

I. PRELIMINARY

Cook called the February 3, 2009, meeting to order at 6:30 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
Tony Van Gytenbeek, deputy superintendent
Lisa Escarcega, 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

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

Approval of Agenda

The February 3, 2009, agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held January 20, 2009, were approved as written.

Opportunity for Audience

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Reports from the Board of Education

Cukale had an opportunity to see the Galaxy Program that is being rolled out at Gateway High School. The program is phenomenal and will enhance learning capabilities of all students. The principal is excited that the program will be housed at Gateway. Cukale also had a chance to visit the pilot program at William Smith.

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Lewis was excited to attend the Aurora LIGHTS Saturday Academy Opening Ceremony. Twenty-four freshmen enrolled in the Health Science Academy from Aurora Central and Hinkley will participate in the Saturday Academy to explore and learn more about careers in health sciences. The parents and kids were excited and it was a joy to see the enthusiasm on their faces. We are very lucky that this program took off so quickly due in part to the hard work and efforts of Deputy Superintendent Tony Van Gytenbeek, APS staff, and the enthusiastic University of Colorado health sciences staff.

Barber had an opportunity to attend literacy night at Park Lane. She also attended the Quarterly Awards Recognition ceremony at Aurora Hills. It is always nice to see deserving APS staff recognized.

Prince had a chance to see the "blast off" at Tollgate. Mission control was setup in the school cafeteria and various rooms were setup as planets. Kids did science experiments and participated in various activities. The event was very well organized and it was a super day!

Prince attended the IRT functional drill on Friday, January 30. The IRT is comprised of district staff and its purpose is to respond to district emergencies. The team was presented with a scenario and had to respond to issues such as busing, potential evacuations, media releases and health related issues that arose. Everything that the team did was professional and efficient. We are in good hands.

Items of Current Interest

Barry shared that the APS \$215 million bond program will offer many opportunities to local architects, contractors and companies working in the construction industry. We encourage local companies to attend an informational meeting to learn more about APS bond construction projects. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5, at 10 a.m. in the Gateway High School commons area. APS staff will present an overall program schedule and information on how consultants and contractors are selected for bond projects.

The Downtown Aurora Visual Arts, a nonprofit organization strengthening the community through the arts, is hosting a show of original works created by APS art instructors. The exhibit will run until Friday, February 13. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located on 14th and Florence in Aurora.

We are proud of South Middle School Math Teacher Jean Kreutzer who earned the Raytheon Company MathMovesU Math Hero Award for promoting math to students in a fun and challenging learning environment. Kreutzer was nominated by 16 of her fifth block students. She was awarded a total of \$5,000, half of which was given to the school.

Kreutzer demonstrates an enthusiastic and creative approach to teaching math, often utilizing new and innovative ideas in working with her students. We are very proud of her accomplishment and are truly honored to have her on our team. Barry asked Kreutzer to stand up and be recognized by the Board and audience. He then presented Kreutzer with a Superintendent recognition coin.

VISTA 2010 Update

People

Allen reviewed a slide that focused on increasing diversity in the APS workforce. Our goal is to increase, by 10 percent annually, the number of employees in each identified ethnic group: minority teachers, minority classified employees, and minority administrative/professional technical employees. We have been tracking for three years and are moving in the right direction. In the 2007-08 school year, we exceeded the 10 percent goal in most categories. We have seen growth in most categories this school year, but have not always exceeded the 10 percent goal.

We developed a mission statement in human resources that focuses on diversity, recruiting and growing our own employees and is as follows: "cultivate and support a diverse and high quality work force that is passionate about and committed to graduating every child with a choice to attend college without remediation." We choose the word "cultivate" to emphasize growing employees within APS. We plan to work with post secondary sites to develop a post secondary workforce development with universities, businesses, and foundations through partnerships. One example of an ongoing partnership is our Teacher in Residence Program. We are also focusing on a P-20 workforce development in order to grow APS students into future employees. Human Resources has been designed into two teams to focus on these cultivating aspects to increase diversity in our workforce.

Achievement

Stuart shared that students will be assessed in reading, writing and science as we move into the CSAP testing period next month. The slide chosen emphasizes support for our students in every aspect of growth, both intellectual and artistic, and focuses on art, music and physical education.

Each spring, we survey art, music, and physical education teachers to determine their level of perceived support. Last year, we received a three percent rating; our goal this year is to increase the perception of support to four percent. Under the direction of Susan Olezene, teachers specializing in art, music and physical education are receiving more support from fellow teachers on a monthly basis. Last year, fund 23 resources were spread across the arts for all K-12 teachers. The arts are critical to student growth and development, and we have strengthened support for teachers. We will review survey results with the Board next month.

Prince commented that last spring it was decided that some physical education teachers would have split school assignments. Do you expect survey results to be higher or lower due to split assignments? Allen replied that split assignments occur mostly at the elementary level and are based on student enrollment. It may impact how teachers feel supported. It is not our preference to have split assignments but it is sometimes necessary due to the budget. Student enrollment levels have increased this year, so there will be less traveling teachers.

Community

Escárcega invited Tony Antolini, district athletic director, to the staff table to review the metric under Action 77 related to increasing the number of facility rentals by community groups by 10 percent annually.

Antolini shared that we work with the city of Aurora on a daily basis in relation to

our Shared Use Agreement. Peter Blanco, manager of facility rentals, and facility rental staff have negotiated a higher stipend from the city of Aurora in regard to the Shared Use Agreement effective this year. A significant portion of funds generated from facility rentals goes back into school budgets.

Most of our dealings with the city of Aurora are with the recreation services department, but we have expanded our networking with the parks and open space department. As a result, we were provided with significant input on the Rangeview turf field and are continuing conversations in regard to the 100-acre site and other sites in need of improvement.

Our mid-year report indicated that facility rentals were up by 15 percent. About 90 percent of facility rental users are Aurora residents. Many community groups are recognized by the city of Aurora and are part of the Shared Use Agreement. The city has a process for recognizing groups to include in the Shared Use Agreement.

The task under Action 77 is related more to the construction management department. The construction management staff always includes city of Aurora departments such as library services, recreation services, and parks and open spaces in planning conversations related to new fields or facilities.

Cukale noted concerns regarding the city of Aurora's budget and possible library closures. He asked if there had been any significant increases in requests to use district library facilities to access technology. Antolini replied no but we would be open to any such requests.

Lewis asked about the Shared Use Agreement process with the city as well as the process to use APS fields. Antolini shared that, as an example, the first step for a youth sports group is to be recognized by the city of Aurora as an independent youth sports organization. The city only recognizes a limited amount of groups because they have to be able to accommodate teams, schedules, and practice facilities. Once recognized by the city, they fall under a second tier user for facility rentals. First tier users are APS school groups. When second tier users need a practice facility, they are placed on a grid that we maintain in conjunction with the city. We then determine what is available at district school sites. Recognized groups are never denied.

Cook commented that his son plays basketball for the city of Aurora. Rental fees are built into the agreement to allow time to practice each week. The city pays the district for the use of the gym. Antolini added that rates under the community category for Aurora residents are very reasonable and are compared throughout metro districts annually.

Barber asked if second tier users received cheaper rates. Antolini replied yes. The city of Aurora pays a quarterly stipend, which allows second tier users to utilize APS facilities at a discounted rate. It's a good deal for the city and a good deal for APS.

Environment

Sturges invited Christine Hoppe, director of risk management, to the staff table to share information on continuing efforts to combat vandalism. Hoppe reviewed a slide that illustrated vandalism projections in the 2006-07 school year, the 2007-08 school year, and vandalism costs for this year with an anticipated five percent decrease.

We most likely will not hit the targeted goal this year due to a marked increase in vandalism claims throughout the district and are currently about \$2,000 away from hitting the goal amount. We suspect that cost shifting from site budgets to the risk management budget may be one reason for the increase in vandalism claims. We are fortunate to be able to absorb the cost in the risk management budget due to state funding and deals from insurance renewals. Globally, vandalism may not have increased as much as perceived.

Hoppe reviewed a slide of a map illustrating where vandalism is occurring in the district. Vandalism is completely migratory and moves from school to school. Information is provided to administrators and school security.

Prince commented that a park in her neighborhood was recently vandalized. Pictures were taken to Gateway and the perpetrators were quickly caught. Prince thanked staff at Gateway for their quick response.

Hoppe shared that the Leaders are Readers Program is scheduled tomorrow. Historically, 50 community constituents sign up to read to APS students. This time around, 25 community constituents from Buckley Air Force Base signed up to read to students and we now have 75 community constituents scheduled to read to students tomorrow. It is thrilling to have such community support.

Lotus School for Excellence Charter Contract Renewal

Cook noted that several supporters had signed up to speak in support of the Lotus School for Excellence charter. Brian Donovan, acting district legal counsel, will make some comments, after which Lotus administrators will present information to the Board. Once the presentation has concluded, supporters who have signed up to speak will have an opportunity to address the Board. Individual who have not signed up but want to address the Board in support of Lotus will also have an opportunity to do so.

Donovan shared that the Lotus School for Excellence charter renewal application was included in board packets. The charter is currently in its third year of operation in the district and is seeking a five-year charter renewal. The charter was placed on corrective action in June 2007 for issues related to their facility and has complied with all elements of the plan.

Lotus is currently asking for an enrollment increase from 242 to 340 students in the 2009-10 school year; 550 students in the 2010-11 school year, and 700 students in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. This involves a loss of revenue to the district and is estimated that 80 percent of students who attend Lotus would be APS students. Lotus has not been able to attract enough students to meet current enrollment goals, so it may not be possible to meet future enrollment projections.

Progress as measured by CSAP is comparable to other district schools with similar demographics. Lotus received a "low" rating on the 2006-07 School Accountability Report and an "average" rating on the 2007-08 School Accountability Report, showing gains and growth that were above district averages.

The Board was provided with a financial report from Rod Weeks, chief financial officer for the district. District auditors reported that Lotus had deficit net assets and currently has a deficiency in working capital that raises substantial doubt about its ability to continue is an ongoing concern. Comments from Lotus

administrators are noted in the auditor's report from Weeks.

Weeks noted in the report that the six year budget provided by Lotus, current year plus five subsequent years, is reasonable in all components but places an extremely high emphasis on significant increases in student enrollment in order for revenue to exceed expenses. A contingency budget to outline how the school would survive financially if student enrollment targets are not met was also requested. If Lotus falls short of student enrollment projections by 100 or fewer students their financial position would be acceptable. Lotus should be considered a high risk operation, and Weeks recommends a maximum three year charter school contract be granted with several requirements that are included in the report.

Donovan shared that we have been working with the Office of Civil Rights, Federal Department of Education, to ensure we are in compliance with services for ELL students. We require that all charter and district schools meet OCR requirements. Lotus will need to provide daily English language instruction to ELL identified students and instruction will need to be provided by teachers who either have an English language acquisition endorsement or a linguistically diverse educator's certificate. These requirements will need to be part of the renewal contract if it is approved by the Board.

The corrective action plan dated June 2007 called for the majority of the Lotus board to be comprised of parents of current students. The renewal application states that the Board of Directors shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of 21 voting members.

The renewal application contains the following statement in regard to special education services: Lotus intends to purchase special education from the district when a student's needs exceed a typical IEP. The current Lotus contract states that special education services be purchased from the district; we would need to clarify whether this would continue.

Adnan Doyuran, school principal, and Matt U. Yapanel, board president, presented information to the Board in regard to the Lotus School for Excellence charter.

Yapanel thanked Board members who visited Lotus earlier today and requested that Board members who have not had a chance to visit attend the next event. He also thanked supporters in the audience for coming to the meeting to support the charter.

Lotus has been in operation for three years and is currently a math, science and technology school. Our vision is to inspire students to choose career paths in science and technology. Our mission is to prepare students to understand and apply advanced knowledge and skills in math, science and technology and to work productively in a multi-cultural, global environment.

We are proposing to renew our charter application for five years. The projected enrollment for the 2009-10 school year is 336 students. We had 242 students during the October count and currently have 150 new applications for next year. If we exceed capacity, we will hold a lottery on February 16.

There are many reports available to support the need for schools like Lotus, including the 2007 National Academies Report that identified the need to increase the number of science and technology graduates within the next decade

and predicts that science and engineering jobs will double in the future. The report also recommends the need to improve K-12 math and science education and create specialty high schools that focus on math and science education.

The Lotus school board is comprised of five board members. Yapanel is the board president and has a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from CU Boulder. Zhandos Utegulov, board secretary, has a Ph.D. in physics from Oklahoma State University; Elif Trujillo, board treasurer, has a bachelor of science degree in accounting, economics and finance from the University of Colorado; Dennis C. Duffy, board member, is a communication technician for a large global telecommunications company; and Jeanne Fontenot, board member, has a master of science degree in counseling and educational psychology. Trujillo, Duffy, and Fontenot all have children enrolled at Lotus.

Yapanel shared that student enrollment has improved as additional grade levels are added. We started with grades six and seven and currently offer classes in grades six through nine. Our goal is to add one grade level each year. The free and reduced student lunch population group increased significantly from the 2007-08 school year to present and is similar to the APS average. We currently have 62 percent free and reduced lunch students. We want to serve and provide equal access for a quality education to all students. The current demographics at Lotus are 22 percent White, 35 percent Hispanic, 40 percent African American; and three percent other.

Lotus had 150 students during the first year of operations but decreased to 141 students by the October count. We usually start with a high number of student enrollments but numbers decreased due, in part, to transportation. Last year, we started with 200 students but decreased to 168 students due to the last minute move to our new facility. We believe that future projected enrollment goals will be met.

In the 2006-07 school year, Lotus met 100 percent of AYP goals. In the 2007-08 school year, we met about 90 percent of AYP goals. We did not make 12 of the AYP goals because we had already closed. Lotus has two years of CSAP growth data. In the 2006-07 school year, Lotus received a low rating with "significant decline" in academic growth. In the 2007-08 school year, Lotus received an average rating with "typical" in academic growth. Overall student growth in reading and writing was better than APS; student growth in math was similar to APS. Our focus is this year and we expect to see improvement.

We believe discipline is the main ingredient for creating an optimum learning environment and have developed a uniform policy that is very effective in reducing peer pressure. The DRS system, discipline record system, was developed by IT teachers with input from staff. Students receive positive and negative points based on behavior and are rated by teachers. Parents receive a monthly DRS statement summarizing activities by date and time and it is available online. Students are recognized for positive behavior and receive incentives such as free dress day and pizza. Students who demonstrate poor behavior have consequences such as exclusion from field trips.

Lotus had a significant deficit of \$500,000 at the end of the 2006-07 school year due to facility issues and code updates. Last year, we made a great effort to close the deficit to \$389,141 and we were able to acquire a new facility. We are currently paying down the deficit and equity in our new facility will help close the deficit. At the end of this year, we are expected to have a deficit of \$196,844. We expect to have a positive fund balance by the end of the 2009-10 school

year.

Our new facility is located one block east of Havana and Alameda and is a significant improvement from our previous facility. We are in close proximity to DPS and Cherry Creek Schools and plan to recruit and enroll students from both districts as well as APS. The building has 84,000 square feet and has three separate entrances for elementary, middle and high school, which would help with our goal to expand to a K-12 school. The new facility can support up to 800 students.

Self-Help in Durham, North Carolina, was the main lender and we were able to obtain \$5 million in financing in which 25 percent is seller financed with no interest. Last year, our facility interest rate was about 24 percent, this year it is expected to be about nine percent. Some area charter schools are paying a 20 percent interest rate.

We have developed university partnerships with the Denver University Education Technology department and the University of Colorado at Boulder. We are planning several field trips to expose students to the college environment and are accepting interns to partner with Lotus teachers. We are also working on establishing a partnership with CCA so students can earn college credit while attending high school

Some overall successes for Lotus include:

- organized statewide MathMatters contest
- Sarah Marshall, student at Lotus, won the best essay in the Society of Women Engineers Contest
- participated in the SimCity Future City Design competition and received the Most Innovative Use of Science and Technology Award in January 2009
- implementing math and science technology curriculum at Lotus next year based on the Model Accord School, Magnolia Science Academy
- a placement exam is provided to students and they are grouped according to their ability level
- small class sizes of 24 students or less
- summer and winter camps for math instruction
- high school students have college prep programs and advanced academic clubs
- growth seen in reading and writing CSAP scores

Cukale asked about the process for covering middle and high school classes when teachers are absent. Doyuran shared that the majority of Lotus teachers have good attendance. We would use the same process as the district to cover classes in that a sub would be contacted. We would also use in-house coverage as teacher planning and instructional times differ throughout the day.

Cukale noted migratory concerns with families throughout the city of Aurora. Where do you anticipate students coming from? Doyuran replied that we plan to expand by one grade level next year as our new facility has the capacity to hold more students. We also plan to enroll students from other districts.

Stuart asked how Lotus administrators planned to market the school to attract new students. Yapanel replied that we will advertise through mailings and hopes that siblings of current students will enroll at Lotus.

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Cook commented that when Lotus was initially placed in corrective action, staff members guaranteed loans and questioned if loans were still in place. Yapanel replied yes. Loans have been paid down and former board members helped restructure loans.

Cook asked why students who qualified for free and reduced lunch were not receiving it. Doyuran explained that we tried to resolve the issue with APS and are scheduled to meet with district staff to discuss concerns. We were planning to create a sponsorship program that would allow families to help each other. Yapanel added that we provided free and reduced lunch to students up until last month. We currently offer lunch at a reduced cost and will provide lunch for free once the budget stabilizes.

Cook noted concerns in that Lotus purchased their new facility knowing that the charter application had not been approved by the APS Board and the submitted budget is based on future enrollment projections as the major source of revenue to pay expenses and loans acquired to purchase the facility. Yapanel acknowledged that loans were secured from investors who believe in the school's ability to succeed. If the school were to close the lender would own the property.

Cook asked about the process to attract and recruit highly qualified teachers. Doyuran shared that we plan to advertise for teachers on Craig's list and other media advertising sources. It has not been an issue so far.

Doyuran commented that it take years to established a school. We only have two years of data and that is not enough time to show adequate progress.

Forty-four students, parents and staff were in the audience in support of the Lotus School of Excellence. Fifteen of the 44 were staff members.

Yapanel thanked Rod Weeks and Adrienne Bradshaw for all their help and support with the budget.

Cook asked Donovan about the legalities of collecting free and reduced lunch information and not providing free and reduced lunch to students.

Donovan believes it is possible to collect free and reduced lunch information but not be able to implement the program. We have had discussions with nutrition services in regard to implementing the program at Lotus. Weeks shared that we have been working with Lotus to implement a meal program that would qualify for the National School Lunch Program, which is the only way to be reimbursed for meals provided to free and reduced lunch students. Charter schools cannot belong to the program and must go through the district. We currently have contracts with two charter schools. Lotus would have to pass a health inspection, and show they are able to meet and provide necessary meal requirements before qualifying for the program. Linda Dallman, director of nutrition services, would oversee the process. In the meantime, charter schools absorb the lunch cost for free and reduced lunch students. The meeting that Doyuran referenced has been scheduled with APS officials, legislators, CDE, charter school administrators, and the Daniels Foundation. We are looking at the possibility of having charter schools participate in a prepackaged meal program that would meet the National School Lunch Program requirements.

Victoria Burke, 222 S. Salem Ct., 303-364-4820, addressed the Board in support

of the Lotus School for Excellence. Burke shared that her student is in the seventh grade and noted that learning has excelled since enrollment at Lotus. She credits small class sizes, student council, book store and the library with all the great resources. The student council at Lotus is excellent and provides all students with a voice and expectations to achieve excellence. She also acknowledged the peer tutoring program.

Lotus is in a great location and it is close to home. It has a lot of potential and needs to be given a chance to succeed.

Ontario Duley, 12128 E. Nevada, Aurora, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Duley is a new student at Lotus. He likes the school very much especially the math competitions. Math is fun at Lotus and tests that are given in study hall are split into sections to decrease questions.

Duley loves to work on the interactive whiteboards, read AESOP's fables and Romeo and Juliet in English, and enjoys science work that is balanced with fun activities. He also noticed that the focus at Lotus is more on achieving goals than discipline. He enjoys learning in a safe and fun environment.

Jeanne Fontenot, 1745 Cathay Ct., Aurora, 303-263-3083, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Fontenot addressed the APS Board in June 2007 and is currently a member of the Lotus School Board. She shared that her son attends Lotus and is a middle of the road kid who tries hard. Lotus is a comfortable place to learn and achieve for kids who often have to try harder and would feel pressure in a large school environment.

Fontenot knows that her son is learning at Lotus and staff members put forth a great effort to ensure each student receives a good education. She is impressed with the DRS tracking system that is used to inform parents of disciplinary concerns.

Fontenot has noticed that her son's level of interest and attitude toward school has improved. Peer tutoring has also helped with math. Fontenot would hate to see Lotus taken away as an option because there are not enough alternatives for middle of the road kids. Lotus is a community-based school and should remain open.

Ronald Greengus, 2872 S. Biscay Ct., Aurora, 303-888-5279, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Greengus started as a teacher in the Troops to Teacher Program and has substituted in DPS and Cherry Creek Schools. He shared that no one can match what the student council does at Lotus. Students run the school store, organize movie nights with snacks, and initiated a recycling program. Twenty-students comprise the Lotus student council.

There are many opportunities for advanced students achieving at a higher rate. Teachers at Lotus are very creative and come up with projects that are different and engaging. Our advanced students can match up with any advanced students in APS.

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Greengus also noted that he teaches both middle and high school students at Lotus.

Naye Bullock, 3985 Shawnee Street, Aurora, 410-332-2669, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Bullock is a staff member at Lotus and has seen the increase in diversity. Our job is to ensure that students receive the best and right education because it is an investment. The Lotus student council, teachers and the principal are active and involved. Teachers know students by name and work 12 to 13 hours per day to ensure they get the help they need.

The Web site is designed to help parents keep in communication with their students. Letters are sent daily and meetings are held with individual students who need help. Class sizes are small and enable teachers to work with students and prepare them for college. Lotus has dedicated teachers who make sure students get the best education possible.

Bullock noted that there are risks with any business but closing Lotus would be a mistake. She urged APS Board members to stand by Lotus.

Kristen Young, 1022 Olathe Way, Aurora, 303-367-1820, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Young shared that her son was lost in the shuffle at the public middle school he previously attended and spent many weeks talking and meeting with administrators to work through concerns. She shared that her son used to be shy and fidgety, but his attitude has changed since enrolling at Lotus. He has become more respectful, and is currently enrolled in pre-algebra and doing quite well.

Lotus is a choice and option for students that do not do well in a large school environment. Information is available online and teachers call and e-mail parents regularly.

Young's son will be in high school next year and wants to continue at Lotus. Like any other business, there are risks and downfalls. Lotus has given students an opportunity to grow, excel and step up to the challenge. Keep Lotus open so kids and parents continue to have a choice.

Gail Pough, 12332 E. 2nd Dr., Aurora, 303-360-7083, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Pough has two daughters enrolled at Lotus, one in ninth grade and one in sixth grade. Both are engaged and learning at Lotus.

Pough recently chaperoned students on a field trip to visit a science and math lab. The kids were engaged and excited as they learned about math and science. It was neat to see them learning and it was a great experience as a parent.

Mendi Dallee, 1784 Cathay St., Aurora, 303 367-8568, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Dallee's daughter is an advanced student at Lotus and helps mentor other students. She shared that it is nice to see her daughter continually challenged

to do better.

Dallee shared that Lotus will offer AP classes in high school. If the school closes her son would not have the same opportunities as her daughter. Teachers are devoted and put in a lot of extra time on their own. Lotus also offers several after school classes for students and parents for free.

Dallee urged the APS Board to keep Lotus open.

Terri Duley, 12128 E. Nevada, Aurora, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Duley believes in public schools and is a product of the public school system. Her son attended a public school but was not challenged or stimulated. He applied for the gifted and talented program but was not accepted.

The community has voted that they want charter schools and choices. APS has taken out loans when needed and all loans come with potential risks. Lotus should not be penalized because it has taken out loans to improve or expand their site.

Renee Bailey, president of the parent council, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Bailey shared that staff members at Lotus listen when parents have concerns. They are wonderful, supportive and dedicated and parents are impressed with their overall attitude. Class sizes are small, and kids are comfortable and feel supported. Lotus supports a unique group of students and I urge you to keep the school open.

Rita Cologne, 13440 Fitzsimons Way, Aurora, 303-366-0140, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Cologne has a sixth grade student enrolled at Lotus. She expressed that the teachers at Lotus are fantastic. They let parents know when something is wrong and go out of their way to help students. During a recent loss in our family, the principal and staff called and paid a visit to our home. The staff is both caring and dedicated. It would be crime to close Lotus.

Rebecca Sanders, 720-535-6226, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Sanders is a teacher at Lotus. She shared that the Lotus staff is strong and loves what they do. We work in a small setting that feels like a close-knit community. Staff members are more like friends than colleagues. Kids are learning and that's important. You can't put a price on a child's education. We are a business and every business struggles from time to time.

Chad Roberts, 162 S. Joliet St., Aurora, 719-229-8812, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Roberts is an English teacher at Lotus. He shared that teachers have invested in the school and are proud of what has been accomplished. We built the English curriculum from the ground up and are using the new growth model. We are working on projects that we would like to see through. We have also developed innovative ways to increase technology and have seen growth in reading and

writing on the CSAP test. Our staff is young, innovative and passionate, which will translate into scores that will pay off.

Adrian Blumenthal, 12507 W. Dakota, #7D, Lakewood, 720-939-3844, addressed the Board in support of the Lotus School for Excellence.

Blumenthal is a teacher at Lotus. He expressed how privileged it was to hear all the parents, students and staff that spoke in support of Lotus. He shared that he has finally found a place to call home, share ideas, and utilize his creative energies. Good things are happening at Lotus and results are being seen with students.

Cook thanked everyone that expressed support for the Lotus School for Excellence. This item will return for action in two weeks.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

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

Cukale moved and Prince seconded to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8059

Approved on a vote of 7-0

IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No Items

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Expenditures Summary and Financial Report as of December 31, 2008

Weeks presented the Board with the Expenditure Summary and Financial Reported as of December 31, 2008.

- The total expenditures for all funds and six charter schools, \$171,150,410
- The general fund spending rate, 92.5 percent
- The total inter-fund borrowing from the general fund is \$1,051,860 and includes:
 - nutrition services fund, \$790,260
 - copier services internal service fund, \$72,954
 - grants fund, \$188,646

Weeks recommended that the Board approve the Expenditure Summary and Financial Report as of December 31, 2008, as presented.

Barber moved and Lewis seconded to approve the Expenditure Summary and Financial Report as of December 31, 2008, as presented.

Roll Call: Barber, Carmany, Cook, Cukale, Edberg, Lewis, Prince #8060

Approved on a vote of 7-0

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items

February 3, 2009

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Opportunity for Audience

Correspondence

Next meeting date

The next business meeting of the Board of Education will be held February 17, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

President

ATTEST

Secretary