

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the October 2, 2007, meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

Matt Cook, president
Susan Tabacheck, secretary
Judy Edberg, treasurer
Jane Barber, director
Debbie Barton, director
Ed Lord, director

The following members were absent:

Jeanette Carmany, vice president

Also meeting with the Board of Education were:

John L. Barry, superintendent of schools
Anthony Van Gytenbeek, deputy superintendent
Lisa Escárcega, chief accountability and research officer
Rodney R. Weeks, chief financial officer
Kari J. Allen, chief personnel officer
William Stuart, chief academic officer
Anthony Sturges, chief operating officer
Tonia Norman, assistant to Board of Education

Pledge of Allegiance

Cook led the Board and audience in the pledge to the flag. He then welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The October 2, 2007, agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held September 18, 2007, were approved as written.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Items of Current Interest

Barry encouraged APS parents and community members to attend the annual Fall Parent and Community Institute on Saturday, October 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Aurora Hills Middle School. Topics will include learning, leadership and community.

All activities are open to APS community members at no cost. Transportation will be provided from all APS high schools to the event. Childcare will be provided

and Spanish interpreters will be available.

The APS Education Foundation (formerly known as the Aurora Education Foundation or AEF) invites the community to attend their 20th Anniversary Celebration Breakfast on Friday, October 12, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Summit Conference and Event Center near Hobby Lobby.

Success stories from teacher grant and scholarship recipients will be shared and winners of the "Circle of Champions" award along with sponsors and donors will be recognized. We will also have the first inductee into the "Golden Circle of Champions."

This breakfast is open to the community at no cost. Seating, however, is limited, so please RSVP no later than Friday, October 5, with the APS Education Foundation. Information is available on the APS Web site.

Barry recognized the APS truancy, centralized admissions, school services and diversity departments for "Picking up the PACE." They are working hard and going out into the community to get children enrolled in school and to ensure we get truant students back in class. We're thankful for their hard work.

We have made some significant inroads to reduce the truancy rate in APS. The data from second semester of last year showed a 20 to 25 percent truancy reduction. The data seen so far this year showed a 39 to 40 percent reduction in truancy during some weeks. We will review all of the data for first quarter and present it to the Board. We are very encouraged by the impact we have seen so far.

Tabacheck attended parent/teacher conferences at Mrachek this past week and shared that 60 to 70 percent of parents were in attendance. She was encouraged by the interaction seen between parents and teachers. Students and student leaders were present and did a great job greeting and guiding parents around the building.

Lord encouraged the audience to stop by Hinkley to see the new renovations. The Superintendent, Board president, and principal all gave outstanding speeches during the grand opening ceremony. Cook reiterated praises expressing that pride was evident with both staff and students. Thank you APS voters for passing the bond that funded the renovations. It is making a difference and impacting students daily.

Barber shared highlights from the CUBE Conference in Atlanta, Georgia that she, Edberg, and Carmany attended. Many urban school districts are experiencing the same challenges as APS. We had a chance to exchange ideas with other districts and it was very uplifting. Cook explained that CUBE is the Council of Urban Boards of Education and APS is a member.

Edberg shared that each year an outstanding school board and district is recognized at the CUBE conference. Schools and districts have to provide evidence of innovative strategies and supports put in place to increase student achievement to receive recognition. This year the Miami Dade County School District and the Houston Public School District were both recognized. Strategies and supports that both schools were trying have been incorporated into the Vista 2010 strategic plan. This is another confirmation that we are headed in the right direction. We are hoping for good results as seen in both the Miami and Houston school districts.

Opportunity for Audience

Cook introduced a new agenda format in that the public will now be provided an opportunity to address the Board at the beginning of the meeting to better accommodate parents and the community. Ten minutes will be provided at the beginning of the meeting and anyone interested in addressing the Board will have two minutes to do so. A minimum of five speakers will be heard during the ten-minute period.

Recognition of Colorado Classified School Employees Week

Cook recognized October 14 through October 20, 2007, as Colorado Classified School Employees Week.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Colorado Classified School Employees are an essential part of the Aurora Public Schools education system; and

WHEREAS, classified employees are dedicated to assisting in the provision of quality education for the students of Aurora Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the classified employees of our school district perform the daily cleaning and maintenance of school property, safely transport students, prepare and serve nourishing lunches, maintain records and reports, and assist in classrooms and on school playgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for Aurora Public Schools to recognize the role classified school employees hold in our education system and to salute them for the valuable service they provide to our students and to our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education, proclaim October 14 through October 20, 2007, as

Colorado Classified School Employees Week

In recognition of Classified School Employees Week, the Board held a drawing before the meeting to select schools and sites that will receive lunch on behalf of the Board. The schools and sites selected were Early Childhood Development Center, Wheeling, Yale, Mrachek, William Smith, and Lansing Annex.

Thank you classified employees for all you do to support schools and sites. We would not be this far ahead without the dedicated efforts of classified employees. You are the backbone that makes everything work on a daily basis.

Members of the Classified Employees Council came forward and were recognized by the Board.

Vista 2010 Update

People

Barry explained that at the first meeting of each month, the Board will be presented with one element of one metric of the Vista 2010 Plan under PACE (people, achievement, community, and environment). He encouraged everyone to visit the APS Web site to review the entire strategic plan.

Allen introduced Shatana Allen, HR coordinator, to present an overview of action 22: Identify the skills and expertise of employees and develop a program by August 2007 that encourages and utilizes their abilities to support and expand the district mission.

Allen shared that the development of the district peer program was conceived from suggestions from the Classified Employees Council and the Classified Professional Development Workgroup. We sent e-mails to survey district classified veteran employees to determine interest in the program. Many veteran employees were supportive and interested in participating in the program from feedback received.

Our next step was to encourage supervisors to recommend veteran employees and to obtain supervisor support for the program because it will take time to mentor and train new employees.

The framework for the peer program has been completed. New employees who request a district peer will be paired up with a veteran employee to help them become familiar with the district and to support them with training. This is a voluntary program.

Barry pointed out that there is nothing under the metric because we established the baseline as October of this year. Every objective on all of our plans has a measurable metric.

Shatana Allen and Katrina Smith will be at the October 23 meeting to present an overview of classified professional development.

Achievement

Stuart presented a slide from goal one, objective one: To have every student at grade level in reading, writing, and math in the first five years of continuous enrollment in APS.

We recognize that early childhood education is a critical part of the goal. The measurement for action 25 is that 100 percent of our students will have access to full-day kindergarten by 2010. We are making excellent progress and we are 10 percent above where we were last year. We have made some very good strides this year as far as giving more students access to full-day kindergarten. We will be working on this through a lot of different angles including tuition-based programs and working with buildings to have them allocate building based funds to support a full-day kindergarten program.

Lord questioned if the problem to establish full-day kindergarten was due to space or funding. Stuart replied that it is due to both space and funding. We are exploring the possibility of turning Jamaica Elementary into a preschool. This would draw students from other elementary schools and create more space for full-time kindergarten programs.

Community

Escárcega invited Dianne Lewis, coordinator for communication services, to the table to present an overview of goal two, action 69: To increase outreach through a televised program broadcast on a local Aurora station and through online Webcasts.

Lewis shared that in 2005-06, we did one award winning video on West Middle School. In 2006-07, we did a video on Vista 2010 that was in the 5-to-15 minute range, a CSAP video that was in the 5-to-15 minute range, and a Boettcher scholarship video that was in the 16-to-30 minute range. We also did a Webcast featuring Tom Pazant that was in the 61-to-90 minute range.

This year, we did a netcast on pilot schools and a state of the schools video currently featured on Channel 54. The video can be seen on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 6 a.m. and on Saturday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5 p.m. We have completed a Webcast for the bond update that is in the 16-to-30 minute range and it will broadcast shortly. We are getting the word out to APS and the community.

Tabacheck asked whether we were advertising information regarding the Webcast on the back page of the Aurora Sentinel. Lewis shared that it is not advertised on the back page of the Aurora Sentinel; it is advertised on the APS Web site. Tabacheck expressed that it might be helpful to advertise on the back page of the Sentinel so people without computers can access the information.

Edberg shared that at the CUBE conference, a number of board members mentioned that their regular board meetings were televised. Tabacheck commented that we had discussed it a couple of years ago, but determined that it was too costly. Lewis explained that we would have to bring in multiple cameras to capture the entire meeting and that could be costly.

Cook expressed that we do a good job communicating what happens at Board meetings. We do a pretty concise write up in the minutes and they are available fairly quickly. Tabacheck commented that it would be a good idea to broadcast the meeting so older or disabled people within the Aurora community could see what is happening in APS. Cook shared that the Board had discussed doing a quarterly report via a Webcast as a way to keep the community informed. He suggested that the Board re-visit it again at a workshop in December.

Environment

Sturges presented an overview of action 83: Reduce out-of-school suspension rates five percent annually. He reviewed a chart of the total number of students suspended in 2005-06 and shared that out-of-school suspension rates were reduced by more than five percent during the 2006-07 school year. The numbers, however, are still too high. Barbara Cooper, director of school services, and staff are working with schools to provide other disciplinary options. Out-of-school suspension should be the last resort.

Cook commented that sharing this data is another example of transparency. Our numbers are still too high, but we are addressing truancy, positive behavior supports and some other strategies to reduce the suspension rate. Information will be presented to the Board in the next couple of months.

Barber asked if suspension rates were broken down by grade level. Escárcega explained that rates by grade level were provided in data notebooks distributed earlier this year. Barber questioned whether suspension rates were broken down by school. Escárcega replied that rates were broken down by grade level only. Suspension rates by school will be distributed to the Board.

Section A Policies – Foundation and Basic Commitment and Section B Policies, School Governance and Operations

Brian Donovan and Rosemarie Hebert provided an overview of the Section A and Section B policies and regulations. Four of the Section A policies were approved in May 2007.

- ADD, Safe Schools
- ADH, District Philosophy Statement on Student Discipline
- ADHA, District Statement on Shared Responsibility in Student Discipline
- ADF, School Wellness

We are recommending three policies for deletion:

- AC.2, Hiring Policy, was recoded as GBA (in the personnel policy section)
- ACBA, is a duplicate of AC, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity
- AEB, Recognition for Accomplishment, (guidelines appear on the Web)
- Two of the A section policies received no changes and will be reposted with a "reviewed" date:
- Policy AC.1, adds sexual orientation as a protected category along with age, race, and other protected categories that were passed by the legislature last spring
- 23 policies fall under section B
- Three are recommended for deletion:
- BDE, Board Committees, was incorporated into BDE/BDF, Advisory Committees
- BEE, Board Hearings/Appeal Proceedings, was moved into GBK-3-E, a new exhibit in the Personnel section
- BF, School Board Work Sessions and Retreats, is not applicable
- Four received no changes and will be reposted with a "reviewed" date:
- BDB, current policy states that Board members cannot succeed themselves in office.
 - we are proposing to change policy BDB so board officers can succeed themselves.
- BEDA, notification of board meetings
 - we are proposing to change policy BEDA to reflect that public notice be posted on the Web site.
- BEDC, states that in order to establish a quorum of four, a board member can participate by phone
 - given all of the technology advances, a person can participate by phone, computer or through other technological advancements
- BEDH, Public participation at Board meetings
 - when a number of people show up to address the Board for a particular item, this would give the presiding officer an option to select representatives to speak in a certain amount of time
 - we are proposing 15 minutes, the Board may suggest a longer period
- The remaining policies received minimal changes:
- Revisions include language to correspond with current election laws and rules; updated cross references; added deputy superintendent; added language on public notice and Web site; grammar and punctuation revisions; updated committee lists
- With the Board's approval, the A and B section policies will be presented to the Board for action on Oct. 23
- Section G, Personnel, will be presented to the Board as information on Oct. 23

Tabacheck voiced concerns regarding policies AC.1 and ACBA. Policy ACBA is being deleted because it is covered by AC.1, which is now AC. She shared that the language in policy AC is different from language in policy ACBA. Policy AC

speaks of employment and education and policy ACBA speaks to intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and harassment. Donovan agreed that the policy language in ACBA is more specific. He asked Tabacheck to e-mail suggested language to include in the policy description.

Edberg requested clarifications on policy ADC regarding tobacco free schools. She questioned why the policy states that there is no smoking on APS properties yet there are designated smoking areas on some APS sites. Donovan believes that we allow some district sites to designate an outside smoking area. Site managers may submit a written request to the Board through the superintendent for annual site exemptions. Requests must be identified to allow for the extenuating circumstances to warrant the exemption. Site exemptions pertain more to employees working at district sites rather than school sites.

Lord voiced concerns about Board policy BDB regarding Board members succeeding themselves. Cook shared that Carmany brought information forward based on what other school boards in the area were doing in regard to term limits. Tabacheck commented that the Board is still required to vote on held positions. Cook explained that if a Board member wanted to extend their term, this would allow him or her to do so. Lord expressed that serving in various positions on the Board provides members with more experience.

Tabacheck requested clarification on policy BGB, policy adoption. The current description reads that the Superintendent will recommend policy changes and submit them to the Board in writing; a process for requests for variance is included. She expressed concerns regarding the deletion of the sentence on regulations allowing a variance to policy. She asked if it meant that all policies would come before the Board for changes including changes in grammar. Donovan confirmed that all policy changes would be submitted to the Board for approval.

Cook requested clarification on policy BEDA, notification of Board meetings, and whether there was specific information in policy that states where Board information should be posted. Donovan explained that it states Board information must be posted in a physical place, which has been designated outside the boardroom. Information is mainly posted on the APS Web site. Tabacheck asked if the agenda could be posted on the back of a newspaper for the whole community to access. Lewis shared that meeting dates are printed in the newspaper at the beginning of the year. Cook also shared that meeting dates are given to key communicator groups throughout Aurora. Lord also mentioned that all schools and sites should receive the Board agenda.

Policy JLCE.1, CPR Directives

Donovan reviewed policy JLCE.1, CPR Directives, pertaining to the do not resuscitate agreement. This policy is in place for children who are very ill. Parents have met with their doctor and discussed not to resuscitate their child in the event of a life threatening emergencies. Our current policy states that we will not honor these directives.

Mary Beth Rensberger, health services coordinator, feels strongly that we should honor these directives. District leadership also agreed that we should honor directives. In most cases, these are heart-wrenching decisions for families and they have thought it through and determined that this is the best decision for their family. Donovan shared guidelines for which directives will be honored.

- The request must be made in writing

- The order must be tailored to the school setting
- The order must be signed by both the parent and the doctor and it must be in the proper format
- We will also note in the policy that Colorado law offers immunity from liability in carrying out the directive

Cook asked if paramedics are legally bound to honor the agreement if summoned. Donovan believes that all medical personnel are bound to honor the agreement. Cook asked whether the directive from the parent and physician would need to be notarized and executed legally. Donovan explained that any directive received would be reviewed to determine if it is correctly formatted. In the policy draft, we state that the directive must include the appropriate detail. If the agreement does not contain the proper detail, we will work with the family until we are comfortable with it.

Lord asked how many current students in the district have a do not resuscitate agreement. Barry shared that we have a directive in place for one student and one is pending.

Edberg shared that Rensberger has talked to paramedics in the area and the response has been that they will honor the do not resuscitate agreement.

Lord commented that hospitals and nursing homes honor directives and it should not be a problem in APS. Tabacheck asked if the do not resuscitate agreement would be readily available for staff to access. Edberg explained that detailed procedures would be written out, and expressed surprise that the school nurse was not mentioned in the policy draft. After the agreement is given to the principal, the school nurse will write a detailed health care plan and information will be communicated to the staff.

Donovan requested that the policy be returned to the Board for action. Barber asked that the inclusion of school nurse be added to the policy draft. Cook requested that the policy, with the inclusion of school nurse, be returned for action on October 23.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

AYP

Escárcega and Dan Jorgensen, program evaluator and specialist, presented an overview of Adequate Yearly Process (AYP) and results for the 2006-07 school year. Jorgensen explained that AYP is how the federal law, No Child Left Behind, measures the achievement of students, districts, and states. The goal for all children is to be proficient in reading and math by the 2014 school year, with the “targets” or goals increasing every three years. There are three requirements that must be met in terms of AYP:

- The first is a participation requirement. This reflects the number of students tested out of all the enrolled students in the district. The CSAP test is the primary test indicator. There is a 95 percent participation rate required.
- Proficiency - the percent of students at the school and the district level scoring at the partially proficient, proficient, or advanced range on the CSAP test. This percentage is compared to pre-defined targets by the state. If we exceed those levels then we have met the particular target for AYP.
- Other Advanced Indicator - the advanced indicator for elementary and

middle schools is the percent of students scoring advanced on the CSAP test. It is a 1.1 percent target. For high schools, there is a graduation rate requirement, which is around 57 percent this year. The graduation rate is obtained from our end of year report as determined by the state.

We have to meet targets for different sub groups at the school and district level. Each school and district has to make AYP targets for the following groups that have more than 30 students. Groups with less than 30 students are excluded.

- School as a whole
- Ethnic group (5 groups)
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Economically disadvantaged
- Special education students

In total, there are 54 targets at three grade levels. All of the targets have to be met to make AYP. If we fail to meet the targets as defined, we can use the safe harbor indicator, which states if a school or a particular sub group reduces the number of unsatisfactory students by 10 percent between school years then we make safe harbor. The targets are the same for the school and the district.

There is a new indicator that the state created called match Safe Harbor. It is similar to safe harbor in looking for a 10 percent reduction in unsatisfactory students. The target is the same, but the calculations are different because you look at students that were enrolled continuously between years at the same school and they are matched based on enrollment and the type of test given.

Jorgensen reviewed district targets and percentages and explained what needs to occur to reach proficiency levels as mandated.

- 2006-07
- 120 of 150 targets (80%)
- 2005-06
- 130 of 150 targets (87%)
- 2004-05
- 125 of 148 targets (85%)
- 2003-04
- 126 of 143 targets (88%)
- 2002-03
- 119 of 140 targets (85%)

Next year the targets will increase. Targets increase every three years until we reach 100 percent proficiency in 2014. The increase in targets may make it more difficult to reach AYP in some areas. Escárcega explained where targets originated. Each state determined targets based on their original baseline data. The state decided to hold targets constant for three years and then make a big jump at the end. This part of AYP does not look the same state to state.

Jorgensen shared that our CSAP performance was flat, which does not lend itself to the safe harbor provision. We were not able to move students out of the unsatisfactory category. Escárcega explained that targets made last year were not made this year because we had to make it to safe harbor the previous year. We did not make the 10 percent reduction in safe harbor; therefore, we did not meet the target.

Jorgensen shared that we made AYP for middle school math. We did not make

AYP at the elementary or high school level. The state did not make AYP nor did any urban school district in the state. Escárcega shared that state results will be released later in the week.

Jorgensen shared repercussions for schools failing to make AYP. Schools receiving Title I funds that do not make AYP for two consecutive years are placed on school improvement. The first year a choice is offered to students and we are required to provide transportation to a higher performing school. The school must also develop a school improvement plan. The following year we have to provide supplemental educational services for the low performing, low income student. The next step is corrective action year one followed by corrective action year two. A restructuring plan must then be developed. If the school fails to make AYP after two years of corrective action, the school has to be restructured by law, which may include reopening as a charter, replacement of principal and staff, or a state takeover.

Escárcega reviewed the status of district Title I schools that have been placed on school improvement or corrective action.

School Improvement Year 1

- Reading: one school offering choice in reading
- Math: five schools offering choice in math

School Improvement Year 2

- Reading: four schools
- Math: one school

Corrective Action Year 1

- Reading: one school
- Math: one school

The district does not have any schools in corrective action year two or in the restructuring phase. North Middle School was in corrective action for reading. They made AYP in both reading and math last year. If they make AYP in reading and math this year, then the slate is wiped clean. If they do not make AYP in reading or math this year, then they move into corrective action year two.

West Middle School is in corrective action for math. They also need to make AYP in reading and math this year to avoid corrective action year two. We have developed specific plans for both schools.

A lot of the large metro districts have not made AYP. Last year the state created a grid used to gauge districts. They looked at percentages of targets that districts have made as a whole and whether districts were showing an increase or decrease from previous years. Last year we received an AYP performance indicator of "good," which meant that we had made 85 to 94 of our district targets. This status is good for at least three years; we will be evaluated again in 2009. The state also required that we submit a district plan. We submitted the Vista 2010 Strategic Plan, which was accepted without issue.

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Boston K-8 Update

Stuart invited Shawna Lyons, principal of Boston Elementary, and Amy Weed, director of student achievement, to the table to present a proposal to transition Boston Elementary School to a K-8 school. Weed shared that Lyons has completed a tremendous amount of work, research, and data to submit to the Board to support the transition of Boston Elementary to a K8 school. She introduced Josh Hensley, planning coordinator, to discuss data and declining enrollments in the northwest quadrant of the district.

