

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
April 1, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 1, 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:

Donn Gardner, Board Vice Chair	
Mike Centoni	Mike Price
Frieda Christopher	Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta
Annette Mattson	

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Deputy Superintendent; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

**Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Board Member Reports** – Vice Chair Gardner opened the meeting by welcoming Superintendent-Elect Don Grotting and his wife, Lisa. Mr. Centoni said he enjoyed visiting schools today with Mr. Grotting, Superintendent Rommel, and Mr. Gardner. He said it was really energizing to see the staff and students. Annette Mattson represented David Douglas School District at the ceremony awarding an ARRA grant to Multnomah County and 40 partner schools and agencies. The grant will support efforts to promote healthy nutrition and reduce childhood obesity. She participated in Rose Community Development's EP2 plan meeting on March 25. Rose will host a home ownership fair on April 24, 10:00-2:00 at Ron Russell Middle School. Ms. Mattson reported that some districts are creating charter set ups of their own to attract students and enhance revenues. Oregon Trail School District is starting an International Baccalaureate charter school to attract students from throughout the east metro area. She expressed concern that we could lose students to that program. There is already a charter with an architecture/construction/engineering focus in Gresham, jointly sponsored by several school districts, and Oregon City School District is planning a charter school focused on technology and manufacturing in partnership with industry. Ms. Mattson said she will leave on April 8 to attend the NSBA conference in Chicago in her capacity as OSBA President. Frieda Christopher said plans are coming together for the April 24<sup>th</sup> celebration dinner in honor of the District's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At least eight notable graduates plan to attend or be represented by family members, and a great video has been prepared about the District's history. Tickets are still available for a fun evening that will include a number of prize packages. The efforts of the East Portland Action Plan committee are continuing, with Lore Wintergreen working on her goal to gain representation from East County on different city committees. Former Parkrose board member Katie Larsell has been selected to serve on the City's budget committee for a three year term. The Gateway education subcommittee discussions are continuing. A work session on education has been scheduled for April 10, 11:00-1:00 at Parkrose High School. Ms. Christopher spoke to someone from planning and zoning who she thinks will advocate for the board's interest in zoning changes. Now is the time to be heard on zoning issues, as development of the Portland Plan continues.

**Student Body President's Report** – ASB President Nick Anderson announced the ASB officers for the 2010-11 school year, who were elected yesterday by the student body. They are: Katherine Westmoreland, President; Kim Nguyen, First Vice President; Thu Pham, Second Vice President; Sandra Keopraseuth, Third Vice President; Alex Alpert, Corresponding Secretary; and Erika

Thorstenson, Recording Secretary. The election of class officers will take place April 29. The members of the Prom Court have been announced, and seniors are working on their "Senior Words to Live By" for the yearbook.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel announced that the District has received renewal of our advanced placement grant to continue our programs. The high school choir will be performing at Michael Allen Harrison's "Ten Grands" benefit concert. They will perform in two dress rehearsal performances for elementary, middle and high school students tomorrow at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Trailblazers Brandon Roy and Dante Cunningham visited Gilbert Heights students recently to promote the "Read to Achieve" program. During their visit they did some planting in the new community garden on the north side of the school. The superintendent was pleased to announce that David Douglas staff members will be presenting at ODE's Scaling-Up Evidence-Based Practices in Oregon conference in Eugene on April 30, to discuss the great work happening here on Positive Behavior Supports.

**Budget Planning Update** – Superintendent Rommel introduced a report on the work being done to reduce our budget in order to match the resources we expect to receive from the state and other sources. She said we are not at the point where we will be announcing specific positions to be reduced, but will present information and recommendations.

Janice Essenberg reported that the cabinet budget workgroup met earlier today to review revenue and expenditures. From what we knew on March 10, an ending fund balance of \$9.2million was projected. Since then we have identified some reductions and well as some additional resources, so tonight's proposal shows an ending fund balance of \$7.8million.

Ms. Essenberg reviewed proposed modifications, in increments of approximately \$1million each:

- Step One – Reduce transfers to capital reserve, technology, transportation (no bus purchases next year)
- Step Two – Transfer the remaining balance in PERS litigation fund, which has outlived its purpose
- Step Three – Reduce expenditures for materials and equipment, extra duty salaries, curriculum days, summer help budgets, equipment and vehicle replacement; reduce the insurance fund
- Step Four – Identify staff reductions which will include retirements and attrition; \$919,000 at the elementary schools, \$1,060,000 at middle and high schools; \$664,000 in administration and district office staffing
- Step Five – Reduction of current PERS UAL debt service charge to save another \$1.3m

These steps total approximately \$6.9million all together, when added to the original ending fund estimate. The staff and community survey indicated that all day kindergarten is valued and folks want the building School Improvement Coordinators to be maintained. Both are currently funded through ARRA, and need to go back to the general fund at about \$1million each. They are included in this proposal. \$7.8million would provide an ending fund balance of just under 9%.

Superintendent Rommel noted that this estimate does not include any salary increases for teachers because we are currently in negotiations, although it does include step increases. Any negotiated increase will need to come out of that \$7.8million ending fund balance. Staff reductions will be very difficult, as there is not a staff member we do not value. Those staff members remaining will have more responsibilities. If the Board is comfortable with planning as described here, the budget document will be prepared using the assumptions presented.

Vice Chair Gardner said we are spending more than we're taking in because we are drawing on our reserves; if we don't do something now, next year we would literally have no reserve, and without any assurance from the state about funding. He said that on a \$9.2million budget, \$8million in reserves is not excessive given the economic times. Mr. Centoni said he would prefer a 10% reserve, but could live with \$8million if every subsequent increase involves a corresponding reduction. Ms. Christopher noted that we have maintained a replacement schedule to keep the bus fleet in good operating order. She asked if Transportation Manager Bob Jacobson is comfortable with the intent not to purchase at this time. Ms. Essenberg said he is, and that he confirmed that the fleet can tolerate a moratorium on purchases.

Ms. Mattson said she is comfortable with the outlined recommendations, and prefers a reserve in the 5-10% range, never below 5%. The superintendent will provide more details on staff reductions at the next meeting. She said she wants to notify people before announcing specifics in a board meeting. The actual positions need to be presented to budget committee by May 1. In reviewing the survey results and in talking with the budget committee, there was a strong preference to maintain programs like music, and specialists including librarians, counseling and PE. She said those have been protected and that they have looked at more peripheral positions. If bumping rights come into play, the district will follow details outlined in the collective bargaining agreements. Ken Richardson said licensed positions, per contract language, involve both seniority and licensure.

**Audience Participation / Break** – Mike Ewald, district patron, commenting on this area's representation on city committees, remarked that there is one other person representing East Portland by serving on the police budget committee.

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

**Student Data Update** – Mike Stout said that during an earlier discussion, the Board asked for more specific information on graduation and dropout rates. After defining the primary questions, he asked John May to prepare tonight's report. Mr. Stout presented drop out data comparing the past two years and the circumstances of withdrawal, noting that the report confirms the high rate of mobility of our student population.

In reviewing his report, John May said he took a snapshot of students who were 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Fall 2005, then looked forward to see how many were still here, and how many graduated. He also looked backward at 08-09 graduates, to determine which had started the 2005-06 school year. He reviewed the data and described how it was collected, noting that as we move into new federal cohort rate methodology, all of the graduation rates will go down.

Mr. May said that the good news about new federal cohort rate requirements is that they mandate that all states report their data in the same way. This should give us a better picture of actual outcomes. While it will seem a little harsh, everybody will be treated the same. Mr. Stout noted that gathering this data is very time intensive. The Cohort Rate tracks the outcome of students over the course of four years starting with their first year of high school. Every student identified as belonging to a cohort group will be attributed a final outcome at the end of the four year period. The unadjusted cohort is comprised of any student enrolled in an Oregon public school by the end of the 2008-09 school year, who first entered high school in 2005-06 in any school inside or outside Oregon. The adjusted cohort is comprised of the unadjusted cohort minus students who died, entered the home schooling system, or transferred out to a diploma granting institution outside the Oregon Public Education system as their final high school graduation setting.

Steps include determining which students belong to the cohort group; evaluating the student's final outcome, and evaluating which institution will receive credit for that outcome. ODE tracks students, and along with districts, sorts out the exceptions, after which the data is validated and published. The cohort includes outside placement students. No exceptions are made for IDEA, for ESL, or for modified diploma or GED students. ODE will be publishing cohort graduation rates for 2008-09 this month. The 2008-09 cohort rate will be used in Fall 2010 for AYP determination.

Mr. May said the federal calculation of the cohort rate is very complex, but it is an inherently fair system. It emphasizes detailed and retrievable record keeping of all of our high school aged students, including David Douglas High School, Fir Ridge, charter schools, and outside placement. Mr. May reviewed the 2008-09 unadjusted cohort, described adjustments which were made, then of the students who did not graduate, what the other outcomes were. Information comes from a variety of sources to feed this report. If a student attends one of our high school programs for any period of time and leaves, and we are unable to confirm enrollment elsewhere, that student will be counted as a David Douglas dropout at the end of the four year period. We may need to think about creative ways to track students down. One district used Facebook to find former students. It was noted that regardless of the cohort report, students who are continuing their educations by finishing as fifth year seniors or GED students are success stories. Mr. May reviewed our changing first language and ethnicity rates, demonstrating the every increasing diversity of our student population.

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

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

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – none

**Adjournment** – There being no other business, the Vice Chair announced that he would be convening an executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining, and (2)(g) Property.



Donn Gardner, Board Vice Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk