

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
February 20, 2014**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 20, 2014, 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:

Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta, Board Chair	
Bryce Anderson	Christine Larsen
Frieda Christopher	Shannon Raybold
Donn Gardner	Kyle Riggs

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

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Student Body President's Report - ASB President Kylan Carlson reported that students enjoyed the Winter Formal. A "Crush Campaign" Valentine's activity raised \$700 to be used for student events. The high school hosted a presentation by Holocaust survivor and author Alter Wiener on February 13 at the PAC. Mr. Weiner remarked that it was a pleasure to present to our students. Kylan announced that he has been accepted to University of Oregon, where he will study education and history.

Bond Oversight Committee / Construction Manager's Report – Mike Ewald reported that the committee was informed last night that all final documents are in to pay for last year's projects, so the financial recap will be ready to present at the March board meeting. The committee discussed 2014 projects, which will comprise our busiest year at a cost of about \$18million. Approximately 30,000 square feet of polished concrete will be done this year. Some will be done during spring break. Coordination is underway for summer projects and related shifts of office staff to other buildings. Summer contact information will be posted at construction sites for patrons. The district will review what PPS has put in place regarding keyless entry systems for building security. Pool excavation is underway inside the building shell. The Bond Oversight Committee suggested planning a ribbon-cutting opening ceremony for the pool, which could include inviting Kim Peyton's family. Contractors have discovered some corroded heating and cooling pipes at Floyd Light MS that may require replacement.

Audience Participation –

Mike Ewald, district patron – presented an update on the donation his family and his former third grade teacher, Betty Pogue, made to Menlo Park students. Following a writing competition, each third grade classroom received \$200 to present to the charity of their choice, and Ms. Guest received an additional \$100 to address student needs as they arise.

Becky Greer, District Bus Driver – presented an update on the warm coat drive being sponsored by OSEA Chapter 40. Some of the coats are being distributed through the food pantries, others through school counselors. The project will be featured in the 2014-15 DD Family Calendar.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting was pleased to announce that both the Boys and Girls Swim Teams are district champions, the seventh year in a row for the girls. The Scots Cheerleaders took second place in state competition. David Douglas School District has had some good press regarding our attendance. The superintendent said that our protocols are being studied by other districts. In another news item, four of our former students were reportedly involved in an assault on another student. Sadly, the incident received some national news coverage. He said the high school staff is reviewing their practices to see how they can better support students and identify issues. On a positive note, the high school's leadership team posted notes on all student lockers to offer support and to invite them to share concerns. Superintendent Grotting reported that the ratification of the certified contract is on tonight's agenda. He said negotiations went very well, and he offered special thanks to Chair Scarcelli Ancheta, Ms. Christopher, Mr. Riggs and Mr. Richardson for their work. He said the district has built a strong and positive relationship with DDEA and that he is excited about that. He remarked that he is glad David Douglas is not going through the contentious bargaining some other districts are experiencing. Superintendent Grotting announced that the series of Facilities Planning sessions are open to the public and any interested patrons are welcome to attend. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta welcomed the superintendent back from the national AASA Superintendent's Conference, congratulating him again on being honored by that organization and COSA as Oregon's Superintendent of the Year. She thanked him for ably representing our district on the national stage.

Financial Report – Patt Komar presented the monthly financial report, commenting that the work being done this summer should qualify for approximately \$650,000 in energy credits. The district has received about \$817,000 in construction excise tax dollars. There are specific requirements regarding how those dollars are spent. They must be used for capital projects.

The district needed about \$3.5million to fully fund the early childhood center at Earl Boyles. We have about \$2.2million in receipts or commitments to date. Fundraising continues. Superintendent Grotting announced that Carolyn Alexander donated \$200,000 in memory of her late husband, Dick Alexander. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta thanked all for their hard work soliciting funds for this project.

Ms. Komar reviewed our existing bond payment schedule. The 2005 bond will be paid off in 2020. With voter approval, a new bond could be issued in 2021. Growth has varied as the economy has shifted up and down. Our community's lower assessed value, as well as inflation, are factors in determining the levy rate for the bond. The superintendent remarked that this review is timely as the district will eventually need another elementary school. Discussion of the district's ongoing facility needs is continuing at the facilities planning meetings.

Consent Agenda – Chair Scarcelli Ancheta announced that the Resolution Authorizing Participation in the National Purchasing Cooperative has been withdrawn from tonight's consent agenda. Mr. Gardner moved approval of the remaining consent agenda items, seconded by Ms. Larsen. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- **Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Selection of General Contractor for Lincoln Park Repairs and Renovations**

Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement between David Douglas School District and East County Bargaining Council: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017

Assistant Superintendent Ken Richardson said he was pleased to bring forward a tentative agreement for the board's consideration. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta, Vice Chair Frieda Christopher, and Kyle Riggs joined Superintendent Grotting and Mr. Richardson on the district's team. He reviewed highlights, saying this is a three year agreement which includes a 2% COLA plus steps for each of those years, a one-time increase in the insurance cap, and an addition of two instructional days, increasing the Contract year from 190 to 192 days. MOU agreements were reached to provide a one-time stipend of \$1,000 to all placed on salary schedule MA + 45, step 16 during the 2013-14 school year, to be paid in April 2015, and a one-time \$500 stipend during years 2015-16 or 2016-17 to anyone who has 20+ years of continuous experience in DDS. Additional MOUs address tuition reimbursement, prep time, and a sick leave bank. An MOU developed around the EI/ECSE group will continue, with a committee being formed to review and make recommendations as needed; and other current MOUs are being rolled forward for the life of the contract. Ms. Raybold pointed out one correction on page 61 of the contract. Mr. Richardson noted the error and will share as the teams proof the final document.

Ms. Christopher said this is her fifth or sixth time on the bargaining team, and that it is unprecedented that the teams met in one six-hour session to reach this agreement. She said that using interest-based bargaining allowed the teams to focus on what was truly important, and that she very much appreciated the process. Mr. Gardner remarked that the more focused approach was possible because the administration has dealt with issues as they arose, building an outstanding relationship with DDEA based on trust. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta thanked Ms. Christopher and Mr. Riggs, and said she also observed the dedication and professionalism of the certified team. Ms. Christopher said the DDEA team took a leadership role in focusing specifically on the needs at David Douglas. She said they were not influenced by outside factors. Mr. Riggs said some concerns were expressed to him following the vote, and that in conversations he had with those folks, he said he wished that they had been in the room during negotiations. He said the group that came to bargain was beyond professional, and beyond respectful. Their understanding of the district's resources and responsibilities was both respectful and professional, and he saluted their willingness to focus their needs to a clear and defined list. Mr. Richardson said he wanted to recognize the board members on the team as well, for their listening and their willingness to build relationships. He said that although the DDEA leadership were unable to attend this evening, they had communicated their gratitude and excitement about this tentative agreement. Ms. Christopher made a motion to ratify the agreement, seconded by Mr. Riggs. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Open Enrollment Determination – Mr. Richardson recommended that the board approve participating in Open Enrollment this spring by making 153 slots available. He reviewed how those openings would be distributed among our buildings, saying the administration has reviewed the recommendations and supports providing an opportunity for students and families to be part of this process. The number of openings was determined by looking at our current inter-district transfer enrollment and adding a few slots per building to that number. Students currently attending our schools through inter-district transfers will be given priority, along with their incoming siblings. Aside from those siblings, we will not accept applications for kindergarten. Fir Ridge Campus will not be accepting students through Open Enrollment, and admission for seniors will be restricted to eleventh graders currently enrolled with us. Mr. Gardner made a motion to participate in Open

Enrollment by making 153 openings available per the specifics provided. His motion was seconded by Ms. Raybold, and carried in a vote of 7-0.

Kindergarten Readiness Data – Superintendent Grotting reported that this year, every district in Oregon assessed incoming kindergarteners on approaches to learning, early literacy and early mathematics skills. Oregon Department of Education recently published the results of this fall's assessment. Of particular importance to David Douglas is that our students are coming in a couple of years behind their counterparts in more affluent districts. The superintendent said this assessment supports the need for early childhood education, which would not only provide an academic boost, but would have health and economic implications for families and our community. He remarked on the hard work our teachers are doing to bring students to that critical third grade benchmark, noting that it is a tough job.

Brooke O'Neill said parent education needs to be done around this assessment, and the district is investigating applying for an early childhood grant to respond to this data with early intervention. Derek Edens reviewed the data and shared an overview of the assessment, why the state is doing it, what the results mean and how the district can use the data to drive instruction. This first year's data will provide a baseline for comparison in future years.

High School Graduation Rates Data – Superintendent Grotting reported that we increased our high school graduation rate to about 73%. Good gains were made by our African American and Hispanic students. The district must also consider the 27% who aren't graduating in four years. Many second language students who cannot complete graduation requirements in four years are continuing their studies and graduating in five years. He said there are concerns about the rate for Special Education students. Barbara Kienle is putting together a task force to discuss how best to improve services and outcomes. Derek Edens explained the difference on the report between David Douglas High School and David Douglas School District. District scores include students in outside placement. Mr. Riggs commented on the high school's effort to recognize students who have reached the half-way point in meeting graduation requirements at the end of their sophomore year. He said it is great recognition and good to help students focus on those first two years.

Superintendent Grotting commented that when students get to high school, if they fail a class they take it over again, but in grades K-8, students progress through the grades regardless of mastery. If they keep losing ground, mastering the material in high school is an even greater challenge. He said some folks don't like the idea of retention, but students learn at different rates. Additional time for mastery may only be needed in one subject area. On the other hand, some students would benefit by moving ahead. He suggested that the topic of social promotion and retention be a discussion item on a future agenda. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta noted that the district received positive press last week in *The Oregonian* for the good work being done here.

Facilities Planning Meeting Calendar – Ms. Komar provided the meeting calendar for facilities planning sessions. The next is scheduled for March 31, 6:00-8:00pm in the board room. March's topic is the condition of the buildings; April will cover enrollment growth projections. The list of committee members includes a City of Portland planner. Superintendent Grotting said that when the board next decides to submit a bond to the voters, the background information we are gathering and the planning being done will be very helpful in determining the district's needs.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Riggs said that at the administration’s discretion, he would like more discussion and feedback on social promotion and retention.

Board Member Reports – Mr. Gardner attended meetings of the bond oversight committee and facilities planning committee, saying it was good to be back. Ms. Larsen reported that she and Ms. Raybold attended the presentation by ODE on the Smarter Balance Assessment, recently held at MESD. She said she did not leave the session with much confidence in the state. Ms. Christopher reported that the Educational Foundation is conducting a matching campaign for the month of February. They will match donations through the foundation to the Earl Boyles project dollar for dollar to \$10,000. The foundation recently received an estate bequest of \$54,000. Tomorrow, she and Ms. Komar will interview applicants for the position of half-time foundation director/half-time district grant writer. EPAP’s Education Subcommittee’s next discussion will focus on parent involvement, something all the participating districts want to improve. Mr. Riggs said that he has been spending time learning about all of the activities available in our schools, where he said there are some incredible opportunities. He said schools are doing wonderful work providing opportunities that are not athletics-based. He has also been involved in some community discussions regarding sidewalks, and received an inquiry which came out of the district’s meeting with faith-based leaders. There is interest in helping homeless families. He will gather contact information and share as appropriate. Human Solutions was suggested as a possible resource.

Ms. Raybold reported that she recently visited the high school’s food pantry, where last week they served the highest numbers ever. She said the pantry is well organized and well run, and she particularly appreciates the student volunteers. She saw a lot of fresh produce being distributed as well as canned goods, hats, gloves, and blankets. Tonight she was pleased to attend Gilbert Park’s first and second grade version of "Suessical". Ms. Raybold said she was very impressed with the work of Ms. Ellett, music teacher, having 200 kids on stage for 45 minutes knowing their parts. She attended the Educator Effectiveness Leadership Team meeting, a work group of about forty teachers and administrators redesigning the culture of teaching and teacher development, reconceptualizing how teachers are compensated, and developing teacher leaders. She said she was very inspired by the passion of these folks having very deep and thoughtful conversations. Ms. Raybold said she also sat in on a meeting of the Early Works Policy Steering Committee, where representatives from the district and outside agencies including Children's Institute, Head Start, and MESD had a collaborative, community-based discussion on this work in progress. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta said she really enjoys reading issues of *The Highlander* from the high school. She shares the publication with business associates as it highlights the good work being done by our students. She introduced student Steven Black from the audience, saying he is working on his merit badger on Citizenship in the Community.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Chair Scarcelli Ancheta declared the meeting adjourned.



Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk