

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
April 3, 2008**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. 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:

Annette Mattson, Board Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Frieda Christopher
Bruce Burton	Donn Gardner
Mike Centoni	Mike Price

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Gary Haase, Interim Director of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk; Sherrie Barger, Director of Curriculum; Susan Summers, Director of Human Resources; Barbara Kienle, Director of Student Services; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Dawn Barberis reported that this year's NSBA Conference was excellent and offered many worthwhile sessions. Bruce Burton also attended, noting that the biggest thing he took away was reinforcement that David Douglas appears to do so much right. So many problems happening across the country haven't occurred here. He attended the East Portland Action Team open house at the community center, and tonight's fundraiser at Burgerville for Alice Ott Middle School. Donn Gardner participated in today's negotiations with teachers, and thanked Mike Stout and Susan Summers for their time and effort. Frieda Christopher said auction items for the April 19 Foundation dinner/auction are on display in the Special Projects office. Tickets are still available for the event. She remarked that the East Portland Action plan presentation was a broad list coming out of the visioning process. It will be narrowed down to a list of short-term projects. Board Chair Mattson also attended the NSBA conference, where she participated in the delegate assembly to vote on federal policy and priorities. She said the conference was exceptional.

Chair Mattson announced that an East Portland Education Forum with State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo will be held Saturday, April 26 from 2:30 – 4:30 at Fir Ridge Campus. The panel discussion will involve the four school districts within House District 47. Superintendents have been invited to participate.

Student Body President's Report – Karina Riskin, ASB Senior Class President, reported on events at the high school. The district band festival was held tonight. The varsity girls softball team placed first at a tournament hosted by Central Catholic. ASB elections were held this week.

Superintendent's Report – Gary Haase reported on installation of the new sound system at the high school stadium, which was first used today during the track meet. Susan Summers said that the David Douglas booth at Tuesday's Educator Fair had a waiting line all day. Administrators visited with more than 500 teacher applicants, and scheduled formal interviews with many. Sherrie Barger announced that middle and high school teachers will have the opportunity to hear a presentation by Heidi Hayes-Jacobs, the author of the literacy strategies being implemented across curricular areas for the past two years, during the early release session on April 16. Dan McCue reported on

a visit from the C-SPAN tour bus, a mobile television studio which is also used for education. Teacher Tracy Lind arranged for the visit to David Douglas High School, where Social Studies and Government students got to take a tour and hear a presentation. Superintendent Rommel shared an invitation to the TAG Project Fair on April 24 from 7-8pm. Schools and families housing grants have been announced, and one was awarded to Human Solutions. That grant involves David Douglas and focuses on helping our Somali families become more connected with our schools. The superintendent congratulated Gary Haase and the Business Office team, who received the Government Finance Officers Association certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. The Business Office has received this award every year for more than twenty years.

Library Services Presentation – Sherrie Barger introduced Mill Park Librarian Deb Wheelbarger, last year's Oregon Elementary Librarian of Year, and Katie O'Dell, Reading Promotions Coordinator for Multnomah County Libraries, to present information on some of their collaborative projects. Ms. Wheelbarger thanked the board on behalf of all of the district librarians for their commitment to being one of few districts with certified librarians at every school. She said David Douglas has one of the best school library programs, and benefits from one of the great county library systems in the country, in Multnomah County Libraries. She reviewed many ways the two systems collaborate, including School Corps, presentations at schools by county librarians, curriculum support, educator library cards, bibliographies, weblio resources, family literature nights, and resource fairs at many schools, particularly at Mill Park, where the county provides multilingual librarians at evening events for families. Librarians assist families in signing up for library cards and provide information about the summer reading program. Library grants helped fund the attendance of Ron Russell and Floyd Light middle school students at a lecture presented by author Lois Lowry, where students also received books.

Every Family Reads has been a very successful project. Menlo Park and Gilbert Heights participated last year, and Mill Park and Lincoln Park are participating this year. Katie O'Dell said this dream project has been funded through mostly private funds, with the goal of motivating elementary school families to read together. Author Pat Mora is the featured author this year. One of her books, a custom bilingual edition in English and Spanish published for Multnomah County, is being distributed to students at participating schools. School librarians and classroom teachers have read the book to their students. Fourth and fifth graders will attend a presentation by the author and will have the opportunity to ask their prepared questions.

A highlight of collaborative efforts with schools is the Multnomah County Summer Reading Program. One of the largest in the country, more than 55,000 students participated last summer, including more than 56% of all elementary school students in Multnomah County. The program is offered free of charge and is accessible to all students. 40% of all David Douglas elementary students participated. This summer, Cherry Park will partner with Multnomah County Library in a national, groundbreaking study on summer reading and student achievement. The County Library will provide summer reading materials for all students at all grade levels before the need of the school year so they are ready to start, with the goal of registering 100% to be registered before school ends in June. Ms. Wheelbarger said the district's librarians have a great working relationship with Multnomah County, and a very important collaborative professional relationship. She said that all of the district's librarians want to thank the board for continuing to provide certified school librarians, and for providing funding for materials, books, and media for all of our school libraries. She also thanked the board for approving funding to upgrade to the new web-based "Destiny" catalogue system.

Administrative Reorganization and Priorities – Superintendent Rommel introduced planning underway to expand her administration to include two new Assistant Superintendents, one for

elementary and the other for secondary. Mr. Stout's title will become Deputy Superintendent and he will oversee the new Assistant Superintendents as well as Directors of Human Resources, Curriculum, and Student Services. The superintendent presented the job descriptions for each of the new positions as well as the High School Principal. She also presented a draft of the responsibilities of the Deputy Superintendent. The Curriculum Director's job description will be forthcoming. The positions have been posted for inside and outside applicants. Applications close on April 11, although the date can be extended if necessary. The interview and selection process will take place between April 14 and 25. Final interviews will take place before a representative committee including administrator, board, and employee group representatives as well as a member of the community, who will provide input to the superintendent before she makes her final selections. It is hoped that selections will be announced by May 1.

Superintendent Rommel said she is excited about this process, and that having these two new positions will be of great help with succession planning. She spoke with Oregonian reporter Kim Melton today to explain the process, and mentioned that every David Douglas superintendent has had a prior relationship with the district prior to selection. A question was asked about selection of the interview team. Superintendent Rommel said that during the last selection of the high school principal, the committee included teachers who were the high school's DDEA reps, an OSEA rep, two board members, community members selected by the superintendent, and other staff leaders. She expects to do something similar.

Chair Mattson noted that the high school principal's job description listed effective community relations. She asked whether that responsibility was included in all principal descriptions. She was assured it is. Mr. Stout said Menlo Park principal Brooke O'Neill led a parent involvement session at a recent elementary principals meeting. Principals discussed the importance of parent and family involvement in considering after school programs.

Audience Participation / Break – Board Chair Mattson opened the meeting for public comment. As there were no remarks from the audience, she declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Construction Update – Gary Haase said he really enjoys construction projects and making visible improvements around the district. The GMP for the Floyd Light construction is being determined. He expects to have that information by next week. Work on the high school track and field will commence on May 1. Along with routine summer projects, planning for Mill Park and Lincoln Park courtyard access improvements is underway. He shared the preliminary schedule for the Ron Russell Middle School project. Completion is targeted for the end of this year, with move in planned for Winter Break. Paul Arzt reviewed photos of the Floyd Light construction site, where foundations are being dug. The contractor will be working with Mr. Gaulke to schedule some student visits to the construction site to learn about the process. At the high school track, work is underway to secure the location in order to prevent access during non-school hours.

Consent Agenda – Frieda Christopher moved to remove the personnel recommendations from the consent agenda, as there are no recommendations at this time. Her motion was seconded by Ms. Barberis and approved 7-0. Mr. Burton moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

- **Election of OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Representatives**
- **Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none

Adjournment – There being no other business, Chair Mattson announced that the board would reconvene in executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

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