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 5:20 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.

C. Resolution 2886 – Designating Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 8, 2004, as Teacher Appreciation Week in the Denver Public Schools – Mr. Hoyt moved adoption of the Resolution; 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 04-14, I-C.

D. Recognition and Year-End Report by Student Board of Education

Mrs. Moss introduced Karen Higel and Troy Garner, staff sponsors for the Student Board. Ms. Higel introduced the following members of the 2003-2004 Student Board of Education in attendance: Caroline Steed, East High School; Candi CdeBaca and Amber DeBaca, Manual High School; Megan Hartvigson, North High School; Jon Panter, Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center; Joy Reynolds and Brittany Vannoy, Denver School of the Arts.

Ms. Higel also recognized the following Student Board members who were unable to attend: Robyn Latson, East High School; Scott Frank and Helen Kassahun, George Washington High School; Katy Duncanson and Annie Guo, John F. Kennedy High School; Chere Smith, Montbello High School; Stephanie Purdy and Lydia Viet, South High School; Brian Jackson, Thomas Jefferson High School; Cassandra Archuleta, West High School; Monica Tarango, Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center.

Caroline Steed, President, and Candi CdeBaca, Vice President, presented the Student Board Year-End Report. A copy of the report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, I-D.

Dr. Wartgow reported that statewide third grade CSAP scores were announced this week, that district scores were essentially flat and had held steady, which is not good enough. We need to continue to improve. A number of district schools went up significantly. We have had significant gains over the past two years and those have been sustained.

He said that at the Colorado Department of Education press conference where they announced the CSAP scores, Rosedale Elementary School was included among the six schools throughout the state that were singled out for recognition for “Beating the Odds.” He added that we are very proud of their accomplishments.

Dr. Wartgow asked Dr. Irene Jordan, Southeast Areas Superintendent, to introduce Khoa Nguyen the Principal of Rosedale Elementary School. Dr. Jordan noted that Rosedale has a literacy coach and has implemented the district literacy program and the district mathematics initiatives. Dr. Nguyen thanked and introduced his staff.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that on May 5, 2004, she had visited Teller Elementary School to congratulate the principal, third grade teacher Sharon Brodhacker and second grade teacher Karen Esquibel, who prepares students for third grade, for scoring at the 87 percentile, proficient or advanced, on the CSAP test. She said that Teller has almost 60 percent of students on free and reduced lunch and this is another third grade class in a school that has “Beat the Odds.” She congratulated Teller and all the other schools that did as well as they did.

II. **Board Members Reports**

A. **Appointment of Commission on Secondary School Reform**

Rev. Lucia Guzman reported that the Commission on Secondary School Reform is moving forward with the appointment of members. The list is not completed, as yet, and that the list of members will be completed very soon. She said that they are in the process of identifying resource staff so the Commission will have adequate support. The first meeting of the Commission will be May 21, 2004.

B. **Report on Citizens Committee on Bond Expenditures (CCBE)**

Ms. Gantz Berman reiterated that a $310 million Bond Expenditure was passed by voters in November 2003, and that a citizen committee is being assembled to monitor bond expenditures to ensure that we do what we promised Denver voters we would do. Tom Buescher will be the Chairman of that committee and the first committee meeting will be May 19, 2004. Letters of invitation asking people to
serve have been sent out. The committee will be watching very carefully how the
district spends taxpayer dollars.

Ms. Peña reported that she had recently attended the play at North High School, “The Zoot Suit
Riots,” and that it was an amazing, fabulous performance. She said she wanted to recognize and
congratulate the show’s director first-year drama teacher, José Mercado. She said that there will
be a return engagement of the play on June 5 and 6, and encouraged everyone to see it.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow said that after his recent hospitalization he is feeling fine, and that he
has never felt better or been stronger. He said that he has always been very supportive
of Ms. Gantz Berman’s Commission on Nutrition and Physical Exercise and of the
leadership provided by Ms. Gantz Berman. Now he is very dedicated to being a good
role model for the importance of exercise and nutrition and keeping stress in balance.

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-A-2c Rescind Award of BD 938 to National Network Systems, Inc.

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 15, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this
   meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-A-1.

2. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Construction Contract - A copy of this report, to approve the construction
      contract for the Montbello High School Phase I Revitalization Project, which
      includes items such as flooring, roofing, masonry, paint, and boiler repairs, is
      appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-A-2a.

   b. Construction Contract - A copy of this report, to approve the construction
      contract for the Ashley, Dora Moore, Palmer, Samuels, Southmoor, and
      University Park Elementary Schools remodeling projects, which includes
      interior and exterior painting, carpeting, roofing, asphalt and sidewalks, and
      tuck pointing, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14,
      IV-A-2b.
B. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-B-1a.

   b. Motion to Ratify the Merger Agreement between DPSRS, PERA, and School District No. 1 – Ratification of the Merger Agreement between the Denver Public Schools Retirement System (DPSRS), Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and School District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver. The Board of Education approved the preliminary Merger Agreement in December 2003, and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the merger. The Superintendent recommended and the Board of Education President signed, the attached Merger Agreement on April 26, 2004. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-B-1b.

C. Budget and Finance

1. Financial Services

   a. Resolution to Approve the Amended and Restated Stapleton School Funding Agreement between the district and the Denver Urban Renewal Authority – A copy of this resolution, which amends and restates the agreement approved in February 2003, to reflect subsequent events, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-C-1a.

   b. Resolution to Authorized the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2004B – A copy of this resolution, authorizing the refunding of $44,505,000 of certain Series 1994 Refunding General Obligation Bonds, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-C-1b.

D. Educational Services

1. Denver School of Science and Technology – A copy of this report, a lease agreement and amendment to the charter school contract between the Denver School of Science and Technology and the district, which allows for the disbursement of DPS General Obligation Bond funds to the Denver School of Science and Technology, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-D-1.

2. School Improvement Plans – A copy of the report, in accordance with 22-7-609, C.R.S., includes school improvement plans for three schools that were rated “unsatisfactory,” based on spring 2003 CSAP results: Colorado High School Charter School, Bruce Randolph Middle School, and Manual Arts and Cultural
Studies High School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-D-2.

3. Green Valley Ranch/Montbello Charter School – A copy of the report, a proposed charter school contract between the Green Valley Ranch/Montbello Charter School and the Denver Public Schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-D-3.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**IV-A-2c Rescind Award of BD 938 to National Network Systems, Inc.**

Mr. Woodward said he held this item because protests had been made on a contract award. Dr. Wartgow, on the advice of staff, made the recommendation to rescind the contract; staff has reviewed with counsel the contract and the manner in which the contract was awarded; and a decision has been reached that the contract will stand.

Mr. Patterson moved that the Superintendent’s recommendation to rescind the award of BD 938 to National Network Systems, Inc., be rejected for the reasons that a contract has been awarded and upon review it has been determined that grounds for rescission do not exist. Mr. Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, IV-A-2c.

**VI. Old Business**

There was none

**VI. New Business**

**A. Budget and Finance**

1. **Financial Services**

   a. **Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the Period July 1, 2003, to March 31, 2004** – A copy of this report, the year-to-date revenues, expenditures, and inter-fund transfers for each fund, as compared to the current year budget and as compared to the year-to-date totals for the prior year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VI-A-1a.

**B. Educational Services**

1. **Bryant-Webster Dual-Language Proposal** – A copy of this report, regarding the establishment of a dual-language program at Bryant-Webster Elementary K-8 School, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VI-B-1.
Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Research, Planning, and Special Programs, reviewed the Bryant-Webster Dual-Language Proposal.

In response to Mr. Hoyt’s question regarding cost estimates for transportation, Dr. Eckerling replied that cost estimates should not increase when the program expands into higher grades.

Mr. Hoyt said that Bryant-Webster is also beating the odds with their academic achievement. It has outperformed other schools in that area, and under Principal Pat Salazar, it continues to improve despite declining enrollment. He asked Dr. Eckerling if he thought dual-language would take the school to the next level academically, leave it the same, or potentially harm academic achievement.

Dr. Eckerling responded that he did not believe dual-language would harm the academic achievement. Dual-language is a well-respected program, and it appeals to the people who are moving into the area and who want their children to learn two languages.

Mr. Gantz Berman requested that the Superintendent schedule a policy discussion, with the Board, on where the district is going with Choice and how to balance Choice with revitalizing neighborhood schools. She said that the district needs to be more pro-active in terms of where we want to go and how we are going to get there.

Rev. Guzman said that she agreed with Ms. Berman that a district-wide plan is needed, at the same time making sure that there are equitable opportunities for students across the district. She expressed the hope that it would not detain this request from Bryant-Webster. Research has shown that dual-language works for Spanish-speaking students and the district continues to have large numbers of Spanish-speaking children. She said that the district has an opportunity to add an additional dual-language program, within the confines of a school that is already beating the odds, and that we owe it to the children to do so. As long as we make sure that we are not harming other schools in the area, she said she hoped Board members would really consider this proposal.

Dr. Wartgow agreed that a district-wide planning initiative, based upon determination of the needs of our customers, is needed. He said that he has had preliminary discussions with staff and cabinet members on this issue, and that it would be included in the discussion of priorities for the coming year.

Dr. Wartgow requested an Executive Session regarding negotiations, with appropriate staff and the Board, during dinner and the Board Work Session.

The Board recessed at approximately 6:12 p.m., for dinner and further Work Session. The Board reconvened at approximately 7:09 p.m.
VII. Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Ms. Gantz Berman said that because she is the Co-Chair of the Commission for School Nutrition and Physical Activity, she had been invited to visit a class at Lincoln Elementary School to see a presentation on childhood obesity prepared for a state competition. She said she was so impressed by their presentation that she had invited the students to present it tonight. The following students presented their research to the Board: Iaisha Antoine, Kathleen Benson, Nick Flores, Kelly Garcia, Brandi Krantz, Jacqueline McFarland, Gloria Miller, and Kevin Valenzuela.

Project Angle Pride

Mark Hoskins, East High School parent and architect, said that he had come to present East High School’s Project Angel Pride master visionary plan and to update the Board on the progress of their work. He said that for the past eight months, a diverse group of people, including parents, teachers, coaches, administrators, Denver Parks and Recreation personnel, Denver City Council President Elba Wedgeworth, Councilwomen Jeanne Robb and Carol Boigon, Jack Finlaw, Director of Theaters and Arenas, and Kathleen Brooker, Executive Director of Historic Denver, Inc., have met regularly in an effort to develop a coherent campus master plan that will serve East High School well into the 21st Century. This diverse group identified numerous redevelopment opportunities, which include: restructuring parking; shared off-hour use of the 500-seat Lowenstein Theater directly across Colfax; shared use of a community recreation center with a pool, meeting rooms, and a student union; and expanded campus facilities and playing fields for all programs.

He said that with the help of Principal Kathy Callum; Mike Langley, Executive Director of Facility Management; and Kim Bailey, Manager of Parks and Recreation for the City and County of Denver, as well as their respective staffs, they have already influenced expenditures of bond funds and other public funds. It is anticipated that the existing playing field at East High School will be moved approximately 30 yards to the east when it is resurfaced next year, allowing the construction of an additional full-sized playing field to the west. The existing tennis courts, originally scheduled to be refurbished next year, will be demolished, immediately providing enough additional parking to reduce or eliminate parking on the Esplanade. The money allocated for refurbishing the tennis courts will be spent to improve an expanded tennis facility in City Park that will be shared by both the community and students at East High School. Considerable progress has been made by Denver Parks and Recreation and Denver Water to improve irrigation and landscaping along the Esplanade, an important landmark that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Lois Brink said that her graduate student, Laurie Stanton, who designed the district’s Learning Landscape Program, worked and designed the visionary plan which includes the plans outlined by Mr. Hoskins. A copy of this plan is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VII-1.
Helen Kuykendall, Park Planner with Denver Parks and Recreation, said that the City Park Esplanade, managed and maintained by Denver Parks and Recreation, is pretty much the front door of East High School. She said that they have a very strong connection with East and want to be good neighbors and partners in trying to upgrade the environment at the East High campus. She said that they appreciate the assistance that UCD has provided in helping develop plans for the Esplanade.

Carol Boigon, City Councilwoman-at-Large, said she was speaking on behalf of nine council members with an interest in Colfax Avenue, and the rest of the City Council, to see if resources can be aggregated to make a change in safety, transportation, crime, appearance, and walkability of Colfax Avenue. She said this part of Colfax Avenue is part of the city’s Comprehensive Plan and Blueprint Denver, and one of the areas identified in need of a recreation center.

East High School senior, Tyrell Donaldson, and Princeton Armstrong, next year’s Head Boy, agreed that Project Angel Project is an amazing project which will increase student pride.

Kevin Patterson thanked everyone for the time that they have put into the project, and said it is another example of great collaboration and coordination between the city and the school district to benefit common constituencies. He expressed his appreciation to Mike Langley and his staff for stepping up to the plate and providing considerable staff support for this effort.

Dr. Wartgow said that this is one more example of the kind of exciting partnerships and collaboration that have been developed with the city, the business community, and citizen groups. He thanked everyone for their support and cooperation.

Budget of Community Relations Office – Sara Howell, Chairman of the American Indian Education Advisory Council, said she came as a representative of the Joint Advisory Councils. They had voted unanimously to voice concern about the possible loss of the Office of Community Relations. A copy of her remarks are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VII-2.

Dr. Wartgow thanked the representatives from the Joint Advisory Council for their comments, and said that they are an extremely valuable part of the district. He said that these are very difficult budget times and he reassured them that functions performed by the Office of Community Relations would not be diminished.

Joanne Roll – She said that she had previously protested the fact that the district does not guarantee parents of children currently enrolled in targeted schools that they will be able to vote on program changes created by the revitalization process. A copy of her written statement is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VII-3.
Lowry Elementary School – Don Crew, parent, said that is concerned about the recent dismissal of Dr. Ron Nordin, Principal of Lowry Elementary School and the process used to arrive at that decision. He said that, as an active member of the PTO, he was shocked by the decision to dismiss Dr. Nordin. He said wanted to know what is the decision-making process, what is the role of parents and teachers in this process, and the criteria used to make a decision like this.

Laurie Burkes, parent, requested that the Board become involved in the termination of Dr. Ron Nordin, and that the district reevaluate its position on this matter. She said that Dr. Nordin has done a wonderful job as principal for the last two years. The students love and respect him and parents have a right to be involved in decisions of this magnitude. She said that the majority of Lowry parents are satisfied with Dr. Nordin’s performance and submitted a petition in support of Dr. Nordin. Copies of this petition are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VII-4.

Dr. Wartgow thanked them for sharing their concerns, and said that the processes used to make these very difficult personnel decisions are constantly being reevaluated.

Transportation Concerns

Christy Degarro, bus driver, said that DPS bus drivers were told by union representatives that all full-time bus drivers were to be cut to part-time status. She said that she has worked for the district twenty-seven years and has watched her night trips and weekend trips go, and now her full-time status is going. She said that district bus drivers are Colorado’s best professional drivers and deserve respect and dignity.

Dorian Lamar, part-time driver, said that she is concerned about the cuts to bus drivers, and that they are concerned that their contract, in force until 2006, has not been followed. They have not received a copy of the budget cuts and union members have not seen a copy of the ten-day letter the Board is supposed to supply.

Gloria Padilla, bus driver, said she has been with DPS for sixteen years, that during her employment with the district she has become a certified training assistant, an experienced route and relief driver, and a Balarat driver. For the last six years she has been an eight-hour, part-time driver without benefits. She said she has a good attendance record and is accident-free, that she has applied to be a full-time driver as people have retired, but those positions have not been filled. She said that district bus drivers are professionals who do a good and safe job, and serve the community the best way they can transporting the children back and forth to school every day.

Steve Norton said that he would lose thirty percent of his salary if he is demoted to part time, but that he may be one of the fortunate few who are either eligible or close to being eligible to retire. He said that he has heard that a decision to retire or not retire will have to be made by July 1, and that is not enough time to make that kind of decision. He said that it would be very difficult for long-time district bus drivers,
who have not paid social security and who would need to get a job with another PERA employer, to do that by July 1. He asked the Board to extend the deadline for demotion to part-time, at least with respect to those who are close to retirement.

Principalship at Archuleta Elementary School - Bill Brown, a member of Far Northeast Neighbors, said that he had come to present a letter from John Smith, President of Far Northeast Neighbors, expressing his and the Board of Far Northeast Neighbors’ support for retaining the principal at Archuleta Elementary School. A copy of this letter is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VII-5.

Physics Classes – Jesse Sutherland said he had come to raise some points for consideration about the lack of content in district courses. He said that he had four children go through DPS and he had noticed that the amount of material covered in physics courses, particularly electricity and magnetism, has declined over the decade. He said that he had talked to a teacher of Advanced Placement Physics at George Washington, a couple years ago, and who felt that fifty percent of the material that he taught in high school science courses had been cut since he first started teaching.

Far Northeast Schools – Mary Sam and Mable Payne, from the North Corridor Coalition, spoke regarding concerns about the educational situation and failing schools in far northeast schools. Ms. Payne also spoke about the transfer of a teacher from Oakland Elementary School. A copy of their written statements are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VII-7.

Social Studies – Rich Rosivach, teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School, said that last year, when he had presented to the Board regarding social studies, it had been generally acknowledged that there were deficits in the teaching of social studies, especially in the elementary schools. The Social Studies Working Group met throughout the year and he presented that report, including their recommendations, to the Board. He said he had come to call for a public dialogue about the role of social studies and to get the public involved in the quality and the kind of social studies taught in elementary programs. He said that English-language-limited learners are doing very little social studies, and these families are most likely not going to be able to instruct students in civic education at home.

Dr. Frank Deserino, teacher at South High School, said he is also a teacher at Metro State College and that he had spoken to the Board last year regarding the issue between the literacy program and his role as a teacher of social studies and history. He said he thought that there was going to be some progress, and he wholeheartedly believed that, under the direction of Ms. Edwards, Roseanne Fulton was going to be speaking with them on a continual basis, discussing movement towards restoring social studies programs, not only in middle school, but also in high school curriculum. He said he had met with Ms. Fulton on only two occasions, and a year has passed and nothing has been moved forward.
Ms. Gantz Berman said that she found the issue raised by these two teachers, who are among the district’s best, extremely troublesome and asked Sally Mentor Hay to address this issue.

Ms. Mentor Hay said that recently a presentation was made to the Board about the textbook mill levy fund in which the curriculum improvement cycle and textbook purchase cycle were addressed. At that time, we indicated that we simply do not have the resources to address improvement in every subject area simultaneously. One of the issues in social studies is that at the elementary level we do not have a completely defined program and teachers do not have appropriate or adequate materials. We recognized at that time that our textbook needs approached $25 million and we have approximately $5 million a year to spend. It takes a significant amount of professional development to prepare teachers to understand standards, to get up-to-date on content, to be prepared to offer a strong program, and while the district is making the investment to improve the literacy program and provide those activities, resources are not available to maintain a parallel effort to improve our social studies program offerings. There is not enough time in our elementary school program to include adequate instruction in social studies and science, to help our kids catch up in literacy, and to include physical education.

Ms. Gantz Berman said she appreciated Ms. Hay’s explanation, but since a report with recommendations has been submitted to the Board, she requested that staff prepare a formal written response to those recommendations for the Board. She said she is very concerned that if the district is not providing what is needed in science and social studies then secondary reform will not be successful in terms of graduating students with skills that they need either to go on to higher education or to enter the work force. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-14, VII-8.

Non-Renewal of Teachers – Bobbie Carleton, teacher at Gove Middle School, said she feels that there is a very serious problem with the execution of the district’s literacy studio program and that she has tried to resolve it through official channels. The problem is that there are no consistent guidelines for what the core expectations of the studio literacy course are, yet million of dollars and hundreds of people are invested in success. The contradictions inherent in the course are very frustrating, in the light of the current budget environment, because teachers not meeting their expectations are being identified and their future opportunity to teach in this district ended. She requested that major academic programs have clear, publishable expectations before teachers’ jobs are threatened by the lack of them, and that she have the opportunity to be heard by the Board when her non-renewal status is considered.
VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education