

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
February 3, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 3, 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	
Frieda Christopher	Annette Mattson
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. Gardner welcomed the audience and thanked them for coming out to support the work of the board. He attended the jazz band performances at the PAC on January 27, saying he enjoyed the work of some very talented musicians and thought that Alice Ott Middle School's jazz band performance was particularly great. He remarked that our students are receiving some very good instruction from our music teachers. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta said she was pleased so many people came to tonight's meeting. She expressed her thanks for the many letters board members received from elementary students, in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. Ms. Christopher said she was pleased to have the opportunity to talk with Senator Jeff Merkley recently, along with our board leadership. Next week, East Portland Action Plan members and David Douglas and Parkrose superintendents will be having a meeting with the Portland Housing Bureau to discuss the impact tax abated property is having on our district. Ms. Christopher said that two PSU students have taken an interest in this process, and may be developing their Masters projects around this topic. She attended Jefferson Smith's town hall meeting, where she heard that statewide bargaining will be a legislative issue.

Ms. Christopher said that the Educational Foundation has been struggling to develop a fundraising event. Blain Grover is part of the Portland Business Alliance leadership program, which is focusing on the arts. They have chosen to partner with the Foundation to host a fundraising event on May 21 in the Rose Room of the Rose Garden. Use of the facility is being offered free of charge and catering assistance will also be provided. Ms. Mattson participated in the January 15 tree planting event at Earl Boyles Park, sponsored by Friends of Trees. She said she was paired with a DD mom and her children, and saw staff members and students volunteering as well. She enjoyed visiting with Senator Merkley at a recent reception, along with Chair Barberis and Ms. Christopher. Last week she attended OSBA's sustainable schools conference. Topics discussed included the links between certain elements in a school environment and improved student achievement. She expressed her thanks for all the thank you notes from students.

Student Body President's Report – ASB President Katherine Westmoreland reported that the Winter Assembly was a fun event. The winter canned food drive totaled more than 3,800 cans to support the Celtic Heat and Snow CAP. The Dads Club tree recycling project was the most successful ever. The Winter Formal was held last weekend, with 757 tickets sold. Finals were held last week and students are glad to be moving on to the start of a new semester. Jazz Night was very successful. Ms. Westmoreland and other David Douglas students were interviewed for a video

which will be shown at the Mayor's Education Summit next Monday. She was also asked to speak at that event but declined because DDHS is hosting the Mt. Hood Conference ASB meeting. Workshops will be offered on several topics including communication, community service, and school spirit. Social and Human Services students are participating in the Community 101 project, where they learn about various nonprofits and determine funding allocations. "Pack the Place" basketball night is tomorrow. State competitions are coming up for fall sports, as are the regional acting competition and the Mt. Hood solo contest. High school music groups are performing at schools around the district to promote interest. The Father-Daughter Banquet will be held on February 23, the winter play begins March 3, and in preparation for the Rose Festival, the David Douglas crowning ceremony will be held on March 7.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting. He said the jazz concert was a great night. Music Teacher Tawna Garcia received the Mr. Holland's Opus Award at the concert, which included a \$10,000 cash prize. The district recently hosted family engagement nights with Somali and Russian parents, with more events to come, each of which encourages our parents to become engaged in our school community. The superintendent thanked Dr. Osburn, Communications Specialist Dan McCue, and ESL Coordinator Kelly Devlin for their efforts in facilitating these opportunities. He announced that high school ESL Teacher Anne Downing recently won a "We are Portland" award for her work with our ESL families. Superintendent Grotting was also pleased to announce that Laura Brewer, Administrative Assistant in the Superintendent's Office, has received a "Lighthouse Award" from Oregon Department of Education, in recognition for her excellent work with state data collections. Mr. Grotting said he has attended a number of athletic events lately, including boys and girls basketball and wrestling. He has not yet watched the swim team but was pleased to announce that both our boys and girls teams won at Barlow today.

Budget Presentation – Superintendent Grotting began his presentation by saying the administration and board do not take lightly the reductions being proposed. He said all represent disinvestments in our children, and will impact our students, our employees, and their families. Based on estimated state education funding of \$5.7 billion for education, we are required to reduce expenditures by \$12 million for 2011-12. The governor's budget proposal includes only \$5.56 billion to education, but the superintendent said he remains optimistic that the legislature will increase that amount when they make the final funding allocation.

The superintendent's proposal calls for the reduction of about 91 total positions, including 54 classroom teachers, 11 school librarians, 13.5 school improvement coordinators, 8 classified personnel and 2 administrators. Other planned reductions come in supplies, athletics, textbooks, Outdoor School, the elementary TAG pullout program (TAG services will continue being offered in the student's regular classroom) and a reduction in hours for many classified employee positions. The plan also calls for the closure of the North Powellhurst kindergarten program, accounting for the remaining reduced positions from the 91 total. Students and teachers from North Powellhurst will return to our elementary schools. All of our schools will also see an increase next year in class sizes due to the reduction in teachers.

If the board approves this reduction plan, the District will prepare a proposed 2011-12 budget to present to the District Budget Committee on April 18. The Budget Committee will deliberate and approve a budget, which it will recommend to the School Board. The School Board must hold a public hearing and adopt a final budget prior to June 30.

Superintendent Grotting said that he is working with Bob Gray and Greg Becker to provide community and governmental resources for affected staff members regarding support, workforce training, and unemployment. Meetings will also be scheduled to review recall rights and other contract issues. He said he is trying to be as transparent as possible in providing information to our staff and community.

Early Retirement Incentive Plan Presentation – Superintendent Grotting said that the administration and DDEA have been investigating the viability of adding a one-time incentive to the certified retirement package to encourage teachers who are eligible to retire to make that move, in order to reduce the number of teacher layoffs for 2011-12. The ideal would be that if a person retires, we would not refill that position. He said that Mr. Richardson has reviewed plans being used by other districts and discussed possibilities with DDEA, and has developed a proposal which would be cost effective.

Mr. Richardson provided a draft MOU to bolster the current retirement package, saying that we have a tentative agreement with DDEA. We are faced with 81 licensed positions to be cut, and there is a savings to be realized between a teacher at the top of the salary schedule and one at the beginning of their career. DDEA has requested one change to the presented draft - that the window of eligibility be extended in order for employees to contact PERS and make their decision. If the board approves the plan, he will meet tomorrow with union leadership to finalize the agreement. Mr. Richardson stressed that this is a completely voluntary program, which will be made available based on specific criteria. If the district reaches agreement with DDEA, the details will go out to staff early next week.

Superintendent Grotting said he has been asked about the possibility of furlough days. He said the district asked DDEA to consider that option in addition to some others. DDEA was willing to sit down and talk, but wanted to do so during formal, regularly scheduled bargaining. He said the district is more than willing to look at furlough days, but wants to look at what they cost employees and what they cost students. He said the OSEA is also receptive to that discussion.

Audience Participation – As she opened the meeting for remarks from the audience, Chair Barberis announced that board members won't respond to testimony at this time, but are here to listen. As this budget process is ongoing, the board will be accepting written testimony as well.

Margie Menzia, Librarian at Alice Ott Middle School, said that last time she spoke to the board, she thanked them for additional funds to purchase books. She thanked the board again for their long-standing support of the district's library program in the past, and expressed her hope that they will be equally committed to the full restoration of the program when funds return. She remarked that she will likely be in the classroom next year, but will be a better teacher there, having been a librarian.

Deb Wheelbarger, Librarian at Mill Park, said she is glad to have been a librarian, and glad to have been a member of the premier library team in Oregon. She said that our librarians have done far more on many levels than others from surrounding districts, including developing a curriculum for libraries that was sent to ODE. She said that as the school year has progressed, board members have been receiving communications and given a lot of research from Carol Ramsey, showing that programs with full time librarians have better test scores than those without. She said that last year, the board received more communications opposing eliminating the librarians than any other issues, combined. She said our librarians have provided a quality program in spite of being first on the list when budget cuts are considered. She said she is troubled that the entire program is being eliminated, rather than a percentage of all specialist areas, and asked that the board look at restoring full time librarians first, when funding levels improve.

Ben Burns, parent of students at Cherry Park and Floyd Light, thanked the board for the hard work they are doing, saying he realizes what a painful process budget development is this year. He requested that the board reconsider eliminating the TAG pullout program, remarking that this move would constitute a 100% cut in a part of budget that only reflects 1% of the total. Providing TAG enrichment in the classroom would be just one more thing that overworked teachers will have to do. He suggested that a creative solution be found, such as reducing the pullout program to twice per month instead of weekly.

Rowanna Carpenter, parent of a Cherry Park TAG student, echoed the sentiments just expressed, and asked that the board not commit to these cuts now, but continue the conversation to allow parents to be part of the process.

There being no other remarks from the audience, the chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Appointment of Budget Committee Members – Chair Barberis reported that there are two openings on the budget committee. After opening the process to the public, she said the board was very pleased with the level of response. Ms. Mattson said seven very well qualified applicants expressed their interest in serving, any of whom would do a very good job. She thanked them for volunteering, and said it was a real honor to speak with each of them. She noted that there will be other opportunities to remain involved with the district. Mr. Gardner said this was the first time we used this process, and it was a positive one which he would support using as future vacancies occur. Mr. Gardner nominated Mr. Troy Lyver for Budget Committee Position 2, saying Mr. Lyver is a district parent as well as an engineer, and that he will be a valuable asset to the budget committee and a help to the board. Following a second from Ms. Christopher, Mr. Lyver's appointment was approved in a unanimous vote. Chair Barberis nominated Kimberly Carlson for Position 3. Ms. Carlson is a nurse and has been a very active and involved parent at Earl Boyles for a number of years. Following a second for Mr. Gardner, Ms. Carlson's appointment was approved in a vote of 5-0. The board chair thanked all applicants for their interest, and said there will be other ways to become involved, including open positions on the board in the not-too-distant future. She also encouraged anyone interested to come to budget committee meetings as all are open to the public. Chair Barberis said she neglected earlier to report that Mr. Centoni is absent this evening as he is recovering from surgery, and Mr. Price is out ill.

Approval of \$12 Million Reduction Plan for the 2011-12 School Year – Chair Barberis said the plan presented tonight will provide the framework around which we will build our budget. Dr. Osburn described the process used in determining increased class sizes for next year. Superintendent Grotting said even with these increases, our class sizes will be below those of many other Multnomah County districts.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the \$12 million budget reduction plan as presented, seconded by Ms. Christopher. During discussion, Superintendent Grotting said that we are not certain how much funding we'll receive from the state, but are certain we'll have a significant budget shortfall. He said we can also expect that 2012-13 will bring another round of reductions. There are no dollars in the proposed budget for staff adjustments in compensation other than those already contractually required. We will be deferring a number of purchases including textbooks and buses, as well as maintenance of our infrastructure. Mr. Grotting said the board may choose to go out for a bond in the future that will allow us to address needed maintenance, safety and transportation issues. It would be possible to go out for a bond without raising taxes of district patrons.

Having been moved and seconded, the motion to approve the \$12 million reduction plan for the 2011-12 school year was approved in a unanimous vote.

Approval of Early Retirement Incentive Plan – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the Early Retirement Incentive Plan as presented, seconded by Ms. Christopher. Ms. Mattson announced that she would abstain due to a potential conflict of interest. Ms. Christopher said that although she is normally philosophically opposed to additional retirement incentives, after speaking with Mr. Richardson, she believes this would pencil out to the benefit of both the district and our staff by allowing some of our less tenured teachers to remain employed. Mr. Richardson said this remains a tentative agreement with DDEA. If the board approves tonight, he will meet with DDEA tomorrow. If agreement is reached between the district and DDEA, he will publish details early next week. If they don't reach an agreement he will communicate that as well. The motion carried in a vote of 4-0, with one abstention (in favor: Barberis, Christopher, Gardner, Scarcelli Ancheta; abstained: Mattson)

Consent Agenda – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the following Consent Agenda items, seconded by Ms. Mattson. The motion carried in a vote of 5-0.

- **Recommendation to Award Telecommunication Services**
- **Division 22 Standards Assurances**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Barberis declared the meeting adjourned.



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk