I. Call to Order – 5:00 PM

A. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

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, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

C. Recognitions

Rev. Guzman recognized the students from DPS who placed at the Natural History Day competition in Maryland. She explained that this is a process that goes on for nearly a year and involves hundreds of thousands of student participants throughout the country. West High School won top honors this year by becoming the national first place winner in the Senior Group (High School) Performance. They produced a documentary called “Voices from Sand Creek”, which is very important to Colorado, the country and the history of the Native American people. The students involved were Chris Apodaca, Pablo Moreno, Christian Orozco, Andrew Ramirez, and Blanca Trejo, and their teacher is Barbara Allen. Also, at the Middle School level, Baker Middle School won a special award for their documentary in the area of History of Agriculture and Rural Life. Their performance was called “Cesar Chavez and La Causa”. Another group won for a project on the Ludlow Mine Massacre. A DPS teacher from the Denver School of Arts, Ed Glassman, won the Richard T. Farrel Teacher of Merit Award.

Mrs. Edwards thanked Becky Mugley who coordinates all of the District’s competition efforts, including organizing the competitions themselves and getting the kids to and from Maryland. She also brought greetings from the North High School Class of 1938, who celebrated their 65th reunion today at Prospect Park.

Ms. Gantz Berman announced that Newsweek magazine did a listing earlier this week of the most outstanding public high schools in the country; they chose 700 from among approximately 14,000 high schools, based on the number of AP and accelerated courses offered that students take, as well as the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. We are very proud that George Washington High and East High were both on that list. Furthermore, George Washington High was listed as the highest-ranked high school in the state of Colorado.
II. **Board Member Reports**

There were none.

III. **Superintendent’s Reports**

There were none at this time.

IV. **Consent Agenda**

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the Consent Agenda:

A. Budget and Finance

1. Financial Services

   a. Resolution- Authorizing the Participation by the District of the State Treasurer’s Interest Free Loan Program for Colorado School Districts and Borrowing Under Such Program in an Aggregate Principal Amount up to $196,189,032; Establishing Certain Terms of the Loans to the District pursuant to such Program; Making Provisions for the Payment and Security of Such Loans; Authorizing the Execution, Delivery and Acceptance of Certain Agreements and Documents in Connection Therewith; and Providing the Effective Date of this Resolution (IV-A-1a)- In accordance with HB 03-1274, to authorize participation by the District in the State Interest Free Loan Program which provides the funds based on projected cash flows of revenues and expenditures anticipated in the 2003-2004 Adopted Budget.

   b. A Resolution Authorizing the District to Apply for and Receive a Low-Interest Loan From The Colorado General Fund in an Aggregate Principal Amount up to $51,489,424 and Providing for the Repayment of Such Loan from Proceeds of the State Treasurer’s Interest-Free Loan Program when Such Funds Become Available; Establishing Certain Terms of the Low-Interest Loan; Authorizing All Necessary Actions to be Taken in Connection with the Low-Interest Loan; and Providing the Effective Date of This Resolution (IV-A-1b)-In accordance with HB 03-1274, to authorize an emergency loan in July 2003 from the State Treasurer for the period prior to the State’s July 2003 closing of the tax and revenue anticipated notes which will fund the State Treasurer’s Interest Free Loan Program. This emergency loan will accrue interest at the same rate as the rate of interest paid by the State Treasurer on notes issues by the State and will be for the number of days outstanding prior to the State’s July 2003 closing on the Interest Free Loan.

B. Board of Education
1. Cesar Chavez Non-Working Holiday (IV-B-1) - This is a motion to amend the 2004-2005 district calendar to provide that the district will honor Cesar Chavez with a non-working holiday with conditions.

C. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Personnel Transaction Report (IV-C-1a) – This report contains information regarding employee activity such as appointments, resignations and transfers.

Agenda item IV-B-1 was held for discussion. Motion was made and seconded that the Consent Agenda be approved as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

**Held Item: Cesar Chavez Non-Working Holiday (IV-B-1)**

Ms. Gantz Berman invited Mr. Mejia to speak to the item. He withdrew the motion that was tabled from the June 19, 2003 meeting and instead offered the following substitute motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Patterson. A copy of the substituted motion is attached to these minutes and marked Appendix 03-13 IV.B.1.

Mr. Mejia said this was a motion that came up last week and one that he felt it was time for this District to examine a little more closely. He explained why he believes it is important to honor Cesar Chavez and read to those present the following:

“In 1962 Cesar Chavez, a migrant farm worker, established the first successful Farm Workers’ Union in United States history, what became known as the United Farm Workers of America. For decades he worked to win farm workers fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane living conditions and numerous other basic protections. Chavez negotiated the first union contracts for farm workers in the mid and late 1960’s, using strikes and boycotts to achieve his goals. His efforts resulted in the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which remains the only law in the U.S. that protects the right of farm workers to organize into unions. Born on a farm in Yuma, Arizona on March 31st 1927, Chavez was a strong believer in the principals of non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Chavez also went on hunger fasts to fight unjust conditions. In 1988 the 61-year-old Chavez used a 36-day “Fast for Life” to protest the harmful effects of pesticides on farm workers and children.

United States Senator and Attorney General Robert Kennedy described Chavez as one of the historic figures of our time. Chavez, who inspired millions of Americans to seek social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised was recently recognized by the U.S. Postal Service with a commemorative stamp. An official state holiday in his name is celebrated in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, as well as dozens of cities and counties throughout the nation, including the city and county of Denver. Chavez’ motto was “Si se puede”, or “It can be done”, which encapsulated his approach to life. In 1994 he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. I believe it’s only fitting and proper that this District recognize Cesar Chavez Day in Denver.”

Rev. Guzman offered her support for this motion because it will provide the remembrance of a great leader, much like we provide for the remembrance of other great leaders, Dr. King and many others, and believes that it is fitting for students, who are to be future teachers and leaders themselves, to
learn about this leader, as well as about courage, disillusionments, pain and struggle, and that this kind of learning should be just as important as learning about sciences and arts, offering enlightenment to the hearts and minds and souls of our students.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

A. Resignation of James Mejia

Member Mejia had announced at a previous Board meeting that he was resigning effective June 26, 2003. Kevin Patterson initiated the farewell to board member James Mejia by expressing the board’s appreciation for the many things he has done with the board and for the children of the District, as well as for his commitment both to education and the people of Denver. Mr. Woodward continued with the farewell by telling of how impressed he was by Mr. Mejia for his dedication and hard work on the board for the kids of the District, as well as for his being a great role model for them, and wished him well with his further education studies. Ms. Moss also spoke about how impressed she was by Mr. Mejia’s willingness to listen attentively and by his ability to contribute great thoughts on important issues. Rev. Guzman recognized Mr. Mejia’s determination to serve the board and create better opportunities for kids, and she thanked him for his personal support of her as a board member. Ms. Edwards thanked Mr. Mejia for his commitment to students and said that because of that commitment, and of being raised in a family of educators, she was certain that he would continue be part of changing the world through education, one district at a time or one child at a time. Supt. Wartgow thanked Mr. Mejia for his many contributions while serving on the board, the most recent being his leadership in the innovative partnership with the city and the school district in Green Valley Ranch, which is a legacy that will change business in DPS forever. Ms. Gantz Berman commented that Mr. Mejia had been an integral part of the Board and how well they have worked well together due to mutual respect. She wished him a great year at Princeton and looked forward to him returning to Denver. She presented him with tokens of appreciation for truly excellent service to the students of DPS and the citizens of Denver.

Mr. Mejia commented that this board functions on a very high level, with good policy discussions which focus on the real important issues for this District. He pointed out that history had been made in that for the first time in the history of DPS, two Latinos served on the board, and it is also the first time that three people of color served on this board. He said this is an important change for this District because there is an element of representation that needs to happen at this level, and the student body and the parents need to have a voice. He also thanked all of the many different people in the DPS who touch the lives of children in so many ways. He personally thanked Mrs. Farkwire at Park Hill Elementary, Sharon Shannon and Rich Carlson at Gove Jr. High, the AP teachers at East – Nelson, Miller, Katz, and teachers that went the extra mile like Boatrite and Alpenheim and Dave Rivera. He said that, although he believes we have arguably the best Board of Education, superintendent and staff in this region of the U.S., there are five areas of unfinished business, which he hopes the Board will continue to tackle:
1. Ensuring the continuation of targeted educational services to the American Indian community, especially language instruction
2. Broadening the availability of arts education to all students in the District
3. Continuing to develop cogent policies to ensure the safety and rights of gay, lesbian and trans-gendered individuals
4. Re-aligning the compensation structure of DPS through “pay for performance”
5. Working with other governmental jurisdictions to maximize taxpayer resources.

In conclusion, Mr. Mejia had words of praise for each of the Board members and thanked his wife Stephanie for her support.

I. Appointment and Swearing-in of New Board Member (VI-A-1)

Rev. Guzman read the motion: “I move that the Board of Education appoint Theresa K. Pena to fill the at-large vacancy created by James Mejia’s resignation for the remainder of the term which expires November 2003.” It was seconded by Mr. Patterson. A roll-call vote was taken, and Ms. Pena was unanimously appointed as a new Board Member. Ms Gantz Berman introduced Judge Patterson, the father of Kevin Patterson, who proceeded with the swearing-in of Ms. Pena, by the reading and repeating of the Oath of Office for School District No. 1.

Ms. Gantz Berman noted that Ms. Pena served on the Citizens’ Bond Committee for the past 6 months, and invited Ms. Pena to speak. Ms. Pena said she was very honored by the appointment, and was excited by the opportunity to serve on the Board. Ms. Gantz Berman welcomed Ms. Pena as an official Board Member.

B. Mr. Patterson’s disclosure regarding a Recommended Teacher Dismissal

In reference to last week’s (June 19, 2003) recommendation to the Board by the Superintendent that a teacher be dismissed, Mr. Patterson wanted to be sure that the record reflected that he has a possible conflict with that particular case because his wife is the social worker at East High School. He announced that he would not be taking part in any of the discussions or actions that take place concerning that dismissal.

C. Reassignment of Dr. Darlene LeDoux - Superintendent Report

Dr. Wartgow announced a change in assignment of Dr. Darlene LeDoux, Assistant Superintendent, Community Partnership to Assistant Superintendent on Special Assignment as Principal, North High School. He said she has the full support and encouragement from the entire cabinet, staff, superintendent and Board of Education. Dr. LeDoux said that she is thrilled with the opportunity to be the new leader of North High School. She spoke of being excited to work with students again and looks forward to working toward North becoming the very best high school in Denver Public Schools, and introduced the new motto, “True North”.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the Board meeting.