MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (03-15) OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER AND STATE OF COLORADO
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, 900 GRANT STREET
5:00 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2003

I.  Call to Order - 5:00 p.m.

A.  Pledge of Allegiance

B.  Roll Call

President Elaine Gantz Berman called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: Ms. Elaine Gantz Berman, Mrs. Susan G. Edwards, Rev. Lucia Guzman, Mrs. Michelle Moss, Mr. Kevin Patterson, Ms. Theresa Peña, and Mr. Lester Woodward.

C.  Recognitions

Ms. Gantz Berman welcomed Theresa Peña to her first official Board meeting. Ms. Peña was appointed to replace James Mejía on the Board for the remainder of his term, which ends November 2003.

II.  Board Member Reports

Mr. Patterson commented on the district yard signs that advertise the start of school. He said he likes to challenge parents during those first two weeks of school to visit their child’s classroom at least once. It gives them a chance to meet the teacher and build that partnership between teacher, student, and parent that really makes education happen in public schools.

III.  Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Jerry Wartgow reported on the ongoing Back-to-School campaign. He said that he and Mayor Hickenlooper had a press conference this morning at West High School asking everyone to help get the word out that August 18th is the first day of school. He challenged students to get excited about school, but said parents should generate excitement as well. Dr. Wartgow said the correlation between attendance and achievement is overwhelming, so he wants all students there from day one. He said the yard signs Mr. Patterson referred to earlier would be showing up around town.

Dr. Wartgow said that he hopes the momentum the district experienced last year will continue, and that we are proud of the fact that Governor Owens awarded the district the distinction of most improved school district in Colorado for 2002. He said that the third grade reading scores are very impressive, and recent CSAP scores show that we are
making steady progress. Dr. Wartgow asked Chief Academic Officer Sally Mentor Hay to briefly summarize CSAP results.

Ms. Mentor Hay introduced the district’s new contractor, who is serving as Director of Assessment, Joy McLarty, who has been made available by the Austin Independent School District. Dr. Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent of Research, Planning, and Special Programs, joined Ms. Mentor Hay and said that staff feels very good about the CSAP scores, particularly in reading, where progress is shown across the district in virtually every grade. He said the gist of results through grade seven is that good progress is being made in reading and writing. Ms. Mentor Hay said that there would be an in-depth analysis of all CSAP test results. She said what have been reported are district averages, so the real story of how individual students in schools are doing gets lost and we need to understand results of last year’s tests so we know what to do this year.

As for mathematics, Ms. Mentor Hay said that the district barely got started with a small-scale initiative last year, so not much is shown in the way of results. She said that is to be expected, though no one is happy about it; therefore, the district will provide more emphasis and support in mathematics this year.

Ms. Gantz Berman asked if DPS has the ability to track third to fifth grade kids to see what progress a student is making, and Rev. Guzman asked if English Language Acquisition (ELA) students can be tracked as well. Ms. Mentor Hay responded that DPS would be doing that in both cases.

In response to Mr. Patterson’s question about the mathematics curriculum in relationship to CSAP test questions, Ms. Mentor Hay said that staff is working on tightening the alignment of course curriculum and what is asked on the CSAP and how it matches state standards.

IV. **Consent Agenda**

Assistant Secretary Jacquie Lucero read the consent 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-B-1a Resolution – Capital Construction Costs for Challenges, Choices, and Images Charter School
- IV-B-1b Resolution – Capital Construction Costs for P.S. 1 Charter School
- IV-B-1c Naming of the First School at Stapleton

The following items were included under the consent agenda:
A. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Personnel Transaction Report - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Transaction Report. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-15, IV-A-1a.

   b. Administrative Contracts - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve new contract language for licensed and classified administrators and managers. A copy of this report is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-15, IV-A-1b.

2. Facility Management

   a. Final Settlements - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Final Settlements for Contracted Services as described on the attached schedule. A copy of this recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-15, IV-A-2a.

   b. Architect Selection - It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the firm of Reed & Associates as the architect for the Columbine Elementary School Two-Classroom Renovation Project. A copy of this resolution is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-15, IV-A-2b.

