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 5:52 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

Ms. Gantz Berman reported that Board members had received a wonderful book of poems, written by students from Bromwell Elementary School and published by teachers from Bromwell. She congratulated the students and teachers.

Rev. Guzman announced that the second meeting of the Commission on Secondary School Reform will be held tomorrow, Friday, June 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She said that last week she had joined members of the Commission and a great number of district principals at a statewide conference at Copper Mountain, and that they had discussed how to build relationships.

Mr. Woodward reported that over the weekend, Chauncey Billups, a DPS graduate from George Washington High School, was named Most Valuable Player in the NBA finals after leading the Detroit Pistons to a national championship.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow announced that the district’s National History Day teams had just wrapped up a five-day competition at the University of Maryland and were heading home with a bundle of trophies. Denver Public Schools sent 12 of the 28 Colorado entries to the national competition; of those twelve entries, eight advanced to the final round of competition. At the awards ceremony yesterday, district students received a bronze medal, two silver medals, and an award for “outstanding state entry.”

Dr. Wartgow reported that Board member Elaine Gantz Berman; Brad Jupp, Team Leader for the Pay for Performance team; Becky Wissink, President of the Denver
Classroom Teachers Association; and he were invited to be on the tarmac at the foot of Air Force One to greet President Bush and talk to him about Pro Comp. President Bush complimented the Denver Public Schools for the good work on ProComp and encouraged us to keep it up. He mentioned that the eyes of the nation are on the Denver Public Schools.

He said that last weekend he attended the National Governor’s Symposium at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, as a follow-up to a presentation he had attended last February, the only school superintendent invited, with 30 members of the U.S. Congress, at a No Child Left Behind Conference. Governor Jim Hunt and approximately 20 to 25 governors and senior executive officers from the major foundations in the country attended the National Governor’s Symposium and heard a presentation on ProComp. Everyone attending went out of their way to comment on how proud they are of the district and hope we continue in the direction we are going with our ProComp plan; it was a very uplifting experience.

He reported that this coming weekend, June 25, the Aspen Institute Urban Superintendents Network Retreat for non-traditional superintendents will be held in Denver. He will be hosting superintendents from Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago, New York City, Boston, along with foundation executives, at 900 Grant Street on Friday for a special presentation on ProComp.

Dr. Wartgow said that there is a lot to be excited and proud about in DPS. He thanked everyone for their contributions to getting us where we are, and said that the district is clearly at the center and forefront of education reform in the national arena.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the agenda items by number and sequence. In accordance with Consent Agenda procedures, the following items were removed from the Consent Agenda and held for discussion:

- IV-C-1i Resolution Amending the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005
- IV-E-1 Repeal and Re-Enactment of Policy – Policy JQ, Student Fees
- IV-E-2 Approval of District-Wide Fee Schedule
- IV-D-1 Motion to Approve Lease Agreement

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that all matters on the Consent Agenda, not held, be approved; Mrs. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of May 20, 2004 – A copy of these minutes are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-1.
2. Motion to Establish the Schedule of Board Meetings for the 2004-2005 School Year – A copy of this schedule is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-2.

3. Resolution Amending the Articles of Incorporation for the Denver School Facilities Leasing Corporation, and Approving the Extension of the Terms of Certain Members of its Board of Directors – A copy of this resolution, to amend the Articles of Incorporation to permit the extension and staggering of terms of Corporation Board of Directors and to take action to extend the terms of certain members of this Board, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-3.

4. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD 940 to Dell Computer Corporation – A copy of this motion, the solicitation done to establish a contract with a single vendor to provide reliable personal computers suitable for a K-12 environment, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4a.

   b. Motion to Approve Award of Invitation to Bid #BD 980 to Kaplan Early-Learning Company, Lakeshore Learning, Childcraft Education Corporation, and Highsmith Contract Sales – A copy of this motion, the solicitation requested by the Early Education Department to secure competitively-priced offers for early-childhood furniture and supplies, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4b.

   c. Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD 985 to Avant Datacomm Solutions and National Network Services – A copy of this motion, the solicitation requested by the Department of Technology Services to secure competitively-priced offers from qualified vendors to furnish and install structured cabling for telecommunications, data, video, and security systems at ten schools and All-City Stadium in phase two of the project, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4c.

   d. Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD 986 to Qwest Communications – A copy of this motion, the solicitation requested by the Department of Technology Services to establish a contract with a single vendor to furnish and install communication network components best suited to meet the needs of the district, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4d.

   e. Construction Contract for the Barnum and College View Elementary Schools Renovation Project – A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4e.
f. Construction Contract for the Barrett, Ebert, Gilpin, Goldrick, Phillips, Swansea, and Whittier Elementary Schools Learning Landscape Project – A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4f.

g. Construction Contract for the Carson, Edison, Mitchell, Southmoor, and Whiteman Elementary Schools Learning Landscape Project – A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4g.

h. Construction Contract for the George Washington High School Site Improvement Project – A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4h.

i. Construction Contract for the Cole and Skinner Middle Schools, and Manual High School Remodeling Project – A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4i.

j. Construction Contract for the Ford, Green Valley, and Oakland Elementary Schools Renovation Project – A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4j.

k. Construction Contract for the John F. Kennedy High School Site Renovation Project - A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4k.

l. Construction Management/Construction Contract for the Byers Renovation Project – A copy of this contract is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4l.

m. Resolution on the Payment of Insurance Premiums for 2004-2005 to the Colorado School Districts Self-Insurance Pool – A copy of this resolution, to approve the premiums for the 2004-2005 school-entity liability, automobile liability, and property insurance coverage with the Colorado School Districts Self-Insurance Pool, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-4m.

5. Gift Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-A-5.

B. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Motion to Approve Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-B-1a.
b. Motion to Approve Vocational Teachers’ Federation (VTF) of Denver Union Agreement – A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-B-1b.

2. Facility Management

a. Motion to Approve Construction Advisory Committee Final Report for the Schenck Elementary School Addition Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-B-2a.

b. Motion to Approve Construction Advisory Committee Final Report for the New Montbello Village Place K-8 School Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-B-2b.

c. Motion to Approve Construction Advisory Committee Final Report for the New Green Valley Picadilly K-8 School Project - A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-B-2c.

C. Budget and Finance

1. Financial Services

a. Resolution on Supplemental Budget Appropriation for Expenditures During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2003, and Ending June 30, 2004 – A copy of this Resolution, to change the appropriation for the General and Bond Redemption Funds based on the adjustments, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1a.

b. Resolution on Supplemental Budget Appropriation for Expenditures During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2003, and Ending June 30, 2004 – A copy of this Resolution, to change the appropriation for the General and Bond Redemption Funds based on the adjustments, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1b.

c. Resolution on Identification and Filing of Supplemental Adopted Budget and Appropriation Resolution and Copies Thereof – A copy of this Resolution, to direct that the Supplemental Budget be labeled as such and signed by the Board President and to cause the Board Secretary to have this Supplemental Budget on file for public inspection, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1c.

d. Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Borrow Unencumbered Funds – A copy of this Resolution, to authorize the use of available cash and investments in other funds to alleviate general fund cash deficits first prior to borrowing funds from the state, as required by the State Treasurer’s Interest-Free Loan Program; state law permits the Board of Education to borrow
unencumbered moneys from any one fund, except the Bond Redemption Fund for the use of another fund at any time, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1d.

e. **Resolution Authorizing the Participation by the District in the State Treasurer’s Interest-Free Loan Program** – A copy of this Resolution, to authorize participation by the district in the State Interest-Free Loan Program, in accordance with HB 03-1274, which provides the funds based on projected cash flows of revenues and expenditures anticipated in the 2004-2005 Adopted Budget, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1e.

f. **A Resolution Authorizing the District to Apply for and Receive a Low-Interest Loan** – A copy of this Resolution, to authorize an emergency loan in July 2004 from the State Treasurer, for the period prior to the state’s July 2004 closing of the tax and revenue anticipated notes which will fund the State Treasurer’s Interest-Free Loan Program, in accordance with HB 03-1274; this emergency loan will accrue interest at the same rate as the rate of interest paid by the State Treasurer on notes issued by the state and will be for the number of days outstanding prior to the state’s July 2004 closing on the Interest-Free Loan, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1f.

g. **Resolution Designating Eligible Public Depositories** – A copy of this Resolution, to update the list of eligible banks and savings institutions, as determined by the State Division of Banking and State Division of Financial Services, in which the school district and schools can deposit their funds, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1g.

h. **Motion to Approve Letter of Credit, Reimbursement Agreement, and Lease Purchase Agreement with J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, Tabled from June 3, 2004 Agenda** – A copy of this motion, to enter into a letter of credit with J.P. Morgan Chase Bank for the purposes of funding emergencies, to approve a reimbursement agreement with J.P. Morgan Chase Bank with respect to any moneys drawn by the district under the letter of credit, and to approve the form of a lease purchase agreement with the Denver School Facilities Leasing Corporation as one option for obtaining the necessary funds to satisfy any reimbursement obligation for moneys drawn under the letter of credit, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1h.

j. **Resolution Authorizing the Use of the Beginning-Fund Balance During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005** – A copy of this Resolution, to authorize the expenditure of the beginning-fund balance of specified funds, as anticipated in the recommended budget and in accordance with SB 03-149, to state the purpose for which the expenditure is made, and to state the district’s plan to ensure the use of beginning-fund balance will not lead to an ongoing deficit, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1j.
k. Resolution Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this Resolution, to adopt the recommended budget as presented and amended, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1k.

l. Resolution on Appropriation for Expenditures During the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005 – A copy of this Resolution, to appropriate the moneys to be expended in each fund, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1l.

m. Resolution on Identification and Filing of Adopted Budget and Appropriation Resolution and Copies Thereof – A copy of this Resolution, to direct that the Adopted Budget be labeled as such and signed by the Board President and to cause the Board Secretary to have this Supplemental Budget on file for public inspection, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1m.

n. Resolution on Class-Size Information and Use of the One-Percent Funding Increase Provided by Amendment 23 – A copy of this Resolution, to report the uses of the one percent funding increase approximating $4.3 million provided by Amendment 23, provide kindergarten through grade three class-size information, and explain why class-size reduction was not a priority if the one-percent increase was not used for this purpose, in accordance with HB 01-1232, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-C-1n.

D. Educational Services

2. Motion to Approve KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy Charter School Amendment to Contract – A copy of this motion, to approve the Third Amendment to the Charter School Contract for the KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy Charter School, allowing the lender to have a priority over the district’s claim to modular buildings purchased by KIPP upon termination of the Charter School Contract or if the school should cease operations, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-D-2.

3. Motion to Approve Denver School of Science and Technology Amendment to Contract – A copy of this motion, to approve the Third Amendment to the Charter School Contract for the Denver School of Science and Technology Charter School, which provides the terms and conditions for release of 2003 general obligation bond funds approved for the school, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-D-3.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

IV-C-1i Resolution 2891 Amending the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2004, and Ending June 30, 2005
Mr. Patterson reiterated that it has been a tough budget process, and that the budget was looked at from a number of different perspectives, in order to try to keep as many reductions from the classroom as possible. District revenue has been affected by a large pension obligation, unexpectedly low consumer price index from the state, and shifting enrollment. Although the district as a whole is not losing enrollment, the shift to charter school enrollment is growing.

Mr. Hoyt acknowledged that the Board had to make a lot of very tough decisions this year, but managed to pass a balanced budget and at the same time keep key district priorities fully funded. We have managed to preserve the reform movements that have been underway for three years.

Ms. Gantz Berman commented that individual schools had some very tough decisions to make with the reduction of three percent of their budget. Each school worked very hard to maintain class size and be as creative as possible so that the impact on student achievement would be as minimal as possible. The Board worked very hard to keep cuts away from schools, and because of that central administration took an approximately $9 million cut. She said that every morsel of fat has been cut out of the district, but we believe we can continue to provide a high quality education for students. She expressed her gratitude to teachers, principals, and members of Collaborative School Committees for working with us and for being as creative as possible, given the cuts that they had to make.

Ms. Peña said an ongoing challenge the district faces is that we live in a state that funds education at one of the lowest percentiles of all other states. As the state continues to make cuts to education, the district has to find ways to increase achievement with fewer dollars and that the generosity of Denver voters allowed us to continue to make academic achievement. She said that we need to be very active in working with our state legislators, and commended the Superintendent and staff for the gains in achievement.

Dr. Wartgow said that it has been a difficult process, but in the end we have lived up to the legal and moral obligation to present a balanced budget that prioritizes our goals of high expectations, improving the performance of all students, and closing the gap between better and poor performance students. He stated his belief that the funds are there to provide a quality educational program. He thanked the voters for supporting the mill levy, and said that even in light of difficult cuts, we were able to add significant value and provide new impetus in early childhood education, kindergarten, textbooks, art and music, secondary reform, and school revitalization. He said there is a lot of work ahead, but the mechanism is in place and the district is poised to move forward. He expressed his thanks to staff, employees, and especially the Board of Education for supporting the district goals and focusing on priorities.

Mr. Patterson moved that Resolution 2891 be approved. 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 04-17, IV-C-1i.

| IV-E-1 | Repeal and Re-Enactment of Policy – Policy JQ, Student Fees |
| IV-E-2 | Approval of District-Wide Fee Schedule |
Mary Ellen McEldowney, attorney for the district, and Patti Bippus, Principal of the Denver School of the Arts, explained the process and joint effort by principals in defining the attached policy on student fees.

In response to Rev. Guzman’s concern that students who cannot afford the fees will not be barred from participating in athletic events, John Leslie, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, said every school makes every effort to ensure that students can participate in athletic events. Schools have a variety of ways of doing that. It might involve fund raising or work students can do around the school facility, but all schools embrace the philosophy that they will not exclude a youngster from participating in athletics because of the inability to pay.

Mrs. Moss said she had several concerns about these fees and how to ensure that they are equitable across the district. She is concerned that elementary students will be charged a fee for instrumental music, and asked how the policy would ensure that students are charged a fee at one school, but not at another. Students have to have equal access to instruments and the ability to learn to play instruments.

Ms. McEldowney said she could not specifically answer that question, but that more research will be done and then reported back to the Board.

In response to Mrs. Moss concern about charging students to participate in competition such as speech and debate, and History Day programs, Ms. Bippus stated that some schools pay the entry fees. She said that she uses the school’s Pepsi money to pay for entrance fees, and for students who have difficulty funding activities, but that it varies from school to school whether students pay to enter competitions.

Mrs. Moss said she is very concerned that students who participate in these competitions, which she feels are critical parts of the curriculum, are expected to pay for every tournament. She said that it can get excessive. When she coached speech and debate teams, they sometimes went to as many as twenty tournaments a year.

Mrs. Moss emphasized that when schools send out the fee schedules, when they are posted, that it be made very clear to parents what fees are required and what fees are optional. It must be made very clear to parents what they have to pay for and what they can choose to pay.

Dr. Wartgow said that, with respect to the rental of music instruments, he feels that things are going to be much better because of the mill levy. The voter approved mill levy included $6.5 million to be invested in elementary art and music, and every penny of that $6.5 million is going to art and music. He said that there has been a perception, due to miscommunication, that this money was being diverted, but the bottom line is that every penny of the $6.5 million is going to art and music. Every elementary school has an art and music teacher, and more art and music than schools have had in the past. With these funds, the district will be able to provide more instruments to the schools and specifically address concerns that were raised by Mrs. Moss.
Ms. McEldowney said that she did not recall any fees for elementary school music instruments; and high school fees are at a level of a minimal damage deposit. She said one fee requested by high school principals, for graduation costs, had been rejected by the Superintendent and staff.

Dr. Wartgow explained that since we are focusing on closing the gap between better and poorer performing students and setting high expectations to address the low graduation rates, it would be very inconsistent to charge students to participate in graduation ceremonies. He said he does not want to be insensitive to schools about these costs, but we do have All-City Stadium that can be used as an alternative site for graduation.

Rev. Guzman agreed saying we need to celebrate the day students enter, and even more, the day they graduate.

In response to Mr. Patterson’s request for an explanation of textbook fees, Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Special Programs, said textbook fees will not be charged for required courses. High schools, however, may require students to pay a fee for direct costs for workbooks for elective courses.

Mr. Eckerling said that the mill levy textbook committee is aware that schools are struggling to make ends meet and each school has very different challenges, so they have looked to identify reasonable cost expectations for schools and needs to be provided in on an ongoing basis from other sources. The mill levy funds will be used to support curriculum revision and the purchase of new textbooks. Next year a new revised curriculum will be piloted in a number of high school core subject area courses; the following year textbooks will be purchased. Mill levy funds were used to add the district mathematic series to all elementary and middle schools.

Ms. Gantz Berman requested clarification on the advanced placement textbook fee. When a student voluntarily enrolls in an advanced placement class, the fee for the textbook is mandatory. She said that this places a further disadvantage on low income students of color enrolling in an Advanced Placement (AP) class.

Ms. Bippus said that in an AP course, the textbook becomes the property of the student. Part of the AP instruction is to teach students how to use textbooks as a tool, so they write in the book and then keep it forever. AP textbooks are quite expensive; students also have to pay for the testing fee and the mailing. The tradeoff is that students get college credits, if they do well, which is worth many more times than the cost of a book and testing fees. However, if an indigent student cannot afford the costs, schools find ways to get that covered.

Ms. Gantz Berman requested a response from Darlene LeDoux, Principal of North High School. Ms. LeDoux said that at North, students’ fees are waived as soon as they are made aware of need, either by the teacher of a student or the parent. Accommodations are made to pay for that student, without pressure, through the school’s Pepsi fund. Community service is available on Saturdays where students can earn money for fees. She feels it is important that the public and the Board understand the reality: schools do not have a way to raise funds and that it why the Pepsi money is so important. It is very difficult to fundraise, to ask the kids to go out and sell magazines, or cookies, or candy, when many are struggling to survive. It is a reality at North,
and at many other high schools. Pepsi funds are used to pay for kids who otherwise would not be able to participate.

Ms. Gantz Berman moved adoption of Policy JQ and the district-wide fee schedule. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-E-1 and IV-E-2.

IV-D-1 Motion to Approve Lease Agreement

Ms. Gantz Berman moved that the motion to approve a lease agreement be tabled until the next meeting of the Board. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this motion is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, IV-D-1.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

The following matters were presented for information:

A. Educational Services

1. Report on District’s Local Flex Plan – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of the this meeting as Appendix 04-17, VI-A-1.

B. Budget and Finance

1. Financial Services

   a. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the period July 1, 2003, to May 31, 2004 – A copy of this status report of year-to-date revenues, expenditures, and inter-fund transfers for each fund as compared to the current-year budget and as compared to year-to-date totals for the prior year, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, VI-B-1a.

C. Student Services

1. Expelled Students Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-17, VI-C-1.
VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education