

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
March 10, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 10, 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		Mike Price
Donn Gardner		Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta
Annette Mattson		

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 – Mike Centoni thanked folks for the cards and emails he received wishing him the best following his surgery. In February, Annette Mattson participated in an East Portland Government Affairs forum, and along with Powellhurst/Gilbert Neighborhood Association Chair Mark White, and Human Solutions Director Jeanne DeMaster, testified on planning and sustainability as part of the 122nd Avenue pilot study. She noted that Ms. DeMaster particularly championed economic development on 122nd Avenue and in East Portland. Last night Ms. Mattson participated in Metro Policy Advisory Commission discussions. She thanked district patrons and parents for emails and input regarding the district budget, saying she really appreciated those comments. She referred to Anna Griffin's column in Sunday's edition of *The Oregonian*, regarding the City's federal allocation requests, only 4% of which are slated to be spent in East Portland east of 82nd Avenue despite 30% of the city's population living there. Chair Barberis remarked that Ms. Christopher is absent this evening as she had a commitment out of town.

Student Body President's Report – ASB President Katherine Westmoreland reported on high school activities and events. The Father/Daughter Banquet, held on March 2, was very successful. Election campaigning for ASB officers starts on Monday, with elections at the end of the month. Winter Sports results were recapped: Wrestling placed 9th, Cheer took 4th place, and Boys Basketball made it to the second round of the playoffs. Both Swim Teams were district champions. Spring sports began with a very wet week. High School music groups are preparing for state qualification competitions. League competition for Orchestra will be held on Tuesday, and high school musicians will recruit at the middle schools on Wednesday. The all-school Choir Concert will be held on Wednesday night. The state Dance competition takes place Wednesday and Thursday. Student Council members wrote letters of appreciation to classified staff members and delivered them along with a treat, in honor of Classified Employees Week. Sparrow Club is sponsoring a raffle to support a student with leukemia. Ms. Westmoreland was pleased to announce that she was accepted to the college of her choice, Brigham Young University. Seniors have 90 days until graduation. At Monday's assembly, Cassie Hamann was crowned the 2011 Rose Festival Princess from David Douglas. The winter play, "The Crucible" continues through this weekend. The theme of the Prom, to be held April 17, is "Beneath the City Lights." This weekend's high school rummage sale will benefit the Senior All Night Party.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting reported that, along with Ms. Mattson, he and his wife attended the Portland Education Foundation roast, which raised nearly \$400,000 for schools in Multnomah County. Ms. Mattson remarked that two featured speakers were Portland Public's Carole Smith, and Don Grotting. The City held a public meeting on the budget at the high school last night, soliciting input and priorities from East Portland residents. Superintendent Grotting congratulated Andy Long and the Menlo Park staff for their selection as a Continuing Success Award winner by ODE. He also expressed his appreciation for all of the contributions our classified staff members make every day to the smooth operation of the district, and thanked them for their efforts, in recognition of Classified Employees Appreciation Week.

ESL Annual Measurement of Achievement Objectives (AMAO) Report – Kelly Devlin, ESL Coordinator, reported that the AMAO report is used by the federal and state government to assess the effectiveness of our ESL program. Since 2004, we have been using the ELPA online testing system. Results being presented tonight are from the 2009-10 school year. Students are currently completing testing for 2010-11.

Ms. Devlin described each of the measurements and results by school. AMAO Target #1 measures the percentage of Limited English Proficient students showing progress of at least one year's growth. All David Douglas schools met the target of 50%. AMAO #2 shows students reaching proficiency and exiting the program: 2A showing the percentage of all LEP students attaining English language proficiency, and 2B reflecting students who have received ESL services for five or more years and reaching proficiency. All of our schools met both targets. Target #3 is based on the district's adequate yearly progress for the LEP Subgroup as measured by the State OAKS assessment. The district did not meet this target as every school must meet and there were some which did not. Ms. Devlin provided a snapshot of data from last year's OAKS assessment showing there is room for improvement at some grade levels.

David Douglas School District is currently in its sixth year of District Improvement Status. Ms. Devlin reviewed the Federal Title III regulations, which include notifying parents by letter, which has been done. The district must submit an improvement plan, and will receive guidance and an improvement framework from the state. A district team will receive two days of training, and the plan will be in place for implementation when the next school year begins. The team is analyzing data and reviewing programs in other districts looking for strengths, will be meeting with teachers to look at what's working and what's not, and aligning curriculum, all toward the goal of meeting AMAO Target #3 this coming year and coming out of improvement status. Due to this spring's Reduction in Force, it will be particularly important to be sure a trained team is in place for next year's implementation. Superintendent Grotting noted the challenge in terms of our staff changes as well as the needs of our multicultural student body, particularly in high school. He said Dr. Osburn has been working with Ms. Devlin to restructure our entire ESL program to deliver the most effective English Language acquisition services per state and federal law, and to provide the content students need.

Bond Discussion – Superintendent Grotting recommended that the Board consider going out for a bond in the largest amount which would not raise the taxes of our patrons, having identified some needed projects to maintain infrastructure as well as safety. Potential projects could include such items as repairs or upgrades of heating and cooling, roofing, asbestos abatement, and a more efficient heating system at the swimming pool. Delaying some of these maintenance issues will result in additional costs in the future. Costs to address these needs would otherwise come from the general fund, potentially resulting in additional reduction in force. The superintendent emphasized that this bond request would not be for construction of new buildings.

Mr. Gardner moved that the board commit to going out for a bond in November, up to the maximum amount which would not increase taxes for our patrons. This action would allow the administration time to determine greatest needs and costs and refine the list of projects the bond would fund. Mr. Centoni seconded the motion, which was approved in a vote of 6-0.

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 draft list of infrastructure and safety needs was developed with input from building principals. She and David Callaway met with Fortis Construction to review, and those discussions will continue to determine specific costs.

The district is also researching whether any of our needed projects could be eligible for state, federal or private grant funding. Superintendent Grotting said that the Children's Institute might be a source of funding for a survey of our citizens regarding what they would like to see on a bond project list, and to gauge the community's level of support.

Copier Efficiency and Print Policy and Standards – Superintendent Grotting reported that the district has entered into an agreement with Optimizon to review our current equipment and usage, in order to increase efficiency and reduce copier and printing costs. He reviewed a timeline for installation of new equipment and the RFP process for vendors which will begin in March, saying he expects the district to save more than \$80,000 the first year of implementation. Mr. Grotting said we will also be reviewing our curriculum and practices, as there are some major differences in usage between our various schools. If we can increase our productivity and decrease the number of copies we are making, our savings will increase. He presented a draft of copier guidelines which the Cabinet will finalize.

Cost Efficiencies – Superintendent Grotting said the district has been sending out Requests for Proposals on all of our purchased services. Ms. Essenberg is looking at every purchased service to determine whether we can receive better service with reduced costs. She said that last year the district did RFPs for audit and banking services, and just completed the process for our telecommunications services. Services being reviewed this year will include cell phones, liability insurance, workers compensation, transportation fueling, Section 125, and various Nutrition Services vendors. The superintendent said the district will continue to search for every source of savings possible, especially during this period of job losses.

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

Cherie Ann May, Coordinator of Talented/Gifted Programs and Music – announced that March is Music in our Schools Month. She invited board members to attend one of the elementary music programs in our schools this spring. Our three Jazz Bands will compete at Clackamas Community College this weekend. Yesterday, along with Gateway Area Business Association's Fred Sanchez, she spoke at the City Council meeting about the importance of the arts in David Douglas, and presented copies of the high school music performance CD which was underwritten by GABA. Ms. May has been working with the Portland Business Alliance to plan the special May 21 fundraising event which will support the performing arts in David Douglas. In closing, she thanked the administration and board for their long-standing support of the arts, saying how much our staff and students appreciate these opportunities. Ms. Mattson reported that a highlight of the May 21 fundraiser will be a performance by The Kingsmen.

John May, Systems Analyst for the district and TAG parent – spoke in support of the TAG program. He said Americans are hearing we have to work harder to create leaders of tomorrow. He said our future leaders and innovators will not likely be found from among students just meeting benchmarks;

they will come from the best and brightest. While the state and federal governments do not provide funding to address the unique needs of gifted students, David Douglas has maintained a commitment to TAG for a very long time. He said eliminating the TAG pullout program during this budget situation undermines the opportunity for these students to achieve to their potential. The program has been in place for more than 30 years. He said it is unrealistic to expect teachers to provide for the needs of these students with more students in the classroom and less help available to them. He asked that the district reconsider the elimination of one teacher who serves more than 100 students, as this program is priceless to students and families.

Rowanna Carpenter, parent of 4th grade TAG student – spoke in support of a funding proposal for the TAG pullout program which was written by a group of TAG parents, saying they feel very strongly that this program should be continued. She said they don't want to see their students in a situation where they are not challenged, remarking that TAG is a place where it's cool to be smart. She said she doesn't believe that the district can meet TAG standards without additional teacher training across the board. She said our teachers' jobs are only going to get harder; it is unrealistic to expect that classroom teachers will be able to meet the needs of TAG students. She said it would be much more efficient to maintain the program with one highly trained teacher than to pay for teacher training across the board. She said if the program cannot continue, she wants to know what kind of teacher training the district is going to provide.

Annette Lottis, parent of a 3rd and 6th grader – spoke in support of the TAG pullout program, saying she has one student receiving Special Education services, and the other receiving TAG services, and that both require that their special needs be met. She said her third grader is thriving in the TAG pullout program and she has been so pleased to see her student being challenged. She said the skills being gained can't be taught outside this program. She said she doesn't want these students to become bored in the regular classroom, possibly resulting in behavior issues.

Steven Shomler, parent of three TAG students over the years – said his children have been well served by the program and he is very glad we provide it. He requested that the district not make changes in the program, but if the TAG pullout program is cut, he asked that the board not choose the option that teacher provide those services, as he would hate to add to their burden. He suggested the board consider clustering all elementary TAG students in one class.

Mike Ewald, district patron – commented on the recent, tragic Tri-Met bus incident, saying that TriMet should be contacted by our Transportation Department as a resource to review our school bus routes and practices to ensure the district provides the safest services possible.

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

Middle / High School Fees Proposal – Dr. Osburn reviewed a proposal to increase the participation fee at the High School for extracurricular activities. Athletic Director Stan Woodfill gathered information about fees charged by other area districts, showing that the \$100 proposed is still less than surrounding districts. A district-wide instrument rental fee of \$25 per year was also recommended, which would help defray costs of repair and replacement, and increase student accountability. That cost is currently a general fund item. Area fees run \$25-50.

Dr. Osburn also proposed charging a \$10 registration fee for all middle school students, which would cover an ID card and would fund additional projects such as the student yearbook. Following discussion, this recommendation was tabled and more information was requested regarding costs for student body cards, planners, parking, etc. and the legality of charging for things we require students to have.

Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve the recommended increase in the high school activity fee, as well as the instrument rental fee as outlined, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

Adoption of the Shared Services Cooperative for 2011-12 – Superintendent Grotting presented a resolution regarding ESD services for the Board’s consideration. In order to improve delivery of services and encourage competitive pricing, five area Education Service Districts will make all of their services available to any school district in their combined service area. Board adoption by each of the affected districts is required. Mr. Centoni so moved, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – As a future agenda item, Ms. Mattson requested that Dan Ryan be invited to present to the Board on the work of the Portland Schools Foundation.

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



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk