I. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.

The City-Wide Band performed for the Board and audience in the Courtyard.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

President Lester R. Woodward called the meeting to order at 5:25 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 Members Reports

B. School Improvement Planning Report by District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC)

Mrs. Moss introduced Dr. Jesse Sutherland, representative from the District School Improvement and Accountability Council (DSIAC), which is directed by state law to review school improvement plans for the Denver Public Schools.

Dr. Sutherland said that members of DSIAC had read the school improvement plans that had been submitted to the Council, met with all Area Superintendents and some principals in each of the quadrants, and visited schools to review the school improvement process in the schools. They found that the administration is taking more interest in the school improvement process, and area superintendents seem to be holding the principals in their sectors accountable for the school improvement process. A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, II-B.

Mrs. Moss thanked DSIAC members for their hard work they put in on this process. She commended their valuable recommendations.

Dr. Wartgow thanked them for their hard work and thoughtful recommendations.

Mr. Woodward thanked DSIAC members for their time and effort, and for the exceptional quality of the Council’s recommendations.
A. *Swearing-In of the Student Board of Education*

Mrs. Moss said it is an honor to work with the Student Board of Education. She thanked Karen Higel, Athletics and Students Activities Manager, and Troy Garner, Special Projects Manager, for helping with the Student Board of Education. They meet with the Student Board once a month and work very hard to make it a positive learning experience. The format has been changed this year. Student Board members will receive a packet monthly to help them understand what is happening in the district and be able to play a leadership role. She asked Ms. Higel to introduce the new members of the Student Board of Education. District Judge Robert Patterson swore in Student Board members and gave the Oath of Office.

The following Student Board members took the Oath of Office: Lydia Vliet, South High School; Frances Annan and Tim Mapoles, Thomas Jefferson High School; Phil Casey and Evan Eskridge, East High School.

Dr. Wartgow asked Judge Patterson if it was true that he planned to retire as of December 31, 2004.

Judge Patterson responded in the affirmative and said that it has been an honor and a privilege, as a graduate of the Denver Public Schools, to have been able to serve in the capacity of swearing-in new members of the Board of Education and Student Board of Education.

Ms. Berman said that Judge Patterson’s retirement comes as a surprise. This is a major passage, one very meaningful for all Board members because Judge Patterson swore in every single Board member. She said that Judge Patterson has played a major role in the history of the Denver Public Schools, including lending us his son, Board member Kevin Patterson. She said that Judge Patterson will be missed.

Mr. Patterson said that what he would miss most would be the day-to-day reaction and interaction with his father. Mr. Patterson thanked his father for everything he has done for the district. He added that his father had made a path and he is honored to follow in it.

Ms. Peña reported that she had recently visited McGlone Elementary School and learned of an exciting professional development program at the school that she wanted to share. Two teachers—Marie Myfanawy and Carissa Freeman—and the principal, Ann Alley-Walker, applied for a grant this summer which enabled the two teachers to spend their summer looking at professional development opportunities, which they then shared with their colleagues at two faculty meetings in September. These teachers took ownership of their own professional development. They looked at their own

*Agenda item taken out of sequence*
community and figured out what they needed to improve the academic success of their students.

Mr. Patterson reported that he had recently participated in the “Lights Up” Campaign, sponsored by the Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC) in the northeast area, and literacy night at Rachel B. Noel Middle School. He congratulated Principal Pat Slaughter and the Noel community for the great emphasis they place on reading. He also participated in the official grand opening of the Green Valley Ranch School.

He reported that four applicants have presented proposals to the independent review committee and the State Board of Education for Cole Middle School’s charter school conversion. The applicants are: Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), Mosaica Education, Edison Schools, and Padres Unidos. The independent review committee is going through the applications in order to make recommendations to the State Board of Education.

III. Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Wartgow said he wanted to acknowledge that they had received notification of a very significant and major grant from the U.S. Office of Education. The Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education presented us with a check, just shy of ten million dollars, for a joint program between the Denver Public Schools and Metropolitan State College for teacher training and teacher induction in urban schools.

IV. Consent Agenda

Assistant Secretary Jacquie 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: Ms. Gantz Berman moved adoption of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved:

A. Board of Education

1. Minutes of August 19, 2004 – A copy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, IV-A-1.

2. Policy Review

   a. Revised Policy GDBC, Support Staff Supplementary Pay/Overtime – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, IV-A-2a.
B. Administrative Services

1. Human Resources

   a. Motion to Approve Personnel Transaction Report – A copy of this report is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, IV-B-1a.

   b. Motion to Approve New School-Based Administrator Evaluation Form - A copy of this form, per C.R.S. 22-9-101, which was tabled from the September 2, 2004, Board meeting, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, IV-B-1b.

C. Budget and Finance – Financial Services

1. Motion to Authorize the Conditional Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2004C – A copy of this motion, to authorize the CFO to conditionally approve the issuance of general obligation bonds to refund a portion of the outstanding Series 1999 bonds, is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, IV-C-1.

V. Old Business

There was none.

VI. New Business

The following matters were presented for information:

A. Policy Review

1. New Policy

   a. Policy DK, Payroll/Deductions/Direct Deposit/Expense Reimbursement - A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, VI-A-1a.

2. Repealed Policies

   a. Policy DKA, Payroll Procedures/Schedules – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, VI-A-2a.

   b. Policy DKB, Salary Deductions – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, VI-A-2b.

   c. Policy DKC, Expense Authorization/Reimbursement – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, VI-A-2c.
3. Revised Policy

   a. Policy JIH, Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests – A copy of this policy is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, VI-A-3a.

B. Budget and Finance

   1. Financial Services

      a. Statement of Revenue Allocations, Appropriations, Commitments, and Expenditures for the period July 1, 2004, to August 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 04-22, VI-B-1a.

C. Educational Services

   1. Resolution to Delineate Choice Core Values and Charge to Staff to Actively Seek Expansion of Choice – A copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 04-22, VI-C-1.

Mr. Woodward asked Mary Ellen McEldowney, School Counsel, to review the Board policies that are up for review, revision, or repeal.

Ms. McEldowney said that these policies were being presented for First Reading tonight. The Board will be acting on these policies at the second meeting in October. Policy DK, payroll deductions, will repeal three similar policies. It will change the way that employees are paid and mandate direct deposit unless a special exemption is granted; if an exemption is granted, there will be a reasonable charge for processing a hand check. Policy JIH deals with student interrogations, searches, and arrests. There has been a change in state law with regards to the use of written statements given by students involved in an incident resulting in mandatory expulsion, which under state law includes possession of a weapon, drugs, or sale of drugs. Schools will not request written statements from students unless they have attempted to reach a parent or guardian.

Mr. Woodward asked Wayne Eckerling, Assistant Superintendent, Research, Planning, and Special Programs, to report on the proposed resolution to delineate choice core values.

Dr. Eckerling said that the Board of Education based their last retreat on the issue of choice in the district. The Board has directed staff to review district policies to ensure a consistent set of policies and direction for staff, as we consider choice in the Denver Public Schools. Choice means the diversity of offerings for students and the processes used to allow students to transfer from one school to the other.
The Board established three core values to guide decision-making regarding choice: First, choice is a means to facilitate high achievement, not an end in itself. Second, new choice options should be developed in order to facilitate student achievement and parent satisfaction. When new choice options are established the impact on other schools must be considered. Third, all schools are viewed as schools of choice and there must be strong, objective, annual accountability.

Once the three core values are established, the Board directs staff to employ strategies to expand choice. Some of those strategies include: Review different options for school governance; review programs that have been successful within Denver Public Schools and in other districts with similar demographics; provide vertical continuity from elementary through high school; provide incentives for schools to increase enrollment. Dr. Eckerling said that after strategies have been established, other options, called filters, need to be established. New programs cannot be established without thinking carefully about impact on achievement; geographic locations, all choice options should not be located in one part of the city; integration, including economic integration; effect on enrollment; programs for different learning styles; and cost, options cannot be established without thinking about their impact on the budget.

Mr. Hoyt stated that he is very pleased with the work the Board has done on the core values of the choice program. The district is moving forward with a pro-active plan, embracing choice and embracing best choice models that will drive student achievement. He said that he looks forward to staff recommendations on the policy.

Rev. Guzman clarified, as a matter of semantics, that the Board does not direct staff. The Board directs the Superintendent to direct staff. She said that as we consider choice, we have to make sure that we place full value on students with language needs, disabled students, and students with special needs.

Mr. Patterson said that these decisions should be made in a more systematic fashion, in a pro-active way, not reactive. We need to be responsive to our customers and think about what people want from us and how they access us.

Mrs. Moss commented that we need to explore for whom we are creating choice opportunities; is it just Denver Public Schools’ children or children within the metropolitan area. She stated that Board members need to have a conversation regarding what she believes is a philosophical decision to recognize our customer and come to terms with for whom we offer these opportunities.

Mr. Woodward commented that the draft resolution says, “all schools are viewed as schools of choice.” This is not just something we are reviewing. It is the law today. All schools are schools of choice. We have to recognize that parents have, as a matter of personal option and as a matter of law, the choice to send their children to the school in their neighborhood, to a school outside the district, to another school within the district, or to a private school. Each one of our schools needs to be, not only designed, but operated, to provide an educational program to meet needs as perceived by students and parents.
OTHER ISSUES

Dr. Wartgow stated, for the record, that he has recommended a teacher dismissal to the members of the Board of Education.

Ms. Berman reminded everyone that on Tuesday, September 28, the Commission on School Nutrition and Physical Activity is holding a public hearing at East High School in the auditorium, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Mayor, the Superintendent, and members of the Commission will be there to hear recommendations from the public, teachers, students, nurses, and community people on how to improve school nutrition and physical activity in the schools.

She said that we were sad to hear about the death of David Segal, the head of the Highly Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee, who was very active in the DPS community. He was killed in an automobile accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Michelle Moss, Secretary
Board of Education