

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
March 18, 2010**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 18, 2010, at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130<sup>th</sup> 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 Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Deputy Superintendent; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

**Music in our Schools Month** – Cherie Anne May introduced members of the High School String Quartet, who performed prior to the meeting. She reported that David Douglas High School is the only high school in the state with three jazz bands. All 77 students performed at the Clackamas Community College Jazz Festival, where all three groups made the finals and two of three took first place honors. High school choral and strings students have qualified for district competition. Mill Park students recently held a day's end celebration of folk dance, a collaborative project of the PE and Music teachers with all students at all grade levels dancing, as well as the teachers. It was a great opportunity for cultural exchange as well as a celebration of music for the elementary students. Ms. May thanked board members for their support of the David Douglas music program for students at all levels.

#### **Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Board Member Reports** – Frieda Christopher reported on preparations for the District's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and dinner on April 24. The Foundation would appreciate more donations of bottles of wine for the fundraiser. Committee members had a glimpse of the video being prepared. The people interviewed for each of the decades all commented on the sense of community here. The next East Portland Action Plan meeting will be held Wednesday, March 24. The same evening, a work session of the Portland Plan will focus on education. Ms. Christopher attended the EPAP civic development group's work session on adult education, and said she was pleased to see the area's diverse population well represented. Opportunity Gateway's education subcommittee discussions are looking very promising. Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta attended her first budget committee workshop last week, where the board networked with members of the budget committee. She thanked Superintendent Rommel and Janice Essenberg for the informative presentations and for their hard work.

Mr. Centoni said David Douglas hosted Heritage High School from Clark County for the first home track meet of the season yesterday. He heard many comments about the beautiful facility. He noted that conferences are under way this evening at the high school, and the turnout is excellent. Ms. Mattson attended the March 9th Lents Urban Renewal committee meeting to hear a presentation from Kevin Cronin from the Portland Development Commission. A comment that this area needs more multi-family housing to build the school population reminded her that there is a lot of misinformation out there. She shared some demographic data on the 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Pilot Project study area, comparing it with other transit corridors and noting the unique zoning on 122nd.

Ms. Mattson said she appreciated having information posted on the website regarding the tree meeting held by the City at Ron Russell Middle School on March 16. Public input on the tree code will be taken at an evening hearing at City Hall on March 23. She said protecting the tree canopy as well as our signature fir trees is a really important cause.

**Student Body President's Report** – ASB President Nick Anderson reported that spring sports are in full swing. The Prom will be held on April 17 at the Oregon Zoo. Seniors on Student Council are working on a senior roundup video to inform students of year-end events. Ten weeks and one day remain for seniors. The Tams dance team is competing at the state tournament, with finals being held tonight. An early release tomorrow will get students ready for Spring Break next week.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel was pleased to announce that Menlo Park Elementary has been designated one of the 2010 "Celebrating Student Success" champions by the Oregon Department of Education. Due to budget constraints there will be no awards dinner this year, but the school will receive a \$3,000 award. The Metro Portland New Car Dealers Association recently held a competition for auto tech students from around the region. Several of our students successfully competed and the Scots Auto program received a donation of \$1,400. Annette Mattson will represent David Douglas School District tomorrow when Multnomah County announces that they and their partner school districts have received a grant to work on children's nutrition, with special emphasis on reducing childhood obesity. Frieda Christopher remarked that nearly every state which won "Race to the Top" funding had received a \$250,000 grant from the Gates Foundation to pay for consulting help in writing their grant. She wondering whether the Oregon delegation knew about that opportunity when they developed their proposal. She said they might want to investigate as they prepare for Round Two of the process.

**High School Graduation Requirements Update** – David Douglas High School Principal John Bier thanked the Board for the opportunity to share information on the new graduation standards, the supports in place to assist students, and the enrichment programs being offered. He reported that there are three different aspects of getting a diploma: credit requirements, essential skills proficiency requirements, and personalized learning (career learning).

Assistant Principal John Murray reviewed current credit requirements and changes over next few years. Science requirements are increasing from 2 to 3 credits. All of our juniors will be taking science next year. Technology, personal finance and career learning area requirements have also changed. The current .5 credit technology requirement will be incorporated into PACE (learning keyboarding skills in the context of resume writing, letters, etc.). The high school also offers ESL keyboarding for students who have not been exposed to the computer, as well as ESL PACE, where the entire curriculum is on the computer. The Personal Finance requirement is being moved into the junior and senior years. Two credits in career learning areas will be required by 2014, but we've had that requirement for years. The new requirement will be to pass those for graduation.

Mr. Bier said the essential skills proficiency requirements ramp up over the next several years, becoming requirements for graduation. He described ways to meet those requirements, which include OAKS assessment scores at required levels in reading math and writing. The staff is emphasizing the importance of students doing their best on those tests. Another option is to meet requirements based on samples of student work scored by a trained teacher. Students will also be required to demonstrate proficiency in speaking and scientific inquiry.