Hensley reviewed statistics of declining enrollments in the northwest quadrant. Enrollments have steadily declined in the last five years especially at the elementary and middle school levels. We have lost more than 700 students at the elementary level in a five-year period, which is about 13 percent of enrollments in that area. We have lost about 273 middle schools students, which is about 15 percent of our enrollments in a five-year period. Enrollments at K-3 elementary schools have declined from 208 students in 2003 to 131 in 2007. This is a decline of more than 70 students in a five-year period. The decline is related to a shift in demographics that has occurred in the northwest quadrant of our district. It also relates to more choices and families are leaving APS to attend schools in other districts. More than 1,000 students have left the district to attend schools in Denver. New charter schools have also opened and it has impacted enrollment in schools throughout the district. A K-8 program will provide another option of choice in the northwest quadrant that will entice more families to remain in their neighborhood school.

Lyons explained the process that was discussed with the staff and parents on the accountability committee. The idea for a K-8 school was formulated with the design of the new building. Both the staff and parent group wanted to keep the sense of a small community and small neighborhood school. Design and construction built a building that allowed for three separate small communities within the building, and the concept of a K-8 model was formed.

We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a K-8 school. One disadvantage was sports and athletics. We discussed opportunities that our students would have to participate in sports and whether we would have enough students to form our own teams. Partnering with West Middle School or another K-8 school were options discussed. In the end, we believed the pros outweighed the cons and we began discussions with our building council. They took a vote and 11 of the 14 staff members voted in favor of a K-8 model. We then began discussions with AEA and with West Middle Schools to obtain feedback. AEA provided positive feedback to keep the small school setting and mentor program between older and younger students. We also met with the principal of West to discuss pilot or magnet school opportunities. Our parent accountability team also met and voted 15 to 14 in favor of the K-8 model.

Lyons introduced Ms. Lopez, parent and spokesperson for accountability parents and neighbors surrounding Boston Elementary. Lopez presented concerns that parents had shared with her and acknowledged that changing schools does affect kids. My smallest child attends Boston and I would like her to remain at Boston because it is a good school. I have been asking parents what they would like and they were in agreement with me in terms of having a K-8 school. Many parents, like me, do not drive and it is hard to transport our children. They want their children to stay in the neighborhood. They also would like more security at the present school and a sports program. A larger library would be helpful so

parents would not have to go to the local library to acquire additional materials for their children. On a personal note, I would like the school to provide more native language instruction.

Lord asked where Boston students were currently located. Lyons shared that Boston is currently located at the old Jamaica building. She also discussed the possibility of growing into a K-8 school so students would be familiar with the rituals, routines, and positive behavior supports. Next year, we will be competing with the Lotus Charter and the Vanguard Charters, which are both opening as K-6 schools. We also discussed opening as a K-6 school and having students that attended Fulton two years ago return to Boston.

Cook asked Lopez if Boston were a K-8 school this year would her oldest daughter leave the Lotus Charter School and return to Boston based on the location. Lopez replied that her daughter would have returned to Boston if it had been a K-8 school this year. Barry shared that data and research indicates that growing into a K-8 school is the preferred option.

Jorgensen shared that a large number of urban districts are shifting to K-8 school configurations due to research that indicates they can lead to enhance academic performance, improved behavior, and increased attendance. Student choice has also become a big issue regarding K-8 especially with districts that have a high mobility rate. A lot of students that transferred to DPS are enrolled at K-8 schools adjacent to the APS boundary.

Other cities that have implemented K-8 models include Cleveland, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Milwaukee. The research indicates some strong advantages to the model, but some people do not believe that the research is 100 percent effective or a better alternative to middle schools. Some of the advantages that urban districts cited were:

- Improved academic outcomes by eliminating the transition from fifth to sixth grade where we know there is a loss academically
- True “neighborhood” schools
- Easier to fill teacher vacancies
- Increased school safety
- Disadvantages include:
 - Transitioning from eighth to ninth grade can be more difficult
 - Increased re-segregation of urban schools, a lot of K-8 schools are positioned in more affluent areas
 - Fewer academic, sports, and extracurricular activities

Jorgensen examined demographics of K-8 schools in APS. The current K-8 schools in APS serve vastly different populations than what we find in traditional elementary and middle schools. At least 46 percent of the students are Anglo and most are not on free and reduced lunch. The overall performance on CSAP is much better and most students scored proficient on the CSAP test. The mean attendance rate at K-8 schools exceeds 95 percent, which is comparable to traditional elementary schools. It exceeded the attendance rate at middle schools by a small percentage.

Lord commented that educators seem to go out of their way to make a program work when they like it. My feeling is that K-8 schools were developed because they are better economically. I am not sure that K-8 schools are better educationally than middle schools. Jorgensen agreed sharing that the research did not indicate outcomes were superior, but it does offer parents choices. Escárcega will distribute a survey to K-8 parents in the spring to determine

overall satisfaction and effectiveness of K-8 schools.

Tabacheck commented that kids could sway parents when it comes to sports and it can be a determining factor in a school decision. Stuart shared that we are working with West Middle School so students that attend Boston K-8 who wish to play sports could do so.

Jim Bittle explained that we are not planning to add any additional space to Boston. The program can be accommodated with the original building design. The only cost identified is to convert one existing classroom to a science classroom.

Lord asked if there was room on the site to accommodate a playing field for baseball or soccer. Bittle shared that there is no space for a regulation baseball or soccer field.

Weeks shared that the proposal is as it stands. He reiterated comments shared by Bittle that the size of the building would remain the same. The fixed cost will remain the same regardless of student enrollment.

Stuart shared that presenters would come back and answer any questions and provide additional information if needed. Cook requested that the proposal be submitted for action on October 23.

Barry thanked the presenters and shared that it was an excellent example of trust and teamwork.

Instructional Materials Adoption

The list of proposed instructional materials for adoption was presented to the Board of Education as information.

Stuart reviewed the intent of Hot Words for the SAT, third edition, and Language of Composition for students in eleventh and twelfth grade AP language and composition and AP literature and composition. He also reviewed the intent of Residential Construction Academy, Facilities Maintenance for eleventh, twelfth, and post secondary students at T. H. Pickens

Tabacheck moved and Edberg seconded to move the adoption of proposed instructional materials to action.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7920

Lord moved and Tabacheck seconded to adopt the proposed instructional materials for adoption.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7921

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Final 2002 Bond Program Budget Adjustments

Sturges invited Bittle to the table to present an overview of the final 2002 bond program budget adjustment.

Bittle explained that 15 projects were completed under budget. Additional funding is needed to move on three large expenditures including the construction

of eight classrooms, extra restrooms, and a small storage area at Rangeview, resulting in an adjustment cost of \$2.6 million instead of \$2.8 million as listed in the Board agenda. The extra \$200,000 will be moved into the contingency line resulting in a cost savings of \$344,000.

The Rangeview design is complete and added additions will be constructed on the southeast corner. The next line item of \$1,250,000 would fund work through design and development for the new high school, which will be constructed at 6th Avenue Parkway and Harvest Road. The second line item of \$500,000 would fund the design of a P-8 school, which would also be constructed at 6th Avenue Parkway and Harvest Road.

Cook asked when the Board would be presented with preliminary designs. Bittle replied that we are scheduled to brief leadership in November and we would present information to the Board shortly thereafter. Once we have the budget in place, we will form a committee consisting of a high school administrator, an achievement director, and members of my staff to interview and select an architect. The High School Instructional Design Concepts Task Force is moving on a parallel track and we will be meeting in November to discuss next steps.

Cook reiterated that this is strictly a design. There are no available funds to construct a high school at this time. This would need to be funded through a future bond project.

Bittle explained that requested funds would go toward 50 percent of the design. He also stressed that we are on a time crunch with the Rangeview addition and the Transitions/Intercept Special Education Building, which was added to the program back in December of last year. Both projects came in over budget and we need to add \$500,000 to the Transitions/Intercept building project in order to move forward. Bidding has opened up and contractors are ready to begin work. Both projects are on hold pending Board approval.

Tabacheck moved and Lord seconded to approve funding to move projects presented to action.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck

#7922

Tabacheck asked if projects listed would be completed by 2008. Bittle explained that both the Rangeview addition and the Transitions/Intercept Special Education Building are scheduled to open in August 2008.

