

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the April 1, 2008, meeting to order at 6:31 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
Anthony Sturges, chief operating officer
Tonia Norman, assistant to Board of Education

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

The April 1, 2008, agenda was amended to include information item II-E-1, proposal for an APS school-based health center.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held March 18, 2008, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Barber had an opportunity to attend a cultural fair at East Middle School. It was a wonderful celebration for the kids after several weeks of testing.

Barber commended Lewis and Carmany for helping with the teacher recruitment fair at Metro State College during spring break. She also thanked students at Murphy Creek for artwork displayed in the boardroom. Cook added that student artwork from various sites is displayed in the boardroom throughout the year.

April 1, 2008

Lewis attended the Superintendent's Quarterly Award ceremony with Barber and Carmany. We have wonderful employees and it is nice to see them recognized.

Lewis attended the National School Board Association conference in Orlando with fellow board members, Prince and Cukale. She shared that it was very inspiring and the speakers were great. APS is on the cutting edge and ahead of many of the districts represented at the conference.

Carmany shared that the IB program at Hinkley is having a land mines dinner at Aurora Hills Middle School on Friday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m. Christine Sundberg is one of the IB teachers at Hinkley. She has received national and international recognition and awards for her work with land mine eradication. This is one of their fundraisers and it is a good way to recognize IB students for their work in this area.

Items of Current Interest

Barry thanked the Aurora Police Department and city of Aurora employees for giving so generously to our students. Led by Sergeant Tim Genaro, community members raised funds to support students at five schools in APS. Genaro was inspired by an Elkhart student whose family did not have money to buy clothes.

In addition to giving to the Elkhart student, Genaro hand delivered donations to four other schools' family outreach programs. We commend Genaro and city of Aurora employees for their thoughtfulness and dedication to our students.

Friday, April 11, is College Friday in Colorado! Please help to raise awareness about the importance of higher education by wearing a college shirt to work on that day.

Please join us at an upcoming town hall meeting to discuss several topics affecting APS students. The first meeting will be held at William Smith High School on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.; the second meeting will be held at Mrachek Middle School on Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Please join us at East Middle School on April 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. to provide feedback in regard to proposed changes in school bell schedules for the 2008-09 school year. Proposed bell times would allow APS to add 10 minutes to the middle school schedule, as required by CDE, and to adopt a common bell schedule at all APS high schools. Additional open houses to provide feedback on proposed changes to the bell schedule will be held on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, April 3, Aurora Hills Middle School, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Monday, April 7, Aurora Frontier K-8, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 8, West Middle School, 6 to 8 p.m.

NetTrekker d.i. recently named Aurora Public Schools as one of the top 50 districts in the nation for keeping students safe when searching on the Internet. APS uses NetTrekker d.i. and a variety of other tools to provide a safe online learning environment for students.

Student artistic creations will be displayed at the APS Festival of the Arts, April 8 through April 13, at the Town Center at Aurora. On Saturday, April 12, more than 20 groups from school bands and percussion ensembles to dance teams

and theater productions will perform.

We announced earlier today that Dean Stecklein, principal of Aurora Central, has accepted the executive director position at T. H. Pickens College effective July 1, 2008. This is another recognition for Stecklein and is a testament to his superb leadership abilities. Stecklein was recognized as the best principal in the state of Colorado last year.

VISTA 2010 Update

Allen shared that at the first Board meeting of the month, district leadership highlights one action item from the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan, People, Achievement, Community and Environment.

People

Allen provided an update on the plan revision of the teacher performance evaluation form and process. This has been a topic of discussion in contract negotiations and we have been working with Brenna Issacs, AEA president, and Frank O'Hara, AEA vice president, for about a year to research best practices from districts throughout the nation. We have formalized a schedule through negotiations and are working on developing a pilot. A committee comprised of teachers, principals, and district staff will be convened to develop the evaluation form and process. We hope to pilot the form and process in the 2009-10 school year and have a formal agreement in place with AEA by spring 2010.

Achievement

Stuart shared that it is critical to have instruction aligned to standards. We have learned the value of pacing guides to ensure instruction taught exposes students to standards and content necessary to be successful on the state assessment. We developed pacing guides for math and literacy instruction in grades third through tenth and they have been in place this school year.

Throughout the year, we have gathered data to ascertain the effectiveness of pacing guides and improve professional development that accompanies them. This spring, we have begun the process to revise pacing guides. We conducted an online survey for teachers to access and provide feedback on the use of the guides. A committee comprised of teachers and staff from the Division of Instruction reviewed information and recommendations were used to make changes to the guides. We plan to revise guides on an annual basis to ensure they are useful and accurate as possible. We will continue to improve the professional development that accompanies the use of the pacing guides to ensure the purpose and development is clear to teachers and principals. The revised pacing guides will be distributed to sites this spring.

Carmany asked about comments received from teachers who participated in the online survey. Stuart shared that one repeated comment was that the calendar was not factored in when pacing guides were developed. As an example, interim assessments took a couple of days to administer at the end of the quarter and it took time out of the pacing guide sequence. We have built in time to reflect testing schedules in revised pacing guides.

Carmany asked if there were any comments from teachers regarding how pacing guides aligned with Mondo and Lucy Calkins. Escárcega shared that good feedback and suggestions were received from teachers who worked with Lucy

Calkins and had aligned Mondo reading literacy with Lucy Calkins, DLI, and other skill based programs.

Lewis asked if time had been built into pacing guides to incorporate individual teaching styles. Stuart shared that was a frequent comment from teachers who felt they were not meeting the needs of students by sticking to the pacing guides because not enough time had been built in to meet proficiency levels for all students. The pacing guides are designed to continually revisit content. The professional development that accompanies the pacing guides is helping teachers and principals understand that pushing through the pacing guide will expose students to the needed content. It is a balancing act and we continue to gather feedback to determine how much time is needed on specific content.

Lewis asked about the percentage of teachers who took part in the online survey. Escárcega shared that the online survey was voluntary, but a significant number of teachers responded. Teachers from various school sites were present when recommended revisions were made.

Community

Escárcega invited Katherine Pope Hooper, director of information technology, to the staff table to present information on Action 57: tracking parent participation in school committees and at school events annually.

Hooper shared that there has been a great need to find a system to track parent volunteers and to report out on the number of households participating in school committees and events. During a visit to the Douglas County School District, we discovered PTO Today, a Web-based software program that tracks school events and participation numbers in committees and events. Parent volunteers can sign up for an event and schools can advertise for volunteers via the Web-based program. The software costs \$149 per school for the license. Ivan Duran, director of instructional technology, reviewed the software and was very impressed. The software was implemented at 25 Title schools and it has been very well received. Paul Coleman, director of grants management, is heading up a team to ensure selected sites are utilizing the software. Once usage is confirmed at all selected sites, PTO Today will be implemented at additional sites.

Carmany asked who was responsible for gathering data at school sites. Escárcega explained that it varies at each site. Piloting the software at Title schools was a good choice because they have extensive parent involvement plans and are required to track it. Parent liaisons had been tracking information on paper at Title schools.

Prince asked about the advantages of PTO Today in lieu of tracking on paper. Hooper explained that the software is Web-based so parents can login from home and information can be tracked from site to site. We are also able to run district wide reports through the software.

Cukale asked if parents were sent instructions to log into the program and how information was being tracked for parents without computers. Hooper explained that the original plan was to set up computer access terminals at selected sites so parents without computers could access the program. Each site determined how login instructions were communicated to parents. Escárcega added that we are not counting on the software to secure parent volunteers or participation at school events. This is a good Web-based tracking software for parents that have

Internet access and for school sites. This is not the outreach that we plan to use to increase parent involvement in school committees or events. We will continue to use paper and phones for the majority of parental contact.

Edberg asked if PTO Today software was funded through Title funds. Hooper responded that the software was funded through instructional technology.

Environment

Sturges invited Christine Hoppe to the staff table to present an overview of goal one in regard to maintaining safe and secure environments at sites.

Hoppe shared that vandalism has decreased overall in the 2007-08 school year. There has been a significant decrease in vandalism at district middle schools. Occurrences of vandalism at district high schools were flat and occurrences at district elementary schools have increased. Overall the number of vandalism claims has increased but the overall costs have decreased due to smaller incidences of vandalism.

Data from first quarter of last year to first quarter of this year showed that vandalism is flat in the northwest quadrant. Vandalism has decreased in the northeast quadrant, increased in the southwest quadrant and decreased in the southeast quadrant of the district. Data received has been reviewed with site administrators, campus monitors and district security. Sites with increased cases of vandalism will be monitored more closely.

Lewis requested that Sturges forward information to Board members for further review.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Meal Price Increase

Weeks invited Linda Dallman, director of nutrition services, to the staff table to present an overview of operation costs and a proposed meal price increase for the 2008-09 school year.

Dallman explained that nutrition services is proposing a meal price increase as shared with the Board during a presentation last spring. The Colorado Department of Education approved the following proposed meal price increase:

- elementary breakfast - 75 cents
- middle school breakfast - \$1.00
- high school breakfast - \$1.00
- elementary lunch - \$1.60
- middle school lunch - \$2.00
- high school lunch - \$2.00

The meal increase reflects a 25 cent increase for school breakfast and lunch.

Nutrition services has experienced rising expenditure costs to support a meal price increase. Rising cost expenditures include salaries, benefits, food,

equipment repairs, technology and training. Revenue has not exceeded expenditures in the last two years resulting in operational resources falling below the allowable 30 percent of expenditures. Over the last several years, excess operating resources have been used to purchase Back of the House software, kitchen equipment for remodels and new construction, and an expanded and reconfigured warehouse freezer. Computers will need to be replaced as well as outdated kitchen equipment. In addition, the price of food and fuel continues to rise.

Upon Board approval, nutrition services will notify communication services and site secretaries of the increase to give them an opportunity to include information in end-of-year communications to parents. The information will also be included on our Web site and in the parent letter that accompanies our meal application form. The meal price increase is scheduled to go into effect August 5, 2008.

Carmany asked if the price increase would be included in summer mailings to parents. Dallman responded yes. Mary Lewis asked if other districts planned to increase prices. Dallman responded that Cherry Creek School District raised prices this year. Other districts are in the process of reviewing meal price increases.

Edberg moved and Lewis seconded to move information item, II-C-1, proposed meal price increase, to action.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7981

Approved on a vote of 7-0

School-Based Health Center

Stuart invited Mary Beth Rensberger, health services coordinator, to the staff table to update the Board on a proposal for an APS school-based health center.

Rensberger introduced Carol Duncan, who has been working on the planning grant since the beginning of the year. The Colorado Department of Education of Health and Environment approved a \$15,000 grant to support planning for an APS school-based health center in June 2007. The Colorado Association of School-Based Health Centers funded some of the money received for the planning grant.

The planning grant required that we convene a community advisory committee comprised of district staff and representatives from Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics, Aurora Mental Health, Children's Hospital Dental Services, Metro Community Provider Network, Tri-County Health Department and several other community agencies and public clinics.

We have been working on a business plan and a needs assessment as part of the recommendation for the planning year. Duncan was responsible for administering our needs assessments to parents, teachers and students in third, fourth and fifth grades. We received over 800 surveyed responses indicating overwhelming support for a school-based health center.

Rensberger shared that we are at the end of our planning year and are in the process of writing the implementation grant. The grant is due May 4 and we should receive notification of funding by May 15.

Aurora Mental Health and Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics will be our biggest community partners. Rocky Mountain Youth will provide our pediatric clinic services and Aurora Mental Health is committed to expanding their school-based therapy services. Crawford Elementary will be the primary site for the school-based health center. Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics will provide a mid-level practitioner and a medical assistant with physician oversight. They also have a dental van, and have been providing dental hygiene services and preventive dental services to APS students for some time. The van will be at the Crawford site one day per week. The medical provider has requested that we identify a population sufficient to support 20 to 22 visits per day in order to bill Medicaid and other carriers for some of the visits.

APS preschool and elementary students in the northwest quadrant of the district will be our primary focus. School officials from St. Therese have shown an interest in utilizing services at the school-based health center and have identified students with high health needs. We are working with our legal office to determine if we can provide services to students in the same targeted age group at St. Therese.

One room has been identified for the health center at Crawford. There is no exterior entrance or running water for medical personnel. We are determining costs to fix concerns or find other alternatives. If we do not have an approved space by August, we will see patients in the Rocky Mountain Youth Clinic van. We have also discussed the possibility of having a modular unit that could be hooked to a water line at the site.

We are in the process of creating forms and setting up a fee payment schedule for parents. We are also working on additional grants to provide transportation to disadvantaged parents and offset expenses for the school-based health center.

Edberg served on the advisory committee and expressed how impressed she was with the insight and commitment of the committee. We have received a lot of support from the community and district. There were some concerns in regard to funding to keep the clinic operational on a yearly basis. Rensberger commented that some school-based health centers in DPS closed due to declining student enrollments. In general, this is a growing trend and has proven to be a great resource to underprivileged kids. We have heard from participants at workshops that some of the foundations have funds and are committed to supporting school-based health centers. Duncan shared that the majority of funds received for the planning grant came from the Colorado Trust. They have allocated \$1 million to use for school-based health centers.

Barber asked if there were plans to expand once the center at Crawford is up and running. Rensberger shared that Elkhart has already expressed an interest in a school-based health center as well as some district middle schools. Prince asked Rensberger to keep the Board posted on funding for the APS school-based health center.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

District Planning Report

Sturges invited Josh Hensley, district planning coordinator, and Jaclyn Gorman, planning assistant, to the staff table to present an overview of the district planning department.

Hensley shared that student enrollments declined by more than 300 students between the 2005 and 2006 school years. Enrollments declined by 775 students this year and are projected to decline by 600 students next year. A modified cohort survival method is used to project student enrollments. Future enrollments are projected based on historical enrollment patterns. We compare the number of students in a particular grade level to the number of students in the previous grade level in the previous year. We calculate the cohort from previous years to create ratios and averages. Each cohort is used to progress the grade forward to project future enrollments. Enrollments are adjusted based on residential growth and program changes that might impact enrollment such as charter schools, magnet schools, traditional schools or boundary changes. We then review and create additional reports to validate and adjust projections. The entire process takes about three months.

There has been a steady decline in the northwest elementary quadrant over the past five years and we are projecting a further decline. The boundary change that occurred in 2006 resulted in 160 students moving from the northeast quadrant to the northwest quadrant of the district. We have lost more than 750 students in the northwest quadrant of the district in the last five years. In the northeast quadrant of the district, the decline rate was steady until this year when we experienced a decline. The southwest quadrant has had continuous decline until this year when they had a significant decline. The southeast quadrant of the district has seen growth, but it has not been as rapid as in previous years. The growth seen at Aurora Frontier and Murphy Creek will not be enough to offset declines in other elementary schools within the southeast quadrant of the district. We are projecting a decline of 300 additional students next year.

We have lost more than 280 middle school students in the northwest quadrant of the district in the past five years. We have also seen a steady decline in the northeast quadrant and a significant decline in the southwest quadrant. The southeast quadrant is a growth area, but it has lessened somewhat. We are projecting a decline of 200 additional students next year.

In the northwest quadrant, there had been steady growth at Aurora Central in previous years. Enrollments declined by 100 students this year. In the northeast quadrant, student enrollment increased at Hinkley following the completion of the remodel. In the southwest quadrant, student enrollment at Gateway has been stable and it is expected to continue. In the southeast quadrant, student enrollment at Rangeview declined for the first time and further declines are projected for next year.

The mean center of enrollments has progressed to the southeast and it has been fairly stable this year. Changes in enrollment from the October count until March 24, 2008, showed gains at elementary, K-8 and middle schools, but declines at high schools. Compared to previous years during the same time frame, we only lost one percent of enrollments at elementary and middle schools.

Hensley reviewed a map of residential development areas. We grew by 306

students in new subdivisions and currently have about 1,000 students in new subdivisions. This has offset declines in previous years, but may not help future growth. Projections for K-8 and secondary enrollment indicates a high medium and low growth scenarios over the next five years based on the slowdown in housing development and reduction of certificates of occupancy.

Enrollment by ethnicity showed a steady decline in the white student population over the past 10 years and a decline in the African American student population over the past four years. Prior to 2006, total enrollment did not decline in other student populations due to significant growth in the Hispanic student population. Growth increased by 450 students in the Hispanic student population between 2005 and 2006, resulting in 60 percent less students than the previous year. Growth in the Hispanic student population was essentially flat between 2006 and 2007 and we did not see gains to offset declines in other ethnic groups.

Alameda Avenue is the north/south division line between the district. Student enrollments have declined in most ethnic groups in the last two years in the northern section of the district with the exception of the Asian student population group. The African American student population group has declined in the southern section of the district and the Hispanic student population increased slightly in the southern section of the district.

Hensley reviewed demographics of ELL students and students receiving free and reduced lunch aid. Most full-day kindergarten students attend schools in the northwest quadrant of the district and receive free and reduced lunch aid.

Charter schools continue to impact student enrollment. We currently have 1,700 students enrolled in charter schools, which is five percent of our student enrollment. AXL Charter will open next year with 235 students in which 75 percent are APS students.

A number of APS students have open enrolled at other metro school districts. The top two districts where APS students have open enrolled were DPS and Cherry Creek School District. Hensley noted that most of students are attending school one or two miles outside the district's attendance boundary. This is significant and we have a reasonable chance to attract these families back to APS.

Hensley reviewed some of the other schools where APS students have open enrolled including Vilas RE-5 and Adams 12, two online school options offered outside of APS. The Charter School Institute is a state institute of charter schools that is not affiliated with any district. There are currently 11 schools operating under the institute and some APS students may be attending the Colorado Distance and Learning Academy or the High Point Academy.

Hensley reviewed enrollment capacity levels at elementary schools. We have space for full-day kindergarten in some schools that do not offer it to help meet our goal in the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan

Carmany asked if capacity level figures included mobiles. Hensley shared that mobiles are a solution to deal with overcrowding and are not included in the count.

Hensley noted that all middle schools are at capacity. Rangeview will have better capacity once the new addition is completed. Aurora Central continues to be 30 percent over capacity.

Barry commented that we plan to do an aggressive marketing campaign to families open enrolled in schools one to two miles outside district boundaries. We will continue to grow our reputation and make VISTA 2010 a reality.

Edberg lives close to Prairie Middle School and Overland High School and noted that many APS students walk to both schools. The IB Program at Aurora Hills will bring some of the students back to APS. Many parents have mentioned the danger of crossing Mississippi and it is a compelling reason for parents to open enroll at Prairie Middle School. We have tried to get the city of Aurora to help make the crossing safer. Sturges shared that we are working with the city to resolve this issue and have discussed concerns with Rob Schmedeke, transportation director. We are planning to provide bus service for families as a safety option. Hensley shared that the city has been doing a study of traffic control devices and walk areas of every school in Aurora. They have visited with principals, driven the streets and cataloged signs to ensure recommendations are uniform. Recommendations will be provided for city streets and the city will share strategies on how we can make our schools safer. Most people want to send their students to neighborhood schools and we want to make sure they are safe.

Cook thanked Hensley and Gorman for the annual planning update.

Connect-Ed

Sturges invited Dan Davis, chief information officer, and Katherine Pope Hooper, director of information technology, to the staff table to present an overview of the Connect-Ed short messaging system.

Davis shared that APS signed a contract with Connect-Ed on January 31. On that same day, President Bush landed at Buckley Air Force Base and the presidential motorcade was routed directly in front of Murphy Creek K-8 just as students were being released from school. We sent a message via Connect-Ed to parents at 2:00 p.m. to inform them that students would be detained until 4:00 p.m. About 100 parents reported to Murphy Creek almost immediately to pick up their students. It was a great rollout for a great product.

Connect-Ed is a mass communication tool that has the capacity to send two million messages to phones or e-mails per hour. Messages can be tracked to determine bad numbers or whether the recipient or an answering machine answered the call. We can also send messages to targeted groups such as the Board, principals or parent groups at each site.

Connect-Ed will replace the Infinite Campus Messenger system. The Infinite Campus Messenger system has been a good tool for APS but it can only handle 2,000 calls per hour. It would take up to 12 hours to contact parents in an emergency situation utilizing the system.

Connect-Ed will be used to inform parents of weather closures, bomb threats, school lockdowns as well as school and district events or meetings. We have requested that schools use Connect-Ed to send four "casual calls" per month so parents are not inundated with messages. The system will be used to mobilize our incident response team in case of an emergency, connect to key communicators within the community and inform parents if their student is absent or tardy. We can send a message to homes as an outreach or use it for an interactive survey where we ask one question. If we do an outreach call to

parents, we can prerecord messages. Once a message is recorded, we can listen to the message and determine who will receive the message before sending.

Training has been provided to principals and a number of district employees. We held a press conference on March 19 and it generated a lot of good press for APS.

Lewis asked whether we pay a monthly or yearly fee for the service. Davis responded that APS pays a yearly service fee per student.

Carmany asked about the service cost difference between Infinite Campus Messenger and Connect Ed. Davis responded that it is about a \$20,000 difference between the two services. Barry commented that the efficiency and effectiveness of the service would pay for itself. It is a much more responsive service to keep our students safe and secure. We can forward any type of call to parents in less than 15 minutes.

Cook thanked Davis and Pope Hooper for their time and efforts.

Name Recommendations – Jamaica Preschool, Transitions Building, ESC Peoria and Boston Elementary

Sturges provided the Board with proposed name changes as stated in Policy FF, naming of a school or facility, for the following schools and district sites:

- Jamaica Child Development Center (formerly Jamaica Elementary)
- Boston K-8 (formerly Boston Elementary)
- Educational Services Center Peoria to Educational Services Center 4
- Crossroads, proposed name of the new special education transitions building located on the Aurora community campus

We are proposing to change the name of Educational Services Center Peoria to Educational Services Center 4 to alleviate confusion with Peoria Elementary. Barber commented that it might be more confusing to have the name changed to Educational Services Center 4. Sturges responded that the volume of calls from Peoria Elementary indicated that callers and visitors were confused with building names.

Carmany proposed combining the name to Educational Service Center at the Peoria Building. Cook commented that the Board could consider any proposed names, but callers and visitors were confused with “Peoria” being in both names.

Sturges introduced Brenda Shepard, consultant for exceptional student services, to provide information regarding the proposed name of the new special education transitions building.

Lewis asked how “Crossroads” became the proposed name. Shepard explained that the building would house two different programs. One program is for 18 to 21 year old students receiving services to help them with the crossroad from high school to adult services. The other program is the intercept day treatment. The program serves as a crossroad from a mental health facility to service placement at a school.

Cook thanked Sturges and Shepard for the information.

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

Non-Licensed Administrative and Professional/Technical Personnel

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

Lewis moved and Cukale seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7982

Approved on a vote of 7-0

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Policy BEE, Board Hearings/Appeal Proceedings

Legal Counsel Brian Donovan shared that the Board heard information on policy BEE, Board Hearings/Appeal proceedings, on March 18.

Prince moved and Edberg seconded to approve Policy BEE, Board Hearings/Appeal Proceedings as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7983

Approved on a vote of 7-0

Policy JF, Admissions of Students

Donovan shared that this policy was presented as information at the March 18

Board meeting. An inconsistency was discovered between the regulation and the policy. The regulation states that a student who moves out of the district during a school year can complete the school year. The policy, as presented on March 18, states that a student who moves out of the district during a school year can complete the semester.

Barry shared that the district's recommendation is to allow the student to complete the school year as stated in the regulation.

The sense of the Board was to concur with the regulation and the district's recommendation to allow the student to complete the school year.

Carmany voiced concerns regarding policy language in Policy JF in that establishment of student residency is deemed by where the husband resides. Policy language is outdated and needs to be revised.

Additional language in Policy JF in regard to residency establishment for a student who returns to a dwelling outside the district during the week or weekend needs to be reviewed. Many judges award joint custody to parents and the custodial parent may reside outside district boundaries.

Donovan explained that the statute should state "a student is not a resident if he/she regularly returns to another dwelling outside district boundaries during summer vacations or weekends." This is statutory language and we may not be able to revise it. We will review the statute and revise language if possible.

The sense of the Board was to table Policy JF, Admissions of Students, and return it for action with revised policy language on April 15.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Expenditures Summary and Financial Report as of February 29, 2008

Weeks shared that the Expenditures Summary and Financial Report as of February 29, 2008, has been presented to the Board to indicate total expenditures of \$232 million for all 13 funds and five charter schools.

The recommendation is that the Board approve the Expenditure Summary and Financial Report as of February 29, 2008, as presented.

Lewis moved and Barber seconded to approve the Expenditure Summary and Financial Report as of February 29, 2008, as presented.

Weeks noted that there is an increase in the spending rate in the general fund this year compared to last year at this time. It is mainly due to the two percent reduction that we made to budgets last year. Spending is occurring at the same rate and is causing a higher spending rate. The Superintendent has directed and division heads are following a targeted spending rate cap plan for the remainder of the year. The goal is to hit a 92 percent spending rate as of June 30, 2008.

Interfund borrowing is occurring in the general, capital reserve and special

programs funds. Borrowing occurs routinely during this time of year due to the general fund balance and tax receipts are not expected to come to the general fund until March. The main reason for the reduction in the general fund balance is due to declining enrollments associated with declining revenue from school finance.

Barry recently sent a letter to the Board, VISTA Guidance Council, and city council to explain the need and challenge to find \$10 million. Some of the feedback suggested that initiatives funded for the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan were the cause of the financial situation in APS.

Barry clarified that VISTA 2010 initiatives were not funded out of general occurring funds. Initiatives were funded out of one-time monies, similar to money in a savings account, which the district had saved due to the diligence and good work of our finance department. We are in this situation because of declining enrollments resulting in loss revenues of \$6,700 per student. Last year, we had 364 less students, this year we had 750 less students and next year we are projecting 600 less students.

We will dig ourselves out of this situation through the VISTA 2010 Strategic Plan. We will accelerate student achievement, close the gap and improve our ability to attract students back to APS.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7984

Approved on vote of 7-0

Meal Price Increase

Weeks shared that the recommendation is for the Board to approve a 25 cent meal price increase for elementary, middle and high school breakfast and lunch.

Cukale moved and Carmany seconded to approve a 25 cent meal price increase for elementary, middle and high school breakfast and lunch.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #7985

Approved on a vote on 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

April 1, 2008

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held April 15, 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 8:50 p.m.

President

ATTEST

Secretary