5 million. The loss of $158.5 million shows a lack of fiscal responsibility. Parents want their children in a successful school system. One that is viable, consistent, stable, and close to home. The chaos created by closing schools will not encourage Denver’s children to either stay in or return to Denver schools, but the marketing of viable, friendly, award-winning neighborhood schools like Rosedale will. It will be more difficult and costly for the district to reopen Rosedale several years from now. The district will have lost everything that they have now to build on. The district already has a school with a solid foundation of caring and excellence in education, with tremendous community commitment.

Transportation for students in the High Strides Program at Morey Middle Schools

Geneice Brame, parent, said she is requesting an additional DPS bus stop for Morey Middle School High Strides students and incoming 6th graders. A copy of her remarks are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 05-11, VIII-IV.

Ms. Peña asked Mr. Pettigrew to respond to Mrs. Brame’s request.

No Child Left Behind Funding

Veronica Gray, ECE parent at Maxwell Elementary School, had questions regarding how funding is determined for schools and how that funding is tracked to see if the school is actually spending the funding the way they said they would. Also, it has been reported that DPS is 57 percent Hispanic. She would like to know why Spanish is not being taught to students. English-language learners are being taught English. Teaching students Spanish in elementary grades would bring kids closer together.

Ms. Peña asked Dr. Eckerling to respond to Mrs. Gray questions. Dr. Eckerling said that funding is determined by the number of free-and reduced-priced lunch students at a school. It is a strict formula-based funding that follows federal guidelines. Each school submits a budget and that budget is monitored and reviewed by the principal and members of the Collaborative School Committee (CSC). Schools have the option to teach foreign languages, but resources are tight so sometimes that is hard to do.
Ms. Peña said that the Board and administrative staff are attempting to allow those types of decisions to be made at the school level. The needs of the community differ and what works at one school might not work at another school. She said that the principal at Maxwell, Mr. Woodson, is an outstanding principal and encouraged her to take these ideas to him.

**Issues at Barnum Elementary School**

Maria Carranza, Spanish-speaking parent, representative from Barnum Elementary Schools, said through an interpreter that they have a number of problems at Barnum. Their children study in dirty classrooms. Parent volunteers clean classrooms, hallways, and playgrounds. The principal tells them that she does not have the funds to get them cleaned. This year, their children have very good teachers that the principal is letting go and they think it is not fair. They want the teachers to stay because they are very important for their children. For the good of their children, they would like the principal to go. They do not want the principal to be there because they don’t want to have these same problems next year.

Delia Galvan, parent, said that they have really good teachers and the principal is telling them they have to leave. They want the Spanish teachers to stay. The principal never listens to parents. They are happy with Barnum teachers, but they are not happy with the principal.

Jesus Solis, Spanish-speaking parent, said that he has five points why he is not happy with the principal. She is never in her office; she does not talk to parents; every year she lets go of eight to ten teachers; she does not support sport activities in the school; and many children who are ready to take the CSAP exam in English are made to take the exam in Spanish.

Manual Barba, Spanish-speaking parent, said the principal forces kids to eat the food they do not want to eat. Parents do not agree with this. They think they may get sick. Their main point is that they want something done about this school. They are contributors to the school and the kids are the future of the country. The problems are many and parents want to know what can be done.

Mrs. Moss asked John Youngquist, Northwest Area Superintendent, to discuss this situation with them.

**VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Woodward adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education