In the area of Personalized Learning, Mr. Murray reported that all students are expected to have a four year personal education plan as part of the new state requirements. David Douglas has a bit of a

jumpstart here, as we earlier created a counseling model, structure, and set of career learning explorations for students that will meet these new requirements. Counselors meet multiple times with students every year. He described the meetings that are part of the counseling curriculum. Counselors make sure students are making progress toward graduation, assist them with forecasting, and review accumulation of credits. They help students match their course selections with their goals, forecasting and updating the plan each year. This structure leaves David Douglas in a strong position among high schools around the state.

Assistant Principal Mark Haner described the Oregon Department of Education's Oregon Skill Sets, six career learning areas. Curriculum is included for each learning area, reflecting the input from Industry of what they want graduates to know. Mr. Haner reviewed a sample four year plan for an Industrial and Engineering Systems student focusing on auto tech, developed in conjunction with Mt. Hood Community College. Completing course requirements would allow a student not only to graduate but to earn dual credit toward an Associate's Degree. The Mt. Hood consortium adopted V-TECH, an assessment tool which assesses the skill requirements for each of these clusters, the strength of the program, and achievement of students.

Assistant Principal Sharon Webster said the high school has a strong system in place for career learning experiences for students 9-12. Through the support from the Smaller Learning Communities grant, counselors contacted former students to see how well prepared they felt for college and the workplace, from their experience at David Douglas. This spring, counselors will interview class of 2009. Students are working continuously to meet their electronic portfolios requirements, a process that begins in their PACE class and carries through senior year. The e-portfolio provides another way for students to keep track of credits, test scores, and work samples to make them more responsible for their own learning.

Denise Pierson, School Improvement Coordinator, reported that as grade requirements change, supports must be in place to help all students reach the next level. She reviewed supports currently in place. The high school is in the second year of PBS implementation (Scots PRIDE). Hours have been extended for the Scots Center, an all day drop in tutoring center for guided support. Nearly 600 students have accessed the program after school. The Center includes an ESL tutor, and ESL students also receive specialized ESL tutoring for their sheltered classes. An attendance mentoring program assigns students with attendance issues to a staff member to check in with each day. If the student doesn't check in, the staff member makes a call home. The Read 180 program supports struggling readers. With a poverty rate of 70%, many in the student body have benefited from the Celtic Heart, which makes school supplies, clothing, and food available when needs are identified by teachers or counselors. Credit retrieval is an option during the year and over the summer. The eighth grade transition program, "Ninth Grade Counts," provides a special academic bridge, high school orientation, and skills for success for students who need to be monitored more closely as they enter high school. The program includes mini-lessons in study and organizational skills. For students in the academic middle, AVID gets them to the level where they are college ready, providing additional support, encouragement and skill building for their future college experience. High performing or highly motivated students are provided opportunities for summer internships, and a summer enrichment program with a college prep component.

Mr. Bier noted that the math requirements include three credits at the level of algebra and above. Middle and high school math departments are coordinating instruction. A placement test of eighth graders is being developed to determine their level and which students need additional support to build their skill levels. Ms. Pierson said the math teachers are working very hard to support students to pass the first time so they move between the course levels. Math instruction and summer school

could look very different in a few years depending on the needs of our students. Joe Talley, Testing and Outside Agencies Coordinator, said that during the Scots Center's day program, Algebra II students were tested in November and December, and 98% of them passed. A small number reached the "nearly meets" category (about 12 sophomores), and those students were encouraged to come in five Mondays in a row, meeting after school to work intensively on identified weak areas. Six students participated and will be retested soon.

Mr. Talley said that supporting students not only happens from within the school, but by reaching to outside agencies with proven programs in place. Upward Bound, a federal program offered through IRCO, serves 45 of our students on campus four days per week, providing an after school tutoring program separate from our other tutoring options. TRIO serves 115 students, assisting with SAT/ACT prep, and like Upward Bound, helping students work toward enrollment and success in a program of post secondary education. REAP (17 students) meets on Tuesdays during lunches and Thursdays after school, focusing on leadership. Yesterday REAP leadership and Scots Pride students gave REAP middle schoolers a tour of the high school, where they met with representatives from student government and the administration, followed by a swim at the pool. IRCO works strongly with our ESL department, providing tutors for support via an Asian Family program (20 students), and a program for African immigrants (30 students). El Programa Hispano is also establishing a presence on campus, currently serving four students with hopes of expanding next year.

In working with these groups, Mr. Talley said students are able to incorporate their activities into volunteer requirements for career center focus areas. In December, the high school shared data on state testing with outside providers to show where gaps and weaknesses lie, communicating with them in order for them to help support our goals. Good things came from a meeting with Human Solutions, which asked how they could support our efforts. Through that collaboration, a meeting has been scheduled at Lincoln Woods with Somali families, in an effort to open up the David Douglas community to them. Information on graduation and testing requirements will be shared and lines of communication established. Later next fall before conferences, the high school will offer Somali and Latino parents training on Parent Assist so they can track their student's progress. During their discussions with outside agencies, the high school staff is seeking better ways to outreach to the community and to identify goals for agencies on campus, in order to provide collaborative support for students. An intramural sports program is also being considered as so many immigrant students like soccer. It would be a good opportunity to increase involvement of students and their parents.

Ms. Webster said the SMLC grant provides the Scots Center support for struggling students, but also allows the high school to offer options for achievers who want more. The Summer Internship program provided opportunities for more than 80 students to participate in job shadows. During the summer college institute, 96 students participated in a two week program doing SAT test prep, and writing essays, and also had 56 students participate in a PSAT workshop prior to that test. 76 sophomores prepared for the OAKS assessment. The summer AP program sent all AP teachers to week long trainings. The SMLC grant provided those curriculum days. Other summer opportunities for students included chemistry and physics labs, opportunities for summer reading or short article or review assignments, studio arts assignments, and a trigonometry class, with the goal of keeping students on campus as much as possible.

Mr. Murray reported on the growth of the AP program over the last five years. Five years ago the high school offered two classes; they now offer nine different AP options. Next year they will add a 10<sup>th</sup> grade AP Human Geography class. There are 276 students taking AP courses, and huge growth in the number of students taking the AP exam, which the high school pays for. Over time, many of our previous AP classes transitioned into college level classes for MHCC credit. There are

another 200 students taking those classes. In 2008-09, 92 students earned AP credits, saving \$50,000 in college tuition costs. A question was asked about the International Baccalaureate program which some high schools offer, and how it differs from our AP program. Mr. Murray said he understands that a student in an IB program has an accelerated program in all subjects, while here students have AP instruction in selected courses and regular instruction in others, reflecting a different approach.

Ms. Mattson asked for a description of data in the racial/ethnic graduation rate summary she received. She and Mr. Stout clarified which data she wants to see regarding cohort group graduation and information on early leavers.

Mr. Centoni asked Mr. Bier whether the high school will have the personnel and supplies they need for September. Mr. Bier said the high school is in good shape so far. Mr. Bier was asked, in view of increased science requirements and adding 400 students to the science schedule, how that will impact our facilities. Mr. Bier said there are twelve science classrooms in the science wing, and two more in the other building. He acknowledged science classes will be crowded.

Ms. Mattson requested information on which data the federal, state and city drop out reports are drawing on to reach differing totals. She asked how we know which of our programs are working. Mr. Bier said the programs highlighted tonight were developed from review of achievement data identifying areas which needed strengthening. Ms. Webster said that data on outcomes is kept as part of the Smaller Learning Communities grant reporting requirements.

It was suggested that the successes and opportunities reviewed in this report be posted prominently on the high school's website for review by prospective families and the community. A future report was requested on the progress of the PBS program.

**Meal Price Increase Proposal** – Janice Essenberg and Nutrition Services Manager Jodi Taylor presented a request for a five cent increase in meal prices to keep the program cost effective. The proposed pricing includes a nickel increase for elementary and secondary lunch, and a nickel increase for adult breakfast and lunch. High school breakfast and district-wide milk prices would stay the same. Mr. Gardner so moved, seconded by Mr. Price. The price increase was approved in a unanimous vote.

**Consent Agenda** – Mr. Centoni requested that the Personnel Recommendations be removed from the Consent Agenda.

- **Adoption of 2010-11 Board Meeting Calendar**

Ms. Mattson made a motion to adopt the 2010-11 Board Meeting Calendar, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The calendar was adopted in a vote of 7-0.

- **Personnel Recommendations**

Mr. Centoni noted the number of job shares and part time positions listed on this evening's Personnel Recommendations. He said he has been a big supporter of these options, and has supported the District's efforts to be a family friendly employer. He said the Board's support of these requests provide something good for employees. He expressed concern that DDEA's response to the District approving these requests is to attempt to put stipulations on required meetings for these part time employees. Ms. Christopher noted that part time positions are more of a win on the teacher side than the district side, as more is demanded of the administrator in a job share. Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve the Personnel Recommendations, seconded by Mr. Gardner seconded. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

**Audience Participation** – none

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Superintendent Rommel announced that the District has received a request for review of instructional materials from a parent. According to Board Policy, a review committee will be convened. The Board must appoint two parent representatives to the committee. High school parents Heather Robinson and either Mr. or Mrs. Peter Busby have agreed to serve. Mr. Gardner made a motion to appoint the parents to the review committee as outlined, seconded by Mr. Price. The appointments were approved in a vote of 7-0. Superintendent Rommel reviewed tentative plans for a visit by Superintendent-Elect Don Grotting on April 1-2. She hopes to schedule some school visits as his time permits. Ms. Mattson reported that she had received word from Oregon Trail School District that they are starting a charter school which they expect will have a regional draw. They are looking for a David Douglas representative to serve on their board. Chair Barberis announced that board packets for the April 1 meeting will not be delivered until Monday, March 29 due to Spring Break. Ms. Essenberg distributed materials for the banking committee to review.

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



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Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



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Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk