

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
January 6, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, January 6, 2011, at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97233.

School Board Members present were:

	Dawn Barberis, Board Chair	
Mike Centoni		Annette Mattson
Frieda Christopher		Mike Price
Donn Gardner		Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta

Also present were Don Grotting, Superintendent/Clerk; Natalie Osburn, Assistant Superintendent; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Mr. Centoni wished all a happy New Year. He said he recently had the chance to visit with some of our staff, and remarked that people’s attitudes are positive and folks are stepping up to the challenge. Ms. Christopher updated board members on East Portland Action Plan activities. She also announced that letters of support are needed to accompany a Safe Routes to Schools grant proposal which would fund sidewalks in our area. Ms. Mattson reported that she attended Lincoln Park’s multicultural night. Starbucks and Olive Garden donated food and beverages for families as they gathered to make a number of multicultural craft projects. Ms. Mattson is participating on the City’s Bureau of Planning and Sustainability budget advisory committee. Two of their projects relate to David Douglas. One is the 122nd Avenue rezoning study; the other focuses on inter-governmental agreements with school districts to establish the framework by which districts can weigh in on zoning and planned development as it impacts schools. She was also reappointed last week to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee as a school district representative. December completed eight years of involvement with OSBA. Ms. Mattson represented OSBA at NSBA’s Western Region Meeting. She attended presentations on land trusts, Alaska’s Race to the Top efforts, and an excellent workshop on education and social equity. Chair Barberis announced that the District will be looking for two new district patrons to serve on the budget committee. Information on the application process and timeline will be made available soon on the district website.

Student Body President’s Report – no report

Superintendent’s Report – Barbara Kienle reported that the coordinator of our Healthy Active Schools grant applied in December for a sub-grant through Multnomah County to provide more access to clean, healthy water for drinking. The grant was awarded and will fund the installation of three watering stations around the district. One will be installed at the high school, another at Alice Ott, and a third at an elementary school to be determined. Assistant Superintendent Osburn announced that the Music Department has applied for a grant through the Regional Arts and Culture Council for scholarships for private tutoring and coaching sessions for student musicians. Superintendent Grotting said he recently met with Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen, whose office has selected to award David Douglas High School and Floyd Light Middle School with a Restorative Justice grant. The program aims to curb gang violence and drug abuse. The superintendent also met with Dan Ryan, Portland Schools Foundation, regarding the “cradle to career” initiative, which he

said is picking up speed. Superintendent Grotting has been selected to visit with various potential funders. Development of the Wee Initiative preschool project for Earl Boyles is continuing as funding sources are being sought. Joe Bergen met recently with the superintendent to announce that his organization, Friends of the Children, has selected Lincoln Park as another school where they will provide paid mentors for at-risk students from kindergarten through graduation. Our district was selected based on our poverty rate.

Superintendent Grotting announced that January is School Board Recognition Month. He said our board members have a combined total of 97 years of board experience. On behalf of the administration, staff, and students, he thanked them for their service to our children and our community, and presented each with a copy of a recording of music performed by our students. It was produced as a fundraiser to benefit the district's music department, through the generosity of the Gateway Area Business Association, and also features piano pieces performed by Fred Sanchez, GABA member.

Audit Report – Janice Essenberg introduced Roy Rogers and Tamara Graham from Pauly Rogers & Co to present the audit of the District's comprehensive annual report. Mr. Rogers said the staff has done an impressive job putting the report together, and were accommodating and easy to work with during the audit. The district received a clean, unqualified opinion. Minor findings regarding federal programs were outlined, each of which has already been addressed and corrected. Per new accounting standards, findings must now be incorporated into the district's annual report. Mr. Rogers was thanked for his team's work.

Ms. Mattson made a motion to accept the auditor's report as presented, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Multnomah Education Service District Report – MESD Superintendent Ron Hitchcock and MESD board member Sean Schafer were introduced. They provided an overview of services provided by MESD, among which are special education / early childhood intervention, nurses, curricular and school improvement assistance, student information systems management, and outdoor school. It was remarked that there is some contention that there are savings to be realized by consolidation or elimination of ESDs. Mr. Schafer said the ESD multiplies the value of federal grant dollars distributed by the state, adding value by serving as cross district providers. He said that Ms. Kienle works with MESD to house special needs and transition students, and that David Douglas asks MESD to educate its highest needs students. Other students attend the district's own program, with these two groups now housed together due to collaboration between MESD and the district, providing expanded opportunities for both groups. Mr. Hitchcock reported that David Douglas School District received \$3,562,000 in resolution services from MESD. More than 8,000 families across the county received health insurance facilitated through MESD, \$250,000 of which was spent in David Douglas. \$6 million in additional services were received by David Douglas last year, for which the district spent \$248,000. For each dollar David Douglas spent, there were \$24 in services received. Several thousand David Douglas students have interfaced with MESD. Mr. Hitchcock said that John May has been an important part of MESD's collaboration with the district in data management. Mr. Hitchcock remarked that one way to reduce the cost of services would be to expand their service area.

Superintendent Grotting remarked that he has worked with several ESD superintendents over the years, and that Mr. Hitchcock is a maverick; if David Douglas can find a service that MESD is providing which is offered at lower cost, he's all for it. He said Mr. Hitchcock is looking for what is best for the districts in his region, and believes that competition will push his folks to provide the best

service and best value possible. Ms. Mattson expressed her appreciation for Ron and his board's leadership, and for their openness and good use of tax dollars.

Budget Discussion – Superintendent Grotting said that as the budget committee, board, and cabinet have been meeting, we are sharing as much information as we know. Budget projections are being based on \$5.7 billion in state education funding. David Douglas School District will need to make a reduction of about \$12million for 2011-12. There will be a reduction in force. Other options will also be discussed, some of which require negotiations with our bargaining units. We already reduced 34 positions last school year through attrition. Hard choices will have to be made. The district will be working with OSEA and OEA to determine what resources are available to assist staff members who lose their jobs. The superintendent said that every reduction impacts our investment in our students. Ms. Mattson thanked the superintendent for keeping everyone informed, saying she appreciates the clear and consistent, frequent information being sent out to staff. School newsletters are also including those updates for our parents.

On another topic, Superintendent Grotting congratulated the High School Jazz Band for placing first in the Mt. Hood Conference.

Audience Participation / Break – Chair Barberis opened the meeting for public comment. As there were no remarks from the audience, the chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Bond Discussion – Superintendent Grotting said there have been some discussions about the possibility of going out for a bond. He said staff is in the process of gathering information regarding needed projects and costs. He said in light of these times, as we are reducing staff, any money we can use for maintenance of our facilities that would not increase taxes for our patrons would be a benefit to the district budget. He noted that we are not talking about building schools; we want to maintain what we have and address safety concerns. Looking at options soon will allow the board to make an informed decision and will allow enough time to adequately inform our patrons.

Ms. Essenberg said that since some bonds are coming off our schedule, the district could propose a bond issue of up to \$53 million, \$15 million of which could be tax free. A July 1 application to Salem will give us time to have some thoughtful numbers. The bond could go before the voters in November. Principals have been surveyed to determine what they see as their building needs. Unlike in the past, districts can now use bond funds for technology, but we would need to structure payoff around the useful life of those items. Mr. Grotting said we will need to determine the board's interest and direction regarding the amount of a bond request. Before making that decision, he wants to provide a list of specific needs and costs. If the board wants a bond request on the November ballot, they should make their decision by May. Ms. Mattson reminded the group that board members can campaign, but our staff may only provide information.

Strategic Planning – Superintendent Grotting said that when he was interviewed by the board, interest in the development of a strategic plan for the district was expressed. In meeting with the board leadership, it continues to be a topic they would like to pursue. The superintendent suggested that they start that process in a workshop format during the summer.

Consent Agenda – Ms. Mattson moved approval of the following Consent Agenda items, seconded by Mr. Price. During discussion, Mr. Gardner said that although he will support the motion, he has concerns regarding some of the elements of the Administrators Memorandum of Understanding, remarking that there are some items he would hope to see handled differently. He said that with a \$12 million deficit next year, and the probability of an additional \$5-6 million the following year, every

dollar spent comes from somewhere else, and the bottom line should be what best serves our students. Following discussion, the motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- **Adoption of MESD Programs & Services Proposal for 2011-12**
- **Approval of Administrator Memorandum of Understanding**
- **Approval of Manager/Supervisor/Confidential Memorandum of Understanding**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Barberis announced that she would be convening an executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining. The regular session was adjourned.



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk