

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
January 17, 2008**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. 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:

Annette Mattson, Board Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Frieda Christopher
Bruce Burton	Donn Gardner
Mike Centoni	Mike Price

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Gary Haase, Interim Director of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk; Sherrie Barger, Director of Curriculum; Susan Summers, Director of Human Resources; Barbara Kienle, Director of Student Services; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Bruce Burton, along with Superintendent Rommel and Dan McCue, attended the town hall meeting held by City Commissioner Randy Leonard and Senator Brad Avakian. Senator Rod Monroe also attended. Mr. Burton was pleased to hear that both senators support state funding for full day kindergarten. Mike Price attended Tuesday's public hearing on the Azbuka charter school proposal. He said the presenters made some interesting points, although they still have some work to do. Mike Centoni was pleased to announce that David Douglas High School Principal Randy Hutchinson was recently named Administrator of the Year by the Oregon Music Educators Association. He read a note of appreciation from Music Supervisor Russ Fillis, thanking the board and administration for their ongoing support of the district's music program. Frieda Christopher attended the charter school hearing, which she said was an interesting presentation. She also attended the east Portland Action Team meeting, where the group is trying to narrow down the issues and develop short term actions to be completed by July. She said she has been pleased with the diversity of the group of participants, as well as the great technical staff which includes representation from each City bureau. Ms. Christopher reported on Opportunity Gateway's PAC meeting. Construction has begun on 102nd Avenue at Glisan Street. Work will continue northward to Halsey, and will address flooding issues at intersections. Grant money available for parks and green spaces through Metro might be used to construct a 36 acre park on a piece of property owned by ODOT which is landlocked between I-205 and I-84. A feasibility study is under way. The annual Educational Foundation dinner/auction will be held on April 19.

Board Chair Mattson announced that David Douglas School District is one of the finalists for a National School Board Association award for supporting arts education. She said it was wonderful to see how many teachers attended the January 15 charter school hearing to show their interest. She complimented the district staff for their work with this community group. The East Portland Chamber of Commerce met at the David Douglas District Office this week. House Speaker Jeff Merkley was the featured speaker. The meeting drew more than fifty people from the business community as well as high school staff from the school to work program. Dawn Barberis was congratulated for earning her Doctorate in Education.

Student Body President's Report – Stacy Chao was unable to attend.

Superintendent's Report – Gary Haase reported that during a recent storm, when Vancouver had a tornado, South Powellhurst took on quite a bit of water when a downspout failed. Paul Arzt and the maintenance crew responded immediately to remove the water. Representatives from Multnomah County were grateful for the district's swift response. A list of summer work projects is being compiled. The work on the track and football field upgrade should begin by May 1, with completion targeted for August 15. The construction committee is working on the RFP for the classroom additions at Ron Russell and Floyd Light Middle Schools. Work will begin late spring or early summer to provide students access to the Mill Park and Lincoln Park courtyards. Mr. Haase presented a draft budget calendar for review. It will be presented for approval at the February 7 board meeting, along with nominations to the budget committee.

Barbara Kienle reported that Amy Straw's high school special education students have been using a program called Fantasy Sports to boost interest and achievement in math. She contacted the author of the program about the interest and enthusiasm the curriculum has generated for her students. The author came out to interview her and featured her class in a filmed documentary about the program. Amy was also interviewed by *The Oregonian*, and the class may receive a special visit from members of the Trailblazers. Earl Boyles Elementary School has been selected for a site visit from attendees at a national community schools forum to be held in Portland this April. Sherrie Barger reported that more than 50 members of a city-wide volunteer group will gather to cover library books at District Office on Martin Luther King Day. Mike Stout announced that two cars were broken into while parked along the south side of the high school south gym during the school day. Last night Lincoln Park School was broken into and office computers and the fax machine were stolen. It was later discovered that someone got into the high school's south building the same evening, although no classrooms were accessed and nothing was reported stolen. Officer Morinville is investigating.

Superintendent's Mid-Year Goal Report – Superintendent Rommel recapped activities and achievements to date, at the midway point in the school year. She recapped staff development activities from August to January which supported the district's literacy focus. New language arts textbooks are in use at all levels and literacy has been the focus of early release sessions. Math has been another major area of focus this year. Math coaches have been hired at the middle and high schools. Coaches are working with staff to align curriculum and analyze assessment information. A three year plan for math improvement is being developed which outlines best strategies for meeting new math expectations for a standard diploma. Positive Behavior Support work is ongoing. A high school PBS leadership team has been formed. Nine team trainings have been held at the elementary and middle school levels since August. School improvement coordinators are assisting with interventions. Data is being collected and will be reported later in the year. A metro-area PBS forum for high schools was held here on December 10. Under the goal area of Management, job descriptions are being finalized for expected administrative vacancies, and a district facilities plan is in place.

Community involvement activities included Dan McCue's work identifying a list of local organizations and chief contacts. He is also participating on a CAC subcommittee. The fall edition of the David Douglas newsletter was distributed to community households; the district website has been updated and enhanced; and the online Parent Assist program has been implemented at the middle schools. Cooperative connections with other organizations include our work with the City regarding possible construction of a school on Deardorff; our collaboration with Multnomah County on the SUN Schools program; and the participation of Frieda Christopher and the superintendent on the East Portland Action Team. The superintendent also participates in discussions with the Children's Institute to

identify needs in this community. She presented a list of organizations with whom David Douglas has connections and partnerships, and a list of organizations and initiatives in which she is actively involved.

A question arose regarding Commissioner Erik Sten's announced resignation from the City Council, and how that would impact the Deardorff discussions. The superintendent said she was told that he intends to see the process through before he leaves. Randy Leonard has said he also will take up this cause. Another question was raised in relation to a recent *Oregonian* article giving Oregon schools a low mark in staff development for teachers. It was asked how to get the word out that good things are happening in David Douglas in terms of strong mentorships and teacher support. Sherrie Berger said a group meeting regarding mentoring new teachers was held today. Input from 280 staff surveys regarding the mentoring program will be used to further strengthen our efforts. It was noted that the *Oregonian* report referred to a ranking based on specific support for teacher mentoring at the state level, and was not reflective of what individual districts are doing.

Chair Mattson thanked Superintendent Rommel for her fine example representing the district, noting that she is well known at City Hall, among our legislators, and on collaborative teams such as Leaders Roundtable.

Board Policy #5210.4 Threats of Violence: Second Reading – Ms. Christopher made a motion to approve this addition to board policy, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Board Policy #3410.6/4410.6 Mother Friendly Workplace: Second Reading – Mr. Burton made a motion to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Mr. Centoni. The motion carried in a unanimous vote. Mr. Centoni noted that this policy was developed in response to legislative action, but remarked that we have been very responsive regarding this issue with our staff.

Approval of School Calendar for 2008-09 – After input was solicited from the district staff, Draft A of the 2008-09 Master Calendar emerged as the clear favorite, with 386 staff members supporting Draft A as opposed to 91 votes for Draft B. Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the staff's choice of Draft A as the master calendar for the 2008-09 school year. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion, which was approved in a vote of 7-0.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- **Resolution to Select Telecommunications Service Provider**
- **Resolution to Select Garbage Hauling Service Provider**

Audience Participation / Break – Chair Mattson opened the meeting for public comment.

High school teacher Lori Ann Kordalis encouraged the board to consider additional safety measures for the high school property, as her car was one of two broken into in broad daylight yesterday.

Dick Kemp spoke on behalf of American Legion Post 1 located at SE 122 & Mill. He reviewed the many ways the Post supports David Douglas students and activities. Post 1 is the largest monetary supporter of the clothes closet at North Powellhurst. He extended the Post's appreciation to high school math teacher Heidi Willis, who manages that facility, which he said is very well organized, clean and appealing. He said she is an outstanding representative of this school district. He remarked that Legion veterans could be called upon to patrol our parking lots.

As there were no further remarks from the audience, the board chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Priorities for District Leadership – As a first step toward outlining some of the characteristics that executive administration in David Douglas should have, Superintendent Rommel presented a draft of potential requirements, preferences, and possibilities for top leadership under several headings, with specifics listed from our own past criteria as well as material shared by other districts. Starting this discussion now will allow ample time for communicating with district personnel interested in top level administration. She said after incorporating any board recommendations and revisions, input will be gathered from the community before bringing the draft back to the board for approval.

During the discussion, it was the board's consensus that a Doctorate would be preferred but not required of a candidate for superintendent. Individual suggestions included that this position should be filled from within the educational community, rather than bringing in a person with a background in business or a related field; that the candidate's personal philosophy of education and mission should align with the district's goals; and that the person selected as the next superintendent be a resident and registered voter in this community. Additional suggestions regarding rephrasing of listed qualities were noted. It was suggested that the specifics be determined and published prior to the end of this school year, in order to inform potential candidates of the board's requirements, and that the duties of the superintendent as expressed in board policy be reviewed, as the policy is more than 30 years old.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – The next meeting of the charter school committee was set for January 28, at 3:00pm.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Chair Mattson announced that the board would reconvene in executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(i) Superintendent's Evaluation; and (2)(d) Collective Bargaining. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk