I. PRELIMINARY

Vice President Jeanette Carmany called the June 20, 2006, meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

Jane Barber, director
Debbie Barton, director
Jeanette Carmany, vice president
Edward Lord, director
Susan Tabacheck, secretary

The following members were absent:

Matthew Cook, president
Judith Edberg, treasurer

Also meeting with the board of education were:

Robert D. Adams, superintendent of schools
Anthony W. Sturges, assistant superintendent of support services
Anthony Van Gytenbeek, assistant superintendent of human resources
Deborah L. Backus, assistant superintendent of instructional services
Rodney Weeks, chief financial officer of business services
Susan B. McKay, assistant, board of education

Pledge of Allegiance

Carmany led the board and audience in the pledge to the flag and welcomed visitors.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the board of education held May 30, 2006, were amended on page 7783 following the roll call to add the name John Barry. The minutes of June 6, 2006, were approved as written.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Items of Current Interest

The Aurora Public Schools Board of Education honored Clyde Miller secretary Cheryl Ryan. Ryan returned to the school at 10:15 p.m. to help the Aurora Police Department locate a missing student. Her willingness to help at a time outside her regular duty day is just one example of her commitment to the children and families of the district. According to APS, Ryan handled everything in a very professional manner and brought a calming, confident presence to a very volatile situation.
Also recognized but absent this evening was Clyde Miller Assistant Principal Shawna Lyons who also returned to the school to help APD. Fortunately, the student was located and had been visiting at a friend’s house.

Communications Services was recognized as the recipient of several National School Public Relations Association awards.

Adams, Barber and Jesus Escárcega met with a group of bilingual parents two weeks ago. The meeting was productive and regular monthly meetings will be scheduled through next year. These are open to all parents of diversity in the district to enhance communications with the board of education.

Adams said it has been a privilege working in APS the past 15 years. He recognized the capacity of this organization being second to none. Adams said becoming excellent at anything is hard work and does not come easily. Legacies are not plaques on walls, they are not speeches; they are left in the minds of the people who continue the work. He added that if he has imparted one idea or caused one person to think and say “can we make a difference,” that is the best legacy he can leave to the world of education. In his 36 years in education, he has given his heart, time and a good share of his adult life to the proposition of public education. Adams encouraged everyone to ask themselves everyday, “did we improve the lives of children today?”

Distribution of Materials

At their May 16 meeting, the board of education discussed the distribution to students of written promotional materials prepared by outside groups such as youth sports leagues, Boy Scouts, etc., and the various legal and practical issues this presents. The board discussed alternative courses of action and provided guidance to staff about the direction it wishes to pursue. Legal Counsel Brian Donovan noted there has been a fair amount of litigation surrounding schools about distributing or not distributing materials. Director of Communications Georgia Durán said many districts are eliminating the process. Donovan said in response to Lord’s request for options, he is presenting three this evening. The one they are recommending as it would reduce the legal risk is to allow specific groups only and continue to use the Aurora Sentinel Resource Guide. It would draw a reasonable middle ground. Groups allowed under this are: government agencies, parent/teacher and licensed daycare and non-profit sports leagues and school fund raisers. It would not include a lot of popular and deserving groups. The other two options are to continue as we have been or to discontinue the practice completely. Tabachek was concerned in singling out non-profit sports and the Spanish-speaking population. As there are many nationalities in Aurora Public Schools and other deserving organizations such as Special Olympics, she felt this needed to be reviewed. Durán said they would look at other options beyond just an athletic group and the item will return with a recommendation the second week in August.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Classified Employees Council Executive Summary

CEC members presented the board of education with an update. Human Resources shared that this group is positive, proactive and provides useful information to the district. Recently, they were active in the superintendent search. CEC President Cheryl Dalton explained that it is their responsibility to make recommendations on policy and regulations that affect classified employees, and to communicate this to all classified staff. CEC has increased participation in district meetings and events. The monthly meeting agenda was changed to include a district presenter at every meeting.
This schedule is included in page two of their summary. Each meeting includes a roundtable session where good information has been shared regarding events taking place with students and staff. Van Gytenbeek added that this group serves as a conduit for nearly 2,000 employees for the benefit of our children.

**DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

*Assessment Report*

Director of Assessment and Research Lisa Escárcega presented the June 2006 growth data. Backus explained that APS expects all students will minimally grow one year. In our district, we need to move children at a faster rate than one year’s growth for one year’s attendance in order to close gaps. Escárcega shared the superintendent/board of education goals related to closing the learning gaps: Ensuring a minimum of one year’s growth and ensuring more students achieve or exceed proficiency.

Backus shared that APS uses various measures. Only CSAP is used for proficiency data and some DERA. Of this, some is teacher-administered and some is computer-administered. We look at various ways to be sure the data we share is reliable and valid. The importance of closing the gaps early is what we address in our district. We cannot improve third-grade CSAP without closing the gap early in the child’s career. Backus explained that we have taken the curriculum that was more focused at play to one that is more focused at playing at reading, writing, and arithmetic in kindergarten. We do provide time for emotional and physical growth in kindergarten, and have used a kindergarten assessment over the last few years.

Escárcega said 80 percent of kindergarten students enrolled for the entire year will demonstrate achievement at or above the fourth stanine on the spring Kindergarten Assessment (N=2249). Escárcega explained that stanines are one of the oldest assessments and widely used assessments in the nation. You take the population and split into nine. You want to leave as an average student: 4, 5, and 6 stanines. She recommends we keep this goal and we want 100 percent.

Kindergarten assessment 2005-06 was discussed using a cohort summary. This is the third year of data for APS. Our students are coming in 1.2 stanine and increased 1.2 or more. Not knowing letter names or sounds is how they enter kindergarten, as well as not knowing left from right or how to hold a book. By the end of kindergarten, students are able to exit on grade level. We have a good and strong kindergarten program that we have been working on for two-three years.

Escárcega said 90 percent of the kindergarten students enrolled for the entire year and entering at the fifth stanine will exit at least a .9 on the district reading assessment. She would like to up this goal. The number of students coming in average readiness is 160 considered average reading and average 33 of Concepts About Print. She would like this moved to 1.1 or higher. Backus said we hope these norms increase as we increase our number of students in preschool. Next year will increase about 180 students. We have 80 percent enter well below average readiness in kindergarten.

Last year APS added 80 percent of first grade students enrolled for two consecutive school years will demonstrate a minimum of 1.9 grade equivalency on the DERA. N=2055 is a goal we want to keep. Backus said the work we need to do now is in first and second grade. Teachers have a long way to go. Kindergarten expectations are continually raised. The amount of knowledge students need to have exiting first grade is a significant amount.
We have adopted new reading materials. Schools piloted these this year, and we do have indication from schools using this program districtwide if we implement kindergarten and grades 1-2.

Escárcega spoke to the DERA data. K-5, individual reading inventory, we now have four years of data. We look at pre- and post-scores and expect one year’s growth. All students kindergarten through third grade must be assessed in reading comprehension with an individual assessment at least once a year in the spring K-3 to determine if they need an individualized learning plan. This is per the Colorado Basic Literacy Act. Per student, per teacher it takes about 10-15 minutes. If a student is new, it could take 20-30 minutes. ILP students are supposed to have twice a year. Other grades 4-10 do the same if they are on an ILP. Backus said it can be given as often as a teacher would like. As a district, we would recommend giving it every quarter. Most elementary administrators ask it to be given every quarter. They use the spring results for fall. Sometimes it is not given in the third quarter due to CSAP. It doesn’t all have to be given at once; it can be given when you want to confirm a child’s growth. Lord inquired if the students who are not receiving the testing, lose instruction time when others are being administered the test. Backus clarified that the data from DERA informs a teacher what a student needs to know. Other students could be doing independent writing or working with a teacher during this time. She added that testing is necessary to high-quality instruction.

Escárcega said the state would like us to do more testing. They will work with principals to balance what will give us good information. Lord said he receives lots of letters and telephone calls that say we are doing too much testing versus teaching. Escárcega clarified that when referencing our state testing, every state in the nation is taking the same amount of testing. Adams said assessment is now an integral part of the instructional practice, if you don’t know – what to you teach?

Escárcega said across DERA and MAP we have four years of data. We can look across change and time. We do see trends in elementary and in kindergarten, students are making one year’s growth. First graders are holding their own, subject to influence from second language learners in kindergarten. There are more English speakers making growth than our ELL’s and some of this, we have a double layer. The dip is from first grade to second grade. Backus said in 2003, the administration of DERA was new to our teachers. Teachers have become better in an effective manner. We can be more certain about our 2006 scores versus the 2003 scores. We can be certain 2006 is as accurate as we can get on an assessment like this.

Next was proficiency, in which the same trend appears. In 2005, third grade was upped from .7 to .9 to be grade level. Backus said when comparing, this is CSAP proficiency we are speaking of. We are reading at 43 percent; we are under-predicting rather than over-predicting on this. On elementary reading assessments compared to the CSAP, we are coming closer in comparison and it is easier to predict. Based on this, we have an idea who we need to accelerate on proficiency. DERA helps teachers know where the student is and be able to relay this to parents.

MAP’s ensures a minimum of one year’s growth. Students in grades 3-10 will show an increase of three percent of students making one year’s growth in reading and math as measured by the MAP assessment. We have met and exceeded the goals we intended to make. If we have students that are unsatisfactory and can show growth, you may not see change when you look at a single bar; this shows that. If you start at third grade, you can see if they made it or not. NWUA has such a large group of students taking the test, if we went to that method we can use their norm group to compare ourselves. We did not have this before. The trade-off is we can use the norm groups to compare ourselves and say 50 percentile is the national average. We went back and re-ran three years of data. Everything we see now is
based on black and white; you made it or not. This gives us a reference point we didn’t have before.

June 20, 2006

Many other districts are finding MAP is an important indicator of how effective our teaching and growth is. We are ever increasing in students doing this. It can be given multiple times a year, upon request, and takes about 40 minutes for students – one student per computer/no teacher time.

Elementary MAP reports reading 3-5 and math 3-5. We had 48-52 percent at national average across grade level. Math numbers may well be Adams legacy to this district. Grade three doubled the number of students, showing very compelling increases. Escárcega noted seventh grade math had the least amount of growth. This is the grade level that did not have coaching this year. Backus said when focusing on professional development and program improvement, we do see increased growth in scores.

High school MAP showed 12 points at grade 10. We will see an increase in CSAP in grades 9-10. The large gain in 2005-06 is when we had full implementation of CORE Plus in math. Although we are below national average, we have less tenth graders than ninth graders. Some of this is due to reclassification. Some could move to other districts. Reading by ethnicity shows growth across all five. Math reflects a similar pattern. This is a trend we want to stop. We are making every teacher a teacher of second language students. All our teachers have these students in their classrooms. In order to have Hispanic numbers catch up with other groups, they need to be able to teach second language students. Escárcega gave examples using Tollgate MAP scores which are all above 50 percentile. Black and Hispanics there are making more growth than whites. The point being that it can be done. Escárcega explained we look at what is going on at this building to achieve this. Here is a school effective with minority students.

We do not use growth to predict proficiency. Tabacheck and Lord added that the chart can be misleading. One year’s growth is not by grade level; it means many more kids than before are making one year’s growth. This is only growth – not grade level and proficiency. They requested this be made clear.

Backus said when the importance of growth shows teachers are making every minute count for students. Teachers are becoming more effective at this with more challenged students. Growth is an indicator. Teachers are helping more students make every day of instruction count. We beat the national average for growth rates in APS. CSAP makes front-page news where growth does not. Communication needs to get this word out. Escárcega said it is the data keeping us accredited. Adams said the issue is the same confusion that arises here – growth and proficiency. It takes many explanations to have people understand. The district can get better in getting the message out and having principals speak to their parent groups.

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items
June 20, 2006

III. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Action on Arbitration Decision

In accordance with Article 43 of the Master Agreement between the school district and the Aurora Education Association, the following recommendation by the superintendent is presented to the board of education for approval.

A grievance was filed by the AEA in which it was alleged that (1) certain discipline imposed upon a teacher was unjustified; and (2) the Master Agreement was violated in deciding upon the teacher’s assignment. Grievance steps in accordance with the Master Agreement were followed. An arbitration hearing was held in April 2006 and following the hearing, a written Advisory Opinion was issued on May 25, 2006. The superintendent's recommendation is that the board of education accept the arbitrator's recommendation the grievance be partially sustained and partially denied.

District Accountability Advisory Committee Application for Appointment

DAAC bylaws require at least three parent members on the committee. It is recommended the board approve the parent application of Edward Samaniego, representing Aurora Hills Middle School.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Personnel Items

Van Gytenbeek recognized the retirements of Kim Yen Tran, 22 years; Robert Haenselman, 6 years and Sarah Rovner, 20 years of service with the district. He then recommended the board approve the personnel items as presented.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Crawford Elementary School Improvement Plan for 2006-07

The board of education is asked to approve the Crawford Elementary School improvement plan for 2006-07.

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

No Items

The consent agenda passed unanimously
IV. ACTION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Policy IMDB, Flag Display

Policy IMDB, Flag Display, is amended to include a section on personal display of the flag in order to comply with a new state statute C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(ii). Adams recommended the board of education approve Policy IMDB, Flag Display, as amended.

Lord moved, seconded by Barton the board of education approve the recommendation. #7315

Roll Call:  Ayes:  Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck

Noes:  None

Policy JEB, Entrance Age Requirements

The board of education discussed the policy on entrance age requirements at the June 6, 2006, board meeting. Adams recommended the board of education amend the policy to keep Aurora Public Schools congruent with state law regarding the entrance age requirement for first grade. Tabacheck said she finds this improper not to allow a student coming from another state to continue in their education, even if it is a state issue that there are not funds for these students, she is against it. She added that every child should have a right to learn and once they start, they should not be stopped or turned away because we do not get money from them. Adams suggested a call to your legislator to amend this. This item will return for second reading in August.

Lord moved, seconded by Barton the board of education approve the recommendation. #7316

Roll Call:  Ayes:  Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord

Noes:  Tabacheck

Rocky Mountain School for Expeditionary Learning Contract Renewal

Aurora Public Schools has participated in the RMSEL for a number of years. Adams recommended the board of education approve the 2006-11, Intergovernmental Agreement as presented.

Barton moved, seconded by Tabacheck the board of education approve the recommendation. #7317

Roll Call:  Ayes:  Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck

Noes:  None

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

No Items
DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Textbook and Instructional Materials Adoption

Backus recommended the board of education adopt the basic and supplemental textbooks and instructional materials as presented.

Lord moved, seconded by Barton the board of education approve the recommendation. #7318

Roll Call: Ayes: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck

Noes: None

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

No Items

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Adoption of the 2006-07 Budget and Appropriation Resolution

WHEREAS, budgets for the 2006-07 General, Charter Schools, Athletic, Bond Redemption, Building, Capital Reserve, Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program, Grants, Internal Service, Nutrition Services, Pupil Activity, Risk-Related Activity, Special Programs, and Agency Funds have been prepared, and;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes, the board of education of each school district shall adopt a budget by appropriate resolution for each fiscal year prior to the beginning of the budget year (CRS 22-44-110(4));

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of education of Joint District No. 28-J of the Counties of Adams and Arapahoe adopt the following budget amounts and appropriate said amounts including appropriations by program and object in the general fund of the adopted budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
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<td>Charters</td>
<td>6,802,131</td>
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<td>Athletic</td>
<td>621,505</td>
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<td>Bond Redemption</td>
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<td>Building</td>
<td>51,400,000</td>
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<td>Capital Reserve</td>
<td>9,295,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado Preschool &amp; Kindergarten Program</td>
<td>1,788,250</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Internal Service</td>
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<td>Nutrition Services</td>
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<td>Pupil Activity</td>
<td>84,700</td>
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<td>Risk-Related Activity</td>
<td>3,972,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Programs</td>
<td>8,419,897</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>2,644,554</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</td>
<td>$384,994,403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Weeks recommended the board of education adopt the resolution and the 2006-07 budget appropriations for the general operating fund as presented.

Lord moved, seconded by Barton the board of education approve the recommendation. #7319

Roll Call: Ayes: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck

Noes: None

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 22-44-105 states that a budget, duly adopted pursuant to this article, shall not provide for expenditures, interfund transfers, or reserves, in excess of available revenues and beginning fund balance;

WHEREAS, the board of education may authorize the use of a portion of the beginning fund balance in the budget, stating the amount to be used, the purpose for which the expenditure is needed, and the district’s plan to ensure that the use of the beginning fund balance will not lead to an ongoing deficit;

WHEREAS, the board of education has determined the beginning fund balances in the Athletic Fund, Bond Fund, Building Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program, Copier Services, Print Services, Nutrition Services Fund, Risk-Related Activity Fund, Special Program Fund, and Grants Fund are sufficient to allow for the one-time expenditures and the action will not lead to an ongoing deficit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with C.R.S. 22-44-105, the board of education authorizes the use of a portion of the FY2006-07 Beginning Fund Balance for the following funds: Athletic Fund, in the amount of $39,405 for the purpose of funding a portion of the reserves; Bond Fund, in the amount of $4,015,782 for the purpose of defeasing debt as allowed by law; Building Fund, in the amount of $51,400,000 for approved bond projects; Capital Reserve Fund, in the amount of $2,824,969 for site-identified projects throughout the district; Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program Fund, in the amount of $273,107 for the purpose of expanded operations and maintaining a reserve; Copier Services Internal Service Fund, in the amount of $131,185 for supplies and equipment; Print Services Internal Service Fund, in the amount of $168,841 for supplies and equipment and maintaining a reserve; Nutrition Services Fund, in the amount of $2,010,352 for maintaining capital equipment and maintaining a reserve; Risk-Related Activity Fund, in the amount of $272,265 for insurance premiums; Special Program Fund, in the amount of $2,068,182 for day-to-day operations of several programs; and the Grants Fund, in the amount of $423,892 for day-to-day operations of several grants;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the use of this portion of the beginning fund for the purpose/s set forth above will not lead to an ongoing deficit.

Weeks recommended the board of education adopt the resolution as presented.

Barton moved, seconded by Lord the board of education approve the recommendation. #7320
Roll Call:  Ayes:  Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck

Noes:  None

**NCLB Consolidated Grant Application**

The appropriate directors and the Department of Grants Management personnel have completed the Consolidated Grant Application received from the Colorado Department of Education in the amount of $12,150,363 for the following Title Grants: Title I - $ 9,120,312; (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged); Title II Part A, $1,591,284 (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting); Title II-D - $93,983 (Enhancing Education Through Technology); Title III - $1,118,664 (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students); Title IV - $163,636 (Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities); Title V-A - $62,484 (Innovative Programs).

Weeks recommended the board of education authorizes the Consolidated Grant Application submission in the amount of $ 12,150,363 and designates Mr. Paul A. Coleman as contact person.

Barton moved, seconded by Lord the board of education approve the recommendation. #7321

Roll Call:  Ayes:  Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck

Noes:  None

**Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant**

The Department of Grants Management personnel, along with the Department of Risk Management have completed the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant through the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of $227,934.

Weeks recommended the board of education authorize the submission of the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant to the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of $227,934 and appoint Rod Weeks as the authorized representative, Paul Coleman as the budget authority and Tudy Wicks as the contact person.

Lord moved, seconded by Barton the board of education approve the recommendation. #7322

Roll Call:  Ayes:  Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck

Noes:  None

**General Fund Contingency Transfer**

Over the last several months, the board of education has been made aware that due to a revised actuarial report last fall, the contribution amount the district pays for worker’s compensation increased significantly. There is a need for a transfer of funds from the general fund’s contingency account to cover this increase and to keep the fund from being overspent. As part of the recent insurance renewal presentation to the board, it was communicated that the cost of worker’s compensation going into 2006-07 will be greatly reduced.
Weeks recommended the board of education approve the transfer of $800,000 from the general fund contingency reserve account to the risk-related activity fund.

June 20, 2006

Lord moved, seconded by Barton the board of education approve the recommendation. #7323

Roll Call: Ayes: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck
Noes: None

**Supplemental Budget Resolution – Charter Schools, Risk-Related Activity and Building Fund**

New America School experienced an increase in per-pupil revenue originally adopted in the budget due to an increase in enrollment. The board of education has approved the transfer of funds from the general fund to the risk-related activity fund in the amount of $800,000. The building fund projects have progressed very well and expenditures are projected to exceed initial appropriations. To authorize spending of these additional funds and reserves, the board needs to approve a supplemental budget resolution and appropriate the funds.

Weeks recommended the board of education approve the following supplemental budget resolution:

WHEREAS, additional funds have become available to New America School and have been transferred into the risk related activity fund from the general fund contingency reserve account and reserves are available in the building fund;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes, the board of education shall adopt a resolution authorizing the appropriation of any additional funds (CRS 22-44-110);

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Joint District No. 28-J of the counties of Adams and Arapahoe adopt the following budget amounts and appropriate additional funds in the amounts of $681,280 in the 2005-06 charter school fund, $800,000 in the 2005-06 risk related activity fund, and $10,000,000 in the 2005-06 building fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>05-06 Budget</th>
<th>Charter Schools</th>
<th>Risk Related Activity</th>
<th>Building</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original budget</td>
<td>$5,065,220</td>
<td>$3,597,921</td>
<td>$47,845,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental budget</td>
<td>681,280</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$5,746,500</td>
<td>$4,397,921</td>
<td>$57,845,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Barton moved, seconded by Carmany the board of education approve the recommendation. #7324

Roll Call: Ayes: Barber, Barton, Carmany, Lord, Tabacheck
Noes: None

**V. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

*Crawford Elementary School Principal Debbie Gerkin thanked Adams and Backus for their time with APS. She reflected on the time she addressed the board on behalf of the Discovery School Charter School. She appreciated Adams listening carefully and thoughtfully. She thanked Backus for teaching her how to teach, how to trust her instincts and how to be*
courageous. Gerkin thanked Adams and Backus for their leadership in APS, to her and the children we serve.

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Director of Student Achievement Amy Weed thanked Adams and Backus on behalf of the Division of Instruction. She explained their leadership has been appreciated and valued, ranking them on their leadership skills using the Aurora Achievement Initiative. She noted that classrooms have transformed in the last four years and teachers are becoming skillful in differentiating instruction. Weed said how much they would be missed and thanked each for their inspirational leadership and as incredible mentors.

Carmany thanked Adams and Backus for their years of service to APS and wished them the very best. Tabacheck thanked Adams, noting she has learned how to listen and work with board members. She added that she appreciates Adams from a family perspective and doesn’t know what we would have done without you on the board. She thanked Backus for being there when she needed someone to listen. Lord said he hasn’t seen an educator grow quite as much as he has seen Backus through the years as a principal at Montview to today. He added that Adams is the smartest educator he has ever met. He is always right and will be missed. Barton said Adams has always made each student in APS his number one priority.

Backus said they will miss everyone as well. On behalf of herself and Adams, it has been a labor of love, intellect and hard work. She thanked instruction for being the team they are and staying here in their absence to take care of the students in APS.

**Next meeting date**

The next business meeting of the board of education will be held August 1, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gateway High School Commons.

**Adjournment**

Being no further business, the regular meeting of the board of education was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

ATTEST

Secretary

President