Barber asked whether the change in budget was due to material costs. Bittle replied that the transitions project came in over budget due to site costs. One issue was drainage modifications that the city required that we had not anticipated. The new buildings that have been completed recently were in residential developments and a lot of the infrastructure was already in place.

Sturges acknowledged that Mary Lewis from the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee was in the audience and this item had been reviewed with the committee. Bittle met with the committee as part of the process and they expressed a concern on the Rangeview project. A couple of members asked if this was the highest priority in the district for allocating \$2.6 million. Bittle shared that he believes it is. The Board authorized the design in April and we have been working on the project for a while. We feel that it is the most important use of the funding. Barry was also in agreement.

Lord moved and Tabacheck seconded to approve funding for projects presented.

Lord asked Bittle what was the original building cost for Hinkley Hinkley School, joking that it was probably far less than the \$30 million remodeling cost. Bittle will e-mail the exact figure to Lord later in the week.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7923

III. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Allen shared that there were no personnel recognitions. Cook shared that earlier in the evening, Allen pointed out that the clock that has been in the boardroom for some time had been repaired. Lord commented that the clock was part of his elementary education. It sat in the hallway of the previous Aurora Elementary School.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Barton moved and Tabacheck seconded to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7924

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Section D Policies – Fiscal Management and Section K Policies – School, Community and Home Relations

Donovan shared that questions and clarifications presented at the last meeting had been addressed. The Board had no further questions or concerns that required clarification for Section D or Section K policies.

Lord moved and Barton seconded to adopt Section D Policies – Fiscal Management and Section K Policies – School Community and Home Relations as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck

#7925

Boundary Adjustments

Donovan shared that the Board reviewed proposed minor boundary adjustments at the September 18 Board meeting between the Colorado Community College, the former Lowry Air Force Base, and the Aurora Public Schools. The proposed adjustments involve the exchange of about six acres of land.

Donovan presented a resolution to the Board for approval of boundary adjustments as long as all government entities consent to boundary adjustments and legal descriptions of the adjustments are the same.

Cook explained that since Carmany is out of town, we need a motion to suspend our rule that all Board members must be present to vote on a resolution.

Barber moved and Barton seconded to suspend the rule that all Board members must be present to vote on a resolution.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck

#7926

The motion to suspend the rule that all Board members must be present to vote on a resolution was approved on a 5 to 1 vote. Tabacheck voted against the motion.

Lord moved and Barber seconded to adopt the resolution as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck

#7927

The motion to adopt the resolution as presented was approved on a 5 to 1 vote. Tabacheck voted against the motion to adopt the resolution as presented.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Re-adoption of the 2008 Budget and Appropriation Resolution

Weeks presented two replacement pages to insert into the re-adopted 2008 budget. He asked the Board if they wanted to suspend the rule to adopt and vote on resolutions as presented as both are required to re-adopt the budget.

Barber moved and Barton seconded to suspend the rule that all Board members must be present to vote on a resolution.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck

#7928

Weeks shared that there are 14 funds and five charter schools within the charter schools funds.

Whereas, the Board has the authority to re-adopt the budget prior to October 15; Therefore, the individual funds are presented with a total district budget of \$385,592,017.

October 2, 2007

It is recommended that the Board adopt the resolution and the 2007-08 appropriations for the general operating fund as presented.

Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes

The second resolution is required to present to the Board whenever a portion of the beginning fund balance in any fund will be used as revenue and an available revenue source for the fund in the current year.

Whereas, expenditures do not exceed available resources in any of the funds
Whereas, using a portion of these beginning funds will not lead to an ongoing deficit;
Whereas, 11 funds are identified to use a portion of their beginning fund balances and uses are described and will not lead to an ongoing deficit.

It is recommended that the Board adopt the resolution as presented.

Lord moved and Barton seconded to adopt both resolutions as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Barton, Cook, Edberg, Lord, Tabacheck #7929

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Cook announced that Debbie Barton, Ed Lord, and Susan Tabacheck would be leaving the Board. A reception will be held before their last meeting on Tuesday, October 23, at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate their years of service and their many accomplishments while serving on the APS Board.

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be on October 23, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Educational Services Center, Peoria Building, at 1085 Peoria Street.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

President

ATTEST _____

October 2, 2007

Secretary