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 5:08 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, and Mr. Lester Woodward. Ms. Theresa Peña was absent and excused.

II. **Board Members Reports**

   A. **Update on Commission on School Nutrition and Physical Activity**

   Ms. Gantz Berman said that the first meeting of the Commission on School Nutrition and Physical Activity was held in March; Dr. Reggie Washington, a pediatric cardiologist, and she are Co-Chairs. The Commission has twenty members, have held five meetings and will have a retreat November 12 and 13, and plan on presenting their recommendations to the Board in December. The Commission has reviewed everything pertaining to school nutrition—the district’s food service program, the Pepsi contract, what is sold in district vending machines, and the district’s meal program. The Commission has also reviewed physical education programs—how many schools have physical education teachers, standardization, and what is provided across the district.

   She said that over the next three months the Commission is planning to hold a public hearing in September or October to give the community an opportunity to provide input into the process. The public hearing will be co-hosted by Mayor Hickenlooper and the Superintendent. They will ask for input from teachers and students, and ask the Student Board of Education to help design survey questions for the web so students will have an opportunity to express their opinions on closed and open campuses. We will ask students on open campuses why they leave the campus to eat, where they go, what they buy, what they buy in school, what they buy in vending machines, and what they eat in their cafeterias. Information on the Commission can be accessed through the district’s web page, [www.dpsk12.org](http://www.dpsk12.org).
B. Update on Secondary Reform Commission

Rev. Guzman said that the Commission on Secondary School Reform started meeting in May, and that members of the Commission are business and community members, as well as educators. Commission members are concerned about student academic performance, the dropout rate, and the unacceptable graduation rate of Latino and African-American students.

The Commission has been studying research, and looking at myth and reality. In October, the Commission plans to bring major reform groups to Denver to speak, not only to the Commission but to the public on what has been done across the country and programs that have been successful. Commission meetings will be held in district high schools. The September meeting will be at North High School. The district’s website has a list of meeting dates and locations. A retreat for Commission members will be held in November and the Commission plans to present their recommendations to the Board at the end of January.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

A. Introduction of New Principals

Dr. Wartgow said that a press conference was held today at home plate at Coors Field to promote the opening day of school, August 16. He said it was a great event in which members of the Board, City Council, the Mayor’s Office, and the Colorado Rockies participated to bring the same level of awareness for the opening day of school as for the opening day of baseball. Symbolically, there were 55,000 empty seats at Coors Field this morning. The district’s 72,000 plus students would fill Coors Field one and a-half times. We do not want one empty seat on August 16. It is extremely important to come to school on the first day. Every day that a student misses school is a lost learning opportunity. The campaign to call attention to the first day of school will include yard signs, public service advertisements on Spanish radio stations, and bookmarks from the library. Mayor Hickenlooper has recorded a message reminding students of the first day of school, and all parents will receive the Mayor’s recording at home. Attention will also be brought to the fact that because of an action that this Board took last spring in collaboration with the Regional Transportation District (RTD), high school students will be coming to school on RTD buses rather than yellow buses.

Dr. Wartgow introduced Nanette Baumbusch, a new staff member, who is part of the Broad Foundation’s residency program, who will be with the district for the next two years. He said that over the summer other things had changed: Joe Sandoval is now the Southwest Area Superintendent; Melanie Haas is now the Northwest Area Superintendent; Dave Debus is Principal at Lake Middle School; Ricardo Concha is Principal at Grant Middle School; Pat Salazar, former Principal at Bryant-Webster Elementary School, is now Assistant Northwest Area Superintendent; Irene Jordan retired from the district effective July 1 but will return
on a special 110-day assignment to head up the district’s English Language Acquisition Program; Beth Biggs is now the Southeast Area Superintendent.

John Leslie introduced Darrell Keaton the new Principal of the Contemporary Learning Academy.

Melanie Haas introduced the following new principals from the Northwest Area: Mary Ann Baca, Brown Elementary School; Erlinda Archuleta, Bryant-Webster Elementary School; Joanna Martinez, Colfax Elementary School; Tom Elliott, Cowell Elementary School; Julia Linkous, Del Pueblo Elementary School; Erica Ramlow, Eagleton Elementary School; and Dave Debus, Lake Middle School.

She also introduced the following new principals from the Northeast Area: Teresa Ochoa, Archuleta Elementary School; Helen Trujillo-Wulfers, Ford Elementary School; Cathy Gonzales, Gilpin Elementary School; Ruth Frazier, Greenwood Elementary School; Lolita Rockette, Oakland Elementary School; Patricia Lea, Westerly Creek Elementary School; Michael Gaither, Martin Luther King Middle School; and Ethan Dalton, Manual Millennium Quest High School.

Joe Sandoval introduced the following new principals from the Southwest Area: Joan Rademacher, Gust Elementary School; Rich Sinclair, Kaiser Elementary School; Andrea Fineberg, Knapp Elementary School; Wendy Pierce, Sabin Elementary School; Annie Dalton, Schmitt Elementary School; Scott Mendelsberg, Abraham Lincoln High School; and Jeannie Peppel, John F. Kennedy High School.

He also introduced the following new principals from the Southeast Area: Leonard Fox, Knight Fundamental Academy; Carolyn Riedlin, Lowry Elementary School; Shannon Hagerman, Montclair Elementary School; Cyndi Burdick, Steele Elementary School; and Keith Mills, Place Middle School. Not all new principals could be present at the Board meeting.

B. CSAP Update

Dr. Wartgow said that the CSAP scores for tests taken last March were released this week, and that he would characterize the district’s overall situation as a “mixed bag.” There were sustained gains in elementary reading programs and mathematic scores, but others were flat. He said he is pleased with some strong gains at Ford Elementary School and at Manual Arts and Cultural Studies High School, both of which have been ranked unsatisfactory. Reiterating Rev. Guzman’s comments on secondary education, results on the secondary level are of deep concern. There are many initiatives underway and we are looking forward to the recommendations of the citizen’s committee to determine a course of action. He said that it is very hard to characterize the CSAP results overall, although he feels that the district is moving in the right direction.
He said that Board members can expect to see regular monthly reports analyzing and cross-analyzing data. Staff is looking at every school, every test, every demographic group, every level, analyzing what the scores mean, in order to know what to reinforce, what to replicate and what to look at for redesign, reconstruction, and new approach.

Dr. Wartgow said that in the fall of 2001, when the first school accountability reports were issued by the state, twenty-eight schools were categorized as unsatisfactory. Twenty-one of those schools were in Denver. It was understood by the education community that if a school did not improve its status from unsatisfactory to low within three years, it would then fall into the process to be converted to a charter school. Of those twenty-one Denver schools, only Cole Middle School remains unsatisfactory.

We made a concentrated effort to help Cole. Over 150 volunteers including the Mayor, members of the Board, administrative staff, the community, Cole parents and teachers rallied around the school. It was a remarkable showing of commitment, time, and concern, but we ran out of time. In the final analysis, Cole Middle School did improve, but it did not improve enough to get off the unsatisfactory list. What has now gone into effect is the requirement of the state statute and rules and regulations of the Colorado Department of Education to convert Cole Middle School to a charter school, and we are fully cooperating with the process.

Dr. Wartgow said that the process, established in state statute, says that a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued, requesting applications from any group, school, community organization, or corporation that is interested in operating Cole beginning with the 2005-2006 school year. Until that time, Cole Middle School will still be a Denver Public School. Starting August 16, 2004, Cole will have the same status that it had last year and we are not abandoning it. Beginning with the first day of school, everyone who volunteered at Cole last year, including the Mayor, will be at Cole helping, tutoring, and providing resources to help Cole students improve.

The conversion timeline process, as outlined by state statute, is that RFP applications will be submitted to a special review commission by August 31, 2004. The special review committee will be appointed. The Commissioner of Education, or his designee, will serve as a non-voting member. Commissioner Maloney has designated Roscoe Davidson, from the Colorado Department of Education’s staff, to be the non-voting Chairman of this committee. Other members will include: a professional employee from Cole, who will be elected by the other licensed professional employees; two current members of Cole’s advisory committee, elected by other members of the advisory committee; the Governor will appoint a middle school principal and teacher from a public school that has been rated excellent. The Governor will also appoint a business representative residing in the
northeast neighborhood. Kevin Patterson, the Board of Education member who represents Cole, will also serve as a member of this review committee.

The review committee will be appointed and established by August 31. By October 15, the applications will be received and reviewed by the review committee and the State Board of Education. After the selection is made by the State Board of Education, the Denver Board of Education has a period of time to negotiate with that chartering authority on the transition. By July 15, all planning will be done and by the opening of school in the fall of 2006, Cole Middle School will operate under a new chartering authority.

Dr. Wartgow said that the statute provides that the district’s Board of Education can submit an application, but it is too early in the process to know if there is an interest in applying. We will continue to analyze the data and see what other applications come in. He said that the principal, teachers, and staff at Cole did a remarkable job, and we look forward to having them there during this transition year, continuing to provide leadership and to move Cole students forward.

Kevin Patterson said that since this is a fast moving process, we will make every effort to keep everyone informed as we move forward. He said that we have not given up on these students, this school, or this community, they are still Denver students. We are not abandoning them, we are going to continue to support them as we move forward.

Board Member Reports (Continued)

Michelle Moss said that she wanted to publicly thank the Broad Foundation and the Center for Reform of School Systems for the opportunity they provided for Theresa Peña and Bruce Hoyt to participate in The Broad Institute for School Boards. They invited Kevin Patterson and her to Park City, Utah, and participate in a graduate study of urban school reform. Kevin was unable to attend this year, but she attended and it was an incredible experience. We studied cases from all over the country, looked at reform models across the country, and really talked about how to implement those in our school districts.

She reported that on the second weekend in July, about 30 people, a great group of volunteers, which included Ed Freeman, Mark Stevens, Beth Biggs, City Councilwoman Kathleen McKenzie, teachers, and community, came together to paint classrooms at Grant Middle School; seven classrooms were painted. She thanked Mike Langley for providing staff and budget from a self-help project for the schools. She said they had a wonderful time working together to make Grant a cleaner, happier place for the students when they come back. She expressed her appreciation to all the people who gave up their Saturday to make a difference at Grant.
Rev. Guzman said that the district and the City of Denver have been greatly concerned about conflict in parts of the city between African-American and Latino students; one of the areas of concern has been Montbello High School. The district has been working with the City of Denver, the Mayor’s Office, and the Rose Community Foundation. The Mayor’s Office received word yesterday that the Rose Community Foundation is going to fund a grant to take thirty African-American and Latino students, chosen by the principal and staff of Montbello High School, to attend a two-day retreat on the program “Bridges of Understanding” on August 20, 2004, at Balarat. Facilitators of the program will be versed in cultural history, as well as offering opportunities for these kids to talk to each other. Presentations will also be held with teachers and staff when school begins and a longer period of orientation is planned later in the fall. She said that Kevin Patterson, Dr. Wartgow, the Mayor, and City Councilman Michael Hancock have all been involved, and she expressed her appreciation to the Rose Community Foundation for their help.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacqul Lucero read the agenda items by number and sequence in accordance with Consent Agenda procedures. Members of the Board of Education did not request that any items be held for discussion. Rev. Guaman moved adoption of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Gantz Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of June 17, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-A-1.

2. Minutes of June 24, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-A-2.

3. Finance and Audit Committee

   a. Motion to Approve Purchase of Diesel Fuel from Gray Oil, Inc., per Regional Transportation District Bid #23DM006 – A copy of this report, the solicitation which contains language allowing members of the Cooperative Educational Purchasing Council, of which Denver Public Schools is a member, the opportunity to piggyback on the award, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-A-3a.

   b. Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD943 to Avant Datacomm Solutions and National Network Services (tabled from June 17, 2004 – A copy of this report, the solicitation requested by the Department of Technology Services to solicit competitively-priced offers from qualified vendors for
structured cabling at twenty-one schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-A-3b.

c. Motion to Approve Award of Request for Proposal #BD950 to Avant Datacomm Solutions – A copy of this report, the solicitation requested by the Department of Technology Services to solicit competitively-priced offers from qualified vendors for structured cabling at seven schools, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-A-3c.

d. Motion to Approve Bid #BD993 Award of Invitation to Ingram Library Services A copy of this report, the solicitation requested by Educational Resource Services to solicit competitively-priced offers for literacy materials, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-A-3d.

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 04-19, IV-B-1a.

b. Motion to Approve the Agreement between the Association of Building, Grounds, and Warehouse Service Personnel and Denver Public Schools – A copy of this agreement is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-B-1b.

C. Educational Services

1. Motion to Approve Exclusive Chartering Authority – A copy of this resolution, expressing the intent of the Board of Education to retain exclusive authority to authorize charter schools in the City and County of Denver, pursuant to Section 22-30.5-504 (CRS), is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-C-1.

2. Motion to Approve Contract with the City of Denver for Denver’s Great Kids Head Start – A copy of this contract, with the City of Denver’s Great Kids Head Start Program to receive $622,581.00 which will serve 255 students in fifteen Head Start classrooms in eleven elementary schools, for the period of July 1, 2004, to December 31, 2004 (this contract continues services at the 2003-2004 school-year level), is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, IV-C-2.

V. Old Business

There was none.
VI. New Business

There was none

The Board recessed at approximately 6:08 p.m. for dinner and further Work Session. The Board reconvened at approximately 7:10 p.m.

VII. Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Dr. Wartgow explained that earlier today officials from the city, City Council, Denver Police Department, RTD, and Board of Education members were at Coors Field to announce at a press conference that Opening Day for Denver Public Schools (DPS) traditional schools is August 16, 2004. Since everybody knows the opening day of baseball, the symbolism of being at Coors Field, in an empty stadium with 55,000 empty seats, was to reinforce our motto of “No empty seats at DPS on Opening Day.”

Generally, students do not show up for the first day of school. Last year 6,000 students enrolled after the first six weeks of school because people were confused about opening day. Therefore, there will be a concerted effort to let everyone know the opening day for the Denver Public Schools. The Mayor has pre-recorded a message that all DPS parents will receive, and there will be yard signs and announcements on Spanish radio stations.

We will also remind everyone that this year, high school students will not be transported by yellow buses but rather on RTD buses. Also, the police department will have police officers in every school on the first day of school talking about safety and working with parents

Dual-Language Program at Bryant-Webster Elementary School – Erlinda Archuleta, Principal of Bryant-Webster Elementary School; and the following parents spoke in favor of the program: Hatton Littman; Angelica Maldonado; Isabel Cordova, and Tony Curcio. A copy of Ms. Littman’s remarks are appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, VII-1.

Rev. Guzman thanked everyone from Bryant-Webster for their attendance and said that she is proud to represent such a rich district. She said that Bryant-Webster continues to show improvement; they have a history of success, of successful teachers who want to teach there, and of successful leadership. She said that Bryant-Webster is one of the only schools in the district that can fill their auditorium with parents, that can fill this building with parents who care, and that bring parents who speak both English and Spanish together.

She said that every neighborhood deserves a great school. Dual-language works for Latino children and as long as more than 50 percent of Latino students are failing in this district, we should do everything we can to replicate programs that are successful.

William Johnson, a member of the northwest Denver school community that is working to revitalize northwest schools, spoke in favor of the program.
Rich Rosivach, former Denver Public Schools teacher, spoke regarding systemic problems in curriculum design and implementation. A copy of his remarks are attached to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-19, VII-2.

Ms. Berman thanked Mr. Rosivach for coming and said that she was very sad that he is leaving the district; he will be a loss. She said he is an excellent teacher and she appreciated that he had shared his thoughts. She wished him the best of luck.

Mr. Hoyt echoed the comments made by Ms. Gantz Berman. He said that Thomas Jefferson High School will be the poorer for Mr. Rosivach’s absence. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Rosivach for his wisdom and leadership, and for his well-reasoned and thoughtful comments to the Board.

Becky Wissink, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA), spoke about Cole Middle School. She said she was pleased to hear, at the Board’s first meeting, of the district’s commitment to Cole while going through this transition. DCTA has an interest in having the 2004-2005 school year be successful and productive for the teachers, staff, administration, community, and students of Cole Middle School. She said that she believes that this law is an overly simplistic and flawed system for rating schools. She thanked Cole’s teachers, staff, and administration for their hard work and dedication to the Cole community. She said that the Superintendent had said that they would be analyzing the data at the school and looking into the test scores. She said there is more to a school than just test scores and suggested other areas that should be looked at as multiple indicators of a school’s success. She said that as President of DCTA and a Cole neighborhood resident, she will be watching that this year will continue to be, not just one of transition, but a year of teaching and learning at Cole Middle School.

Mr. Berman thanked Ms. Wissink for sharing her thoughts about Cole. She reiterated that the Superintendent had discussed Cole Middle School and the process at the Board’s earlier meeting. She said she wanted to make it clear that this situation is not something that the district or the Board of Education is doing. It is part of state legislation based on school accountability reports and CSAP scores that was passed several years ago.

Key dates in the process include a Request for Proposals (RFP) going out August 15 to a wide array of possible providers to apply to take over Cole as a charter. A committee will be established on August 31; it is stipulated in the statutes who will be on that committee. Proposals will be due September 15 and a decision by the State Board of Education will be made by October 15. This committee will make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Board of Education will inform the district on October 15 whom they recommend to take over the charter. The Superintendent said earlier that we are very proud of the principal, teachers, and administrative staff at Cole. We believe that the reforms put in place were the right reforms, but we ran out of time. We are not abandoning Cole this year. We will be working just as hard with the students, hoping to continue to see progress.
Mr. Woodward reaffirmed that Dr. Wartgow made it clear earlier that Cole Middle School, at this time and for the rest of the school year, is a Denver Public School. We will do everything we can, including continuing the kind of extra efforts made last year. We are dedicated to doing the best possible job for Cole students.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education