C. Student Services

1. Grant Proposals

   a. IDEA Part B – It was recommended that the actions of the Superintendent and appropriate officers of the district be approved as they execute and deliver all documents necessary to apply for funding to the Colorado Department of Education to administer a grant entitled Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Part B submitted by the Department of Student Services, Special Education, in the amount of $12,331,536. A copy of this recommendation is appended to the official minutes of this meeting as Appendix 03-15, IV-C-1a.

   b. IDEA Preschool – It was recommended that the actions of the Superintendent and appropriate officers of the district be approved as they execute and deliver all documents necessary to apply for funding to the Colorado Department of Education to administer a grant entitled Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Preschool Services submitted by the Department of Student Services, Special Education, in the amount of $399,665. A copy of
A motion was made and seconded that the consent agenda, as modified, be approved. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**IV-B-1a Resolution 2824 – Capital Construction Costs for Challenges, Choices, and Images Charter School**

Mr. Woodward read Resolution 2824 in its entirety and moved the adoption of that Resolution. The motion was seconded.

In response to Mr. Woodward’s request that the statutory process the Board is trying to comply with be explained, Mary Ellen McEldowney, general counsel, said that in 2002 the legislature adopted a law that provides for charter schools capital construction needs to be included any time a school district considers submitting a ballot question that would involve bonded indebtedness to build capital.

She said that the process encourages the Board to invite the charter schools to participate, which DPS did, and four schools responded with plans. Two of them, Challenges, Choices, and Images (CCI) and P.S.1, have been found deficient on grounds of need and on grounds of the viability of their particular proposal to address their stated needs, as described in the two resolutions before the Board. She said that should the Board adopt these resolutions, these two schools still have the opportunity to come back and ask the Board to put them into a special mill levy election to address their capital needs. If the Board adopts these resolutions, as recommended by staff, it will give notice to the charter schools so they can consider their options under the statute.

A roll call vote was recorded, and the resolution passed unanimously.

**IV-B-1b Resolution 2825 – Capital Construction Costs for P.S. 1 Charter School**

Mr. Woodward read Resolution 2825 in its entirety and moved adoption of that Resolution. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**IV-B-1c Naming of the First School at Stapleton**

It was moved and seconded that the first new school at Stapleton, located at 8800 East 28th Street, be formally named Westerly Creek Elementary School.
Mr. Patterson, in describing the process used to recommend the name, said that the group appointed by the Superintendent, according to district policy, discussed the geographic relevance of Westerly Creek which runs close to the property and they felt would give the school a sense of place. He said that the committee did go through a long list of suggested names and they came up with a couple of interesting scenarios, one of them being a campus name, but they decided to forward three names, with Westerly Creek Elementary School being their first choice.

A roll call vote was recorded, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

There was none.

RECESS

Ms. Gantz Berman recessed the meeting and explained that the Board would reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for the Public Hearing segment of the meeting.

RECONVENE

VII. Public Comment (First Thursday of Each Month)

Cathy Romaniello, Donna Wittrock, Richard Gonzales, and Myriam DeLeon: Integrated Nutrition Education Program - Ms. Romaniello said she directs the Integrated Nutrition Education Program at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in the Department of Pediatrics. She introduced Julie Atwood, their staff person; Donna Wittrock, DPS Food and Nutrition Services Executive Director; Richard Gonzales, Principal, Knapp Elementary School; and Myriam DeLeon, school nurse at Valdez Elementary School. She said they came to talk about the Nutrition Program being offered in 23 elementary schools and 14 after-school sites, reaching about 8,500 children this school year.

Ms. Romaniello explained that the Nutrition Program is a multi-year health program offered from kindergarten through fifth grade that is available in low-income schools. Funding comes from USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program, so schools that have at least 50 percent free and reduced school lunch rates are eligible for the program. The goal of the program is to instill life-long healthy eating behaviors in childhood to prevent obesity, diabetes, cancer, and heart disease in adulthood.
Donna Wittrock said that they know it is difficult to get kids even to try different fruits and vegetables and that as many as 10 offerings of a food may be needed before a child will feel comfortable with it. Programs such as this help students receive optimal nutrition so they are ready to learn, and that this is an excellent example of a partnership that has resulted in very positive benefits for our students.

Richard Gonzales assured the Board that this is a quality program that is easy to implement, the way materials are laid out, being very hands-on and active keeps children interested, and they are developing habits for a lifetime. He said that the program has his faculty’s unanimous support, and that it is about healthy choices.

Myriam DeLeon said that she is a pediatric nurse and that nurses throughout the country are concerned with the increase of obesity in children. It is programs like this that are bringing healthy choices not only to the students but to their parents as well, and that as a full-time nurse at Valdez, she speaks daily with parents about nutrition.

Mrs. Edwards asked if this is a program that will be ongoing, expanding; and what is the future of the program.

Ms. Romaniello responded that funding is from the USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program, and that even though they must go through an annual renewal process, the money is uncapped and available in whatever quantity they want. The only catch is that they have to come up with a one-to-one match, so that is their challenge. She said she hopes to continue to expand.

Rev. Gail Erisman Valeta: No Child Left Behind Act - Rev. Valeta said she was speaking as a parent of two DPS children and on behalf of Mennonite Urban Ministries, which is made up of many concerned families. Their concern, she said, was with the No Child Left Behind Act, but more specifically with the release of student information to military recruiting officers. She said the Act itself is over 1,000 pages long and a challenge to anyone trying to glean information. She said they are asking DPS to find a way to make it easier for parents and students to comply with the Act, and to learn the proper process and sequence necessary to exercise their right to have a child’s information exempt from release. She learned from Student Services that there is only one paragraph in the Parent Information brochure that is sent to every K-12 parent each year. She said that one paragraph was not sufficient to get the information out to parents and that it would be very difficult for any DPS parent to know their rights. Ms. Valeta supplied the Board with an example from another school district and suggested that DPS provide a similar form to every high school student so they will know their options and rights.

Rev. Guzman said that she has heard of students who have had similar problems and that it is important for us to make parents fully aware of their rights. Ms. Gantz Berman said that this is a good suggestion, and the staff will follow up on it.
Rafael Quinteiro, Hatton Littman, Nola Miguel, and Wendy Steinway: A Mill Levy Issue
Mr. Quinteiro said that he, Ms. Miguel, Ms. Littman, and Ms. Steinway are all active members of Northwest Parents for Excellent Schools who strongly support the School Transformation Initiative, which was presented to the bond and mill levy committee in the spring. He said they would like to suggest three improvements to that proposal: First, that there be no quotas by quadrant, distribution of mill levy funds should be based on need, not on geography; secondly, efforts should be directed centrally from 900 Grant Street and not from the quadrants; thirdly, the following criteria should be utilized to select schools for revitalization efforts—under-utilized, under-enrolled, and poor CSAP scores. He said they feel that these should be the first three criteria, and then include input from the parents and community as to what actions would bring the school around.

John Britz: Support of Bond and Mill Levy Questions - Mr. Britz said he was speaking as an individual, though he has served on the Citizens Committee for Facility Needs. As a member of that committee and a parent of two DPS elementary school children, he said he wanted to encourage the Board to move forward in its process of submitting a needs-based mill levy and bond question to the voters this November. He said he would urge the Board to take into consideration the economic difficulties Denver citizens are facing and to propose a frugal package that will provide taxpayers with the most for their investment. He thanked the Citizens Committee and the Board for its forethought and the work required to put forth such an incredible package to move the Denver Public Schools forward.

Ms. Gantz Berman said that Mr. Britz has challenged them to do the work of grappling with the bond and mill levy that needs to be done, and that the Board will now adjourn to discuss this issue in their work session.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Gantz Berman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Susan G. Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education