

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the February 19, 2008, meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

Matt Cook, president
Jeanette Carmany, vice president
Jane Barber, secretary
Peter Cukale, treasurer
Judith Edberg, director
Mary W. Lewis, director
Amy Prince, director

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
Rod Weeks, chief financial officer
Kari Allen, chief personnel officer
William Stuart, chief academic 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 February 19, 2008, agenda was amended to table information item II-E-1, Elementary Late Start Proposal. This item will be presented as information on March 4.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held February 7, 2008, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Students from Hinkley High School performed a musical selection from "Ragtime" for the Board and audience. Barber commended students for an outstanding performance. "Ragtime" will be presented at Hinkley High School on Feb. 28, 29 and March 1 at 7 p.m.

Cukale attended the Hope Conference at Overland High School. More than 500 parents and 300 students attended the conference to discuss culture and

diversity in schools.

Cukale attended the Hispanic Annual Salute 20th Anniversary Awards Dinner. Twelve Hispanic students throughout the metropolitan area were awarded scholarships up to \$5,000. Students received scholarships based on volunteerism and work in the community.

Lewis was privileged to be a judge at the National History Day competition at Rangeview High School. It was amazing to see all the things that students were able to do. Winners will compete at the regional competition in March.

Prince also attended the National History Day competition at Rangeview and was impressed with student projects presented.

Cook attended family night at Aurora Hills Middle School. The staff did a real nice job and it was a very informative night.

Items of Current Interest

Barry congratulated Hinkley High School teacher Christine Sundberg for earning the Outstanding Teacher of American History award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Sundberg will now compete for the honor at the national level. This is just one of many awards that she has earned. We are very proud of her.

Please join Gateway High School students and staff at their second annual Empty Bowls fundraising dinner on Friday, Feb. 29, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the commons. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. Guests choose a bowl made by Gateway students and staff to eat out of that day and keep it as a reminder of world hunger. Your support is appreciated.

Barry thanked Crawford Elementary head custodian Julius Greer who saved the life of one of our students. While monitoring the cafeteria and taking student lunch trays, Greer noticed that a student named Deondre was acting unusual in the lunch line. He noticed that Deondre was choking and quickly performed the Heimlich maneuver on him. After the incident, Deondre returned to his normal day at school grateful for his new hero. Barry presented Greer with a coin as a small token of appreciation. We are proud to have him on our team.

A mock trial competition will be held on Friday and Saturday at the Arapahoe County Courthouse. High school students throughout the district will serve as mock prosecuting and defense attorneys and will compete with students from districts throughout the metropolitan area. Last year a student from Aurora Central High School was recognized as the best mock trial attorney in the entire competition. Please stop by to support our students.

Section G: Personnel Policy Revision

Legal Counsel Brian Donovan shared that a number of policies were presented as information at the Feb. 7 Board meeting. The Board requested that policy language be revised for Section G: Personnel policies as indicated below.

- Policy GAA, monitoring of school district property, policy language was updated and revised.
- Policy GCCAA, staff sick leave – the recommendation was to include domestic partners in the definition of immediate family.

- If we address inclusion of domestic partners in the definition of immediate family, it will also raise issues of inclusion of domestic partners in various employment benefits. We would like to review the impact on the budget before making a determination.
- Stepchildren and foster children are defined as immediate family. Employees will not be denied leave to care for ill children. We request that HR issue guidelines to include in the policy.
- Policy GCCAG, staff leaves of absence without pay, was revised to include “when justifiable” in lieu of “in extraordinary circumstances.” We have also revised policy language to include “this policy shall not alter the rights of licensed employees under Article 32 of the Master Agreement” as noted by Frank O’Hara.
- Policy GCQF, discipline, suspension and dismissal of non licensed administrators and professional technical employees, was revised to include “an employee who has resigned may request that the resignation be rescinded and rescission may occur at the discretion of the person who accepted the resignation or the Board of Education.
- Policy GCQD, discipline, suspension and dismissal of classified employees, was revised to include “an employee who has resigned may request that the resignation be rescinded and rescission may occur at the discretion of the person who accepted the resignation or the Board of Education.

Cook shared that the sense of the Board was that policy GCCAA, staff sick leave, be deferred to give Human Resources an opportunity to review policies from other districts and meet with the district’s insurance carrier to determine the overall impact on the budget. The process is involved and may take several months.

Donovan explained the definition of immediate family in regarding to stepchildren and foster children was defined in negotiations with AEA. Brenna Isaacs and Frank O’Hara have shared that this could be proposed and changed during teacher contract negotiations. This would change the policy in writing; it would not change the current practice in APS. Barry requested that information be revised in writing and followed up through contract negotiations.

John Hogan, 35500 E, Colfax Ave., Watkins, Colorado, 303 807-4921, addressed concerns in regard to policy GAA, monitoring of school district property.

Hogan is an assistant in employee services and a member of the Classified Employees Council. He spoke as a representative of CEC and on behalf of the 1,670 classified employees in APS.

Hogan shared that language in policy GAA has changed drastically since the Feb. 7 Board meeting. Due to the lateness of posted policy revisions on the Web, CEC was not able to communicate policy revisions to classified employees and we do not know if revised revisions are acceptable. We ask that the Board vote no on this policy change when it is returned for action. Classified employees were against the initial writing of this policy and it sends a clear message that classified staff cannot be trusted. The goal section in the Superintendent’s section of APSNET states:

- improve the climate to better support two-way communication with stakeholders and increase support of APS
- increase internal and external dialog

- increase communication and accountability to all audiences

We do not have a union to voice our concerns. Many classified employee feel that there has been secrecy surrounding policy changes and revisions and information was not readily available for review.

In regard to policies GCQF and GDQD, CEC recommends that the Board not give up their right to board appeal hearing proceedings. This strongly reflects back to GAA, in that, if the administration cannot trust us, then how can we trust whomever the Superintendent would delegate the powers to.

Cook explained that the sense of the Board is not to return policy GAA for action at the March 4 Board meeting. He clarified that if concerns are presented regarding a weapon at a school or district site, the administration would take action in the best interest of protecting kids. Barry echoed comments and shared that the first responsibility as Superintendent is ensuring the safety and security of our children. If we have any evidence of a child at risk, we will take action under the Fourth Amendment.

The Board would like to maintain control of acceptance of employee resignations and terminations and will not approve proposed changes to policies GCQF or GCQD.

Through the efforts of Jane Barber, the Board has made sure that policy revisions were posted on the district Web site for classified employees to review. Revisions have been posted for the past month and we have been discussing policy revisions since August 2007. Information has been transparent and we have tried to get as much input from stakeholders as possible.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

2006-07 Accreditation Report

Stuart and Escárcega presented an overview of the 2006-07 Accreditation Report from the Colorado Department of Education.

Escárcega shared that House Bill 98-1287 mandated a new system of educational accreditation. It took the state four years to get the accreditation rules written and regulations in place, and we have been acting under the new accountability system for about three years. The state currently accredits districts and districts are responsible for accrediting schools based on CDE required indicators. We spent many months developing a system to accredit district schools and the process was approved by the state as required.

Stuart explained that our current process involves reviewing a third of district schools on an annual basis. A district accreditation team comprised of the Superintendent, leadership, and representatives from the Division of Instruction, School Services and Human Resources meet with school administrators to review required indicators. Site administrators provide evidence to show growth in areas outlined by indicators and progress made toward achieving goals. At the conclusion of the meeting, the accreditation team looks at a preponderance of evidence and makes a determination status. The four determination statuses are accredited, accredited watch, accredited probation and non-accredited.

Escárcega shared that the four accountability systems that we are under include newspaper reports, SAR, AYP and accreditation. Accreditation has historically

been based on more than achievement and CSAP data. The state approved indicators include:

- Educational Improvement Plan – we submitted the VISTA 2010 Plan as our district plan and it was well received by the state
- CSAP goals
- closing achievement gaps
- value-added growth – the state wants the percentage of students making one year's growth
- data regarding achievement in other curriculum standards areas – grades and interim system are used
- compliance with School Accountability Report
- compliance with Educational Accreditation Act – steps taken at the district level to accredit schools
- compliance with Safe Schools Act
- compliance with Colorado Basic Literacy Act
- other reports
- compliance with budgeting, accounting and reporting requirements

Stuart shared that 22 schools in APS have accreditation status, 25 schools are on accreditation watch and one school is on accreditation probation. The district received accreditation status by the state at the conclusion of the 2006-07 school year.

The state accreditation process is expected to change at the end of this school year. The process outlined at a briefing indicates that the state will give more weight to student growth as a way to determine a district accreditation status. They have developed a growth measure that will be used to track the progress of every APS student to determine one year's growth during a school year. The state is also trying to streamline the accreditation process. Indicators will be reduced from 11 to five next year. The 2006-07 Accreditation report will be posted to the district Web site.

Escárcega explained that each year the state goes through a set of accommodations and recommendations. The aggressive VISTA 2010 Plan focuses on improving student achievement and was submitted to the state. The plan was also submitted to the state as our Title I Improvement Plan.

The state commended APS on our accreditation system. We have schools on accreditation watch and it is an indicator that we are committed to improving student achievement. We were also commended for our commitment to making school safety a core district value.

Stuart shared recommendations from the state including:

- continue to focus on aligning curriculum around state standards
- work for a minimum of three percent growth in reading, writing and math during the 2007-08 school year
- reinforce high expectations and learning for all students
- continue to develop leadership capacity
- continue hiring personnel to represent the diversity in APS
- continue to work to increase parent and community involvement in schools and the district
- continue to set goals in each school to monitor and increase student achievement

Most of the recommendations from the state were included as actions in the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan.

Lewis asked how much time sites spend preparing for the accreditation process. Stuart replied that we are in the process of having each school present a state of the school presentation that will provide a comprehensive review of their site. This information will be used for part of the accreditation process and will save preparation time at sites. Escárcega also shared that we are trying to keep required reports for schools to a minimum.

Barber asked whether CDE would be able to understand data if they develop a complex model for longitudinal growth. Escárcega explained that the math is complicated, but the concept is easy to understand and explain. CDE will be looking at students over a couple of years to determine growth and comparing data with other students who started in the same time frame.

Cook asked if charter schools were under our accreditation process. Stuart responded that charter schools are under our accreditation process. They have difference types of data they use to show evidence of growth around state indicators.

Carmany asked if we could use interim assessments to measure three percent growth mid-year to determine progress toward our goals. Escárcega replied not to the specification needed to measure the difference. Interim assessments are a good indicator and monitor student progress at sites.

Cook thanked Escárcega and Stuart for all their work and efforts.

2008 School Climate Report

Escárcega invited Dan Jorgensen to the table to present an overview of the 2008 school climate report.

Jorgensen explained that climate surveys were created in conjunction with AEA and district leadership. Initial climate surveys were developed in the 2006-07 school year. One survey was developed to cover licensed, professional/technical and administrative employees and one survey was developed for classified employees. Three surveys were developed this year: a licensed employee survey, a professional/technical and administrative employee survey and a classified employee survey. The return rates for licensed and professional/technical and administrative employee surveys were between 90 to 97 percent. The return rate for the classified employee survey was 41 percent. The return rate for licensed surveys at sites was 80 percent.

Items listed on the survey were grouped into six areas related to the VISTA 2010 Plan:

- clarity of purpose – understanding of VISTA 2010 Plan and district goals
- communication – sharing of information from supervisors, performance evaluations and expression of professional opinions
- trust and respect – overall atmosphere at school or district sites
- work environment – security, professional development and school/site upkeep
- morale – teamwork, cooperation, respect, work appreciation and

- relationship between professional associations and the district
- support for programs – teacher perceptions of existing programs and overall implementation of programs

Escárcega explained that agreement rates of 70 percent or higher were considered areas of strength. Agreed and strongly agreed were combined together. Agreement rates of 30 percent or below were considered areas of challenge.

At the district level, five percent or greater is considered meaningful data and a significant difference. At the school level, eight to 10 percent or greater is considered meaningful data and a significant difference. On the classified climate survey, 50 percent of items indicated meaningful improvement. On the licensed classified survey, 75 percent of items indicated meaningful improvement. The professional/technical survey was combined with the administrative survey this year. We will have a baseline and be able to review change next year.

Survey results from the six areas listed were:

- clarity of purpose
 - items presented on the three surveys exceed agreement rates by 70 percent
 - strengths include familiarity with VISTA 2010 Plan
 - long-term vision of APS
 - work related to the district's goals and priority
- communication
 - strengths:
 - administrators and supervisors share information I need to perform my job – this was a strength across all three surveys
 - performance evaluations are fair at my school/site
 - challenges:
 - encouraged to provide suggestions on ways to improve programs or services – disagreement rates over 30 percent were mostly on licensed surveys
 - comfortable in stating my opinions about APS programs even if I disagree with an approach taken – disagreement rates over 30 percent mostly on licensed and classified surveys
- trust and respect
 - strengths:
 - slightly lower agreement rate on items presented but a higher rate of neutral responses
 - trusted to make sound professional decisions about instruction
 - trust people who make decisions that affect me in my school/department
 - challenges
 - able to influence the decisions that are made by the district or my school site
 - atmosphere of trust and mutual respect within the school/APS
- work environment
 - strengths:
 - sufficient access to appropriate instructional materials and resources
 - opportunities to participate in school planning and decision making
 - decisions are based on adequate data
 - school environment is clean and well-maintained

- security measures are in place
- challenges:
 - rules for student conduct are consistently enforced – this item was only on the licensed survey
 - employees are empowered to solve problems – this item was only on the licensed survey
 - employees are treated fairly and consistently at my site – this item was only on the classified survey
- morale
- strengths:
 - appreciated for work
 - professional atmosphere for staff
 - encourage someone to work for APS
- challenges
 - positive relationship between association and district – mixed findings
- support for programs
 - large percentage of neutral responses

Escárcega shared that directors reviewed survey results with principals at the end of the 2006-07 school year and principals reviewed information with staff in the fall. Schools developed goals for their School Improvement Plan and have been reporting in their state of schools presentations.

District survey results will be posted on the Web on Feb. 22. Principals will release data to buildings on Feb. 20. Results will be posted on data walls and school Web sites on Feb. 27.

Cukale commented that there are still a number of challenges in the areas of trust, respect and morale. What are the specific challenges and what can the Board do to help? Escárcega replied that Sturges will be meeting with classified transportation employees to discuss survey results. We have requested that principals meet with employees to review data and brainstorm solutions. Stuart shared that we are also looking at best practices from schools or district sites that have good or improved school climate as a model for other sites. Some buildings have setup committees to review strategies to help improve school climates.

Carmany voiced concerns in regard to responses from middle and high school employees. Most of the responses had a below 50 percent approval ratings on 25 items or more. Escárcega replied that middle and high school employees have historically had low approval responses on school climate surveys. Most can be contributed to the overall size and the time it takes to improve climate cultures. Culture develops over a period of time and it takes time to improve it.

Carmany voiced concerns on the response from licensed staff regarding uninterrupted teaching time. We have to find a way to help teachers feel better about interrupted teaching time. The Board needs to be included on the climate survey when it is presented again.

Barber asked whether classified employees were fearful of retribution for completing surveys and if they had access to neutral computers outside their site. Escárcega responded that there is a fear of retribution. We are not able to identify computers accessed to complete climate surveys. Classified employees are our target group and we will be meeting with district classified groups to discuss how we can better support them. Allen explained that principals and

supervisors will be meeting with classified employees to address survey results and discuss support.

Prince asked what steps the district has taken as a whole to address climate target goals. Escárcega responded that there is a climate goal in the VISTA 2010 Plan. Prince asked when the parent survey results would be available. Escárcega replied the parent survey was mailed to parents and we are currently receiving responses. A student climate survey was also completed and results are being tabulated.

Lewis echoed concerns shared by Barber and noted the low return rate for classified employment surveys. The vast majority of classified staff live in the community and they are often our biggest voices. We must find ways to better support our classified staff.

Edberg commented that employees at middle and high schools have a lower overall approval rating. Part of it is related to size and the difficulty of developing a sense of trust and teamwork in a large school setting. She also echoed comments regarding the low return rate of classified staff surveys, but noted how pleased she was to see all of the gains and improvements from the previous school year. She commented that these are successes and need to be celebrated.

Cook reiterated that cultures and climates take time to improve. Change occurs over a three- to five-year period.

Barry commented that we still have a lot of work to do. This is the manifestation of transparency that has been promoted by the Board and it is also a credit to our community for being able to be transparent. We have changed and transformed this entire district in an incredible way and we are seeing growth in our climate surveys. We had a 90 percent return rate on our climate survey, which is exceptional. We also had a strong agreement approval rate on item 36 in regard to clean and well-maintained school facilities. This is a credit to Sturges and the entire school support staff.

Escárcega thanked Brenna Isaacs, AEA president, for getting the word out to licensed employees and encouraging them to complete the survey.

DIVISION OF FINANCE

2008-09 Preliminary Budget Projections

Rod Weeks and Martha Baldwin presented the Board with an overview of the 2008-09 preliminary budget projections.

Weeks compared the 2007-08 budget of \$385,592,107 to the 2008-09 preliminary projected budget of \$357,312,670. This difference represents a decrease in the district budget of \$28,279,437.

The general operations budget is the primary fund for the district. Overall, there are 13 different funds and six charter schools in the charter school fund. The numbers are very green at this time and inflationary increases are not reflected in every fund.

The Board is responsible for adopting the budget. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring the budget is not overspent and expenditures are

aligned with the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan and district goals.

Charter schools have had significant fiscal impact on the overall district budget and we have seen significant student enrollment growth at the charters over the past four years. With the expected opening of the Aurora Expeditionary Learning Academy, the total projected student enrollment at the charters for the 2008-09 school year will be about 2,268 students. Prince asked what the total capacity for Aurora Academy was. Baldwin replied that the contract is for 500 students.

Weeks shared that 71 percent of the estimated 2,268 students attending charter schools have home addresses in APS. The fiscal impact to APS is \$11 million less in revenue that now goes to charter schools.

Barry requested that Weeks explain the difference between PPR, per pupil revenue, and PPOR, per pupil operating revenue. Weeks replied that the School Finance Act provides a per student funding amount that provides funding for the general operations of a school district, and the amount required for risk related activity/insurance and the capital project fund, which for 2007-08 is \$292 per student. When the \$292 is subtracted from the per pupil revenue amount, the remaining amount is per pupil operating revenue and that amount goes into the general fund.

Weeks reviewed projected increases and decreases for the various 13 funds.

- the athletic fund is expected to increase by \$20,000 to provide for funding of the middle school athletic program at Quest K-8
- the bond fund is expected to decrease by \$21,413
- the building fund is expected to decrease by \$26,550,000, as we enter into the last year of spending down bond proceeds
- the capital reserve fund is expected to decrease by \$1.5 million to help offset lost revenues in the general fund as a result of declining enrollments
- the CPKP, Colorado Pre-school and Kindergarten Program, is a specific fund setup by the Colorado legislature in that part of funding from school finance is dedicated to the CPKP fund so preschool children identified as low income can take advantage of early childhood education
- Sheri Charles, director of the child development center, will be submitting an expansion application to the state for 383 additional slots/\$1.3 million that will provide a total of 1,200 preschool slots in APS in 2008-09
- the grant fund is expected to increase by \$1 million - the Title I grant will increase by \$725,100
- the internal service fund has not increased or decreased
- internal services include copier services and print services
- the nutrition services fund has not increased or decreased
- the only major project in the 2008-09 school year is the addition of the Boston kitchen
- Linda Dallman will share information with the Board this spring about a meal price increase effective July 1
- the pupil activity/special revenue fund is expected to increase by \$8,565
- the insurance fund is a risk related fund and covers risk and security
- most increases are due to workers' compensation claims
- the special programs fund has not increased or decreased

- the pupil activity/agency fund may have an inflationary increase
- the general fund is expected to decrease by \$4 million due to a projected decrease in enrollment of 600 students going into 2008-09, and a total decrease of 1,788 students since July 2006.

The interim financial report provides spending rate information at the district level for schools and departments. It is used as a gauge to monitor spending within budgets. Due to the decrease in revenues and declining enrollments, we have spending caps in place for all divisions to achieve a targeted 92 percent spending rate this budget year. The unspent budget, eight percent of \$240 million, will help provide the necessary balance in the general fund's fund balance at the end of the year.

Teacher equivalency, T.E., is used for school staffing. Barry commented that APS has the highest average teacher salary in the state. The Board and leadership have always taken maximum steps to channel funds from the general fund to schools for classroom instruction.

Mondo, Readers'/Writers' Workshop, and truancy initiatives were one-time expenditures in 2007-08. These line items will go to zero in 2008-09. We will be examining alternatives to fund our truancy initiatives.

Funds that were earmarked for instructional equipment will be decentralized. Sites will be given \$530,000 to use in their local budgets and supporting their instructional programs. We will encourage that funds be used for instructional equipment and technology. Approximately, \$120,000 will remain in the account to pay for lunch tables, setup for new principals and other instructional equipment needs. Barry commented that we are decentralizing as much funding as possible so sites will be able to use funds in meeting their local needs.

Weeks shared that we will have less revenue for the 2008-09 school year. The early estimate is that we will have \$4 million less revenue. We are reducing expenditures by \$9 million and a targeted plan has been established. The \$5 million remaining would be used for the following expenditures:

- salary steps are reviewed across all employee groups yearly. If every employee remains in the district for the 2008-09 school years, step increases would cost \$4.7 million. With retirements and resignations, anticipated salary steps would be about \$2 million
- PERA employee and employer contribution amounts are increasing - \$1.7 million
- Health premiums for all employee groups - 1.4 million
- a one percent salary and benefit cost increase across all employee groups - \$ 1.9 million.

The district has the ability to put forth a ballot to ask taxpayers to increase property taxes to help the general operations of the district. We requested a mill override in 1990 and have received \$7.6 million annually. The maximum amount allowed is \$42 million. We can request an additional \$36 million on the ballot. For every \$1 million that we put on the ballot, it would cost \$3.66 more on an annual basis for the owner of a \$100,000 home. If we ask for a \$10 million increase, it would be a \$36.60 annual increase on a \$100,000 home. Barry commented that we have not had a mill levy override attempt since 1990. Some superintendents across the metro area have shared that they have maxed out and are unable to put forth a ballot to request a mill levy override. Weeks shared that in Nov. 2007, 18 districts asked for a mill override and 11 districts were

successful.

The proposed budget will be presented on May 6 and presented for approval on May 20. The DAAC will hear a budget presentation on May 22, and host a public budget hearing. The budget will be presented as information for adoption on June 3 and returned for action on June 17. If readoption is necessary, it will need to be approved at the October 7 meeting.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Elementary Late Start Proposal

Tabled

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

District Athletics and Activities Report

Cook invited Tony Antolini, director of district athletics and activities, to the staff table to present an overview on the district athletics, activities, facilities rental and aquatics programs.

Antolini shared that the athletics and activities program is an extension of the classroom. Numerous studies and research has shown that kids who are involved in activities and athletics do better in school. In many cases, involvement in extracurricular activities is the determining factor in continuous enrollment and motivation for some students.

At the high school level, we have been relatively stable in five year averages of sports participation. Rangeview has the highest number of sport participation in the district and it is mainly attributed to the cost involved in specialized programs and the number of programs offered. Programs are available at all schools, but student participation is low or nonexistent. Boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse, girls' tennis and softball are some of the programs offered at Rangeview. The majority of sports participation is in football or basketball. Our numbers are still low compared to neighboring districts. We are trying to attract more students to our programs and increase student participation in cross country, track and field, swimming and golf.

Barber asked if APS had a gymnastics program. Antolini responded that we do not have a gymnastics program in APS. APS students can compete in gymnastics at Overland High School.

Antolini reviewed five year averages in middle school sports. Schools in the southeast quadrant of the district have the highest number of sports participation. Swimming and track have the lowest student sport participation rate in middle schools. We are looking at rearranging when we offer both programs to increase student participation.

The overall goal for the 2007-08 school year is to increase student participation in athletics and activities by three percent. We have seen a seven percent increase at the high school level, but a two percent decrease at the middle

school level.

Some of the avenues to increase and reach student participation goals include hosting high school and middle school clinics, and athletics and activities orientations. We meet with middle school principals to recruit students and host middle school championship games at high schools.

Game schedules are available on the district athletic Web site. There is also a direct link to Rockies Prep to view ranking, scores and other results.

The Board approves student clubs and they are required to meet monthly and have 10 active members. Lewis asked how long it takes school administrators to realize a club is not meeting consistently. Antolini replied that school activity directors are accountable for monitoring and ensuring clubs and members are meeting consistently.

The district's Aquatics Program consists of the Aurora Tsunami Swim Team, a United States swimming organization designed for competitive swimmers at the middle and high school levels. The CARA swim team is a recreational swim team and the Colorado Water Polo consists of 15 members that compete in the metro area.

The facility rental office is designed to connect with the community and make sure our facilities are available for use. There is an application charge for every request to use our facilities along with any labor or equipment cost incurred. Middle schools are the most popular rental facilities. We also rent parking lots, kitchens, commons, auditoriums, pools and cafeterias. Our most consistent renter is churches, usually requesting use of our common areas to hold services. We receive an annual stipend of \$34,000 from the city of Aurora for facility use in APS and we will be meeting with them to discuss an increase for facility use.

Prince asked if there were packets of middle and high school sports and activities available for students at centralized registration sites. Antolini replied that we rely on schools to provide and distribute information. Providing additional packets at centralized registration offices would be a great avenue to get the word out to our community.

Cukale commented that we see good parent involvement through sport participation. He thanked district coaches for giving up their time to help student athletes achieve their goals.

Cook asked if doctors from the University Health Science Center were planning to donate time again to provide physicals to student athletes. Antolini replied that doctors from the Health Science Center were planning to provide athletic physicals again for \$10. We are planning to expand the clinics to all four high schools so feeder middle school kids can take advantage of the clinics.

Cook thanked Antolini for rescheduling his presentation to tonight's meeting.

100 Acre Master Site Plan

Stuart invited Amy Spatz, district construction manager; Josh Hensley, planning coordinator, and Pat Ziuchkovski, RTA Architects, to the staff table to present a conceptual master plan of the district's 100 acre site.

Spatz shared that we have been working on the P-8 and high school design for

some time and an important component is site design. The district owned property at 6th Avenue and Harvest Mile Road is the proposed site of the new P-8 and high school. We have hired Pat Ziuchkovski, RTA Architects, to work with the district and design a master site plan.

Ziuchkovski shared that the 100 acre site is located south of I-70 and east of E-470. Several housing developments have been planned or approved surrounding the site. The site is not included in the influence area of Buckley Air Force Base. The site is bounded on the west by medium density residential housing, on the east by medium density residential housing and on the south by very low density residential housing. The north side of the site is zoned for a high quality retail/employment area, which might consist of regional shopping, hotels, office and business space and some related more dense residential areas.

On the north and east side of the site are two principal arterials, which would be built as four lanes initially with right of ways to expand to six lanes. On the south side would be an extension of a locate collectors street. The site is located one mile from I-70 and E-470.

We looked at examples of expanded, multiple facility sites and designs from Cherokee Trails High School and Rock Ridge Middle School in the Cherry Creek School District, Monarch K-12 Campus in the Boulder Valley School District and Rock Canyon High School and Rocky Heights Middle School in Douglas County. We also look at the fields at Gateway High School to use as a model for the new stadium design.

We used footprints of scales from Douglas County High School, capacity of 2,000 students; the APS P-8 school design, capacity of 1,000 students; the Cherry Creek High School stadium, capacity to seat 5,000; and the Gateway High School field with some modifications. For the joint use facility, we used the footprint from the University Center at Chaparral High School and for the public community facility we used the footprint of Trails Recreation/Fitness Center in Arapahoe County. We met with the transportation and maintenance staff to discuss a possible 12,000 square foot satellite facility that would have parking capacity for about 25 buses and 50 cars.

Three options for site designs were presented and staff recommended Option C for the proposed development plan.

Spatz shared that we will be meeting with officials from the city of Aurora to begin the annexation process. We will meet with the Board once we complete the final annexation application.

Hensley commented that we have extreme overcrowding at Aurora Central and Rangeview. The new high school will be the district's next comprehensive high school and will serve a large portion of the district's population.

Cook thanked presenters for all their hard work and efforts. He requested that the presentation be forwarded to Board members for further study.

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

Classified Personnel

Licensed Personnel

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

Edberg moved and Prince seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7966

Approved on a vote of 7-0

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

New America School Charter Renewal

Donovan shared that the Board was presented with information regarding the New America School Charter renewal application at the Feb. 7 Board meeting. Upon approval, a written resolution will be presented to the Board on March 4.

Barber moved and Lewis seconded to approve the New America School Charter renewal application.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7967

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Pilot Schools Joint Steering Committee

Cook made a motion to amend the agenda and move action item IV-A-II forward on the agenda to approve William Smith as the first pilot school in APS.

Cukale moved and Prince seconded to amend the agenda to move action item IV-A-II forward on the agenda to approve William Smith as the first pilot school in APS.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7968

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Van Gyteenbeek shared that on Feb. 7, the Board of Education heard a recommendation from the Pilot Schools Joint Steering Committee and the Design Team at William Smith High School to approve William Smith as the district's first pilot school. It is recommended that the Board approve William Smith as the first pilot school in APS effective July 2008.

Carmany moved and Cukale seconded to approve William Smith as first pilot school in Aurora.

Barber hopes the close knit feeling and warm climate at William Smith does not change. She expressed that the staff is welcoming and it is nice to hear students calling teachers by their first name.

Cook clarified that William Smith is not becoming a charter school. The Board and APS still retain control of the school. The format, curriculum and other things will change, but it is not becoming a charter.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7969

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Cook thanked the Aurora Education Association, Superintendent Barry and district leadership for all their hard work and efforts in making this happen so quickly. A special thanks to Brenna Isaacs, AEA president, for working with district leadership to move us forward. This sets a precedent for other school districts by showing it can be done. This is historical and I am excited to be a part of it.

Van Gytenbeek invited Brenna Isaacs, Jane Shirley and Senator Suzanne Williams to the staff table to share comments on approving William Smith High School as the first pilot school in Aurora.

Isaacs commented that this is a historic occasion. She thanked Superintendent Barry, Deputy Superintendent Van Gytenbeek and pilot school study groups from the district and AEA for all their hard work in moving this forward. A special thanks to the Board and district leadership for affording us an opportunity to find ways to work collaboratively to develop and create an innovative program. All voices were heard and appreciated as we worked in this collaborative fashion. I want to applaud the staff at William Smith for being the first pilot school in APS. We are looking forward to spending lots of time at William Smith as they develop their expeditionary learning school.

Shirley thanked the Board, AEA, and district leadership on behalf of the staff and students of William Smith. She assured Barber that we are committed to retaining the same quality of community while increasing student achievement. We are proud and honored to be the leader in this innovative chapter in APS. It will be well worth the risk in three years. We are expecting great things.

Senator Suzanne Williams congratulated the district and shared that APS has developed quite a following at the state level. We are looking at APS at the state level as a model for innovative programs. We are debating a bill scheduled to be heard on Thursday in the Senate Education Committee. Its

purpose is to bring innovative schools to districts. APS staff will be testifying how the innovative process has worked in Aurora as a collaborative model. Many districts believe we need some type of perimeters in place in state statutes to encourage districts to develop options for innovative school. This is a unique relationship that you have facilitated and we want to use the approach as a model across the state of Colorado.

Barry congratulated the Board for taking the leadership in establishing an atmosphere of transformation that is allowing us to move forward. The trust and teamwork is evident in APS and in the great courage of AEA. This is a great effort of autonomy and responsibility and we are excited that William Smith is taking the lead to establish the watermark in APS.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Expenditures Summary and Financial Report as of Dec. 31, 2007

Weeks shared that the Board was presented with a summary of the \$177 million spent through Dec. 31, 2007. The Interim Financial Report was provided to the Board for review under separate cover. The recommendation is that the Board approve the Expenditures Summary of interim Financial Report as of Dec. 31, 2007 as presented.

Edberg moved and Barber seconded to approve the Expenditures Summary and Financial Report as of Dec. 31, 2007.

The total interfund borrowing from the general fund totals \$5.1 million. One million is from the grants fund, \$400,000 is from nutrition services, \$93,000 is from copier services, and is similar to the last report received by the Board.

Payment was made on an \$8.3 million interest free loan received from the treasurer's office and approved by the Board in Dec. 2007. Payment was also made on a \$13.8 million bond expenditure on Dec. 1, 2007, which included both principal interests. Bond payments are made twice yearly on the first day of June and Dec.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7970

Approved on a vote of 7-0

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Correspondence

Cook reminded everyone that March 3 is Read Across America Day.

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held March 4, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Patricia Lord Boardroom.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

President

ATTEST _____
Secretary