

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
April 15, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 15, 2010, 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		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:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Frieda Christopher attended the City of Portland’s town hall on Saturday, which she said was a waste of time and very poorly organized. Although many agencies were represented, the session amounted to a series of lectures rather than an opportunity for citizen input and discussion. The district’s 50th anniversary dinner is coming up on April 24th. Ms. Christopher described some of the wonderful prize packages. She said she learned a lot about banking and auditor rfp’s during the banking committee’s review of proposals. Mike Centoni said it has been very exciting to watch the DD girls softball games, being held in what he called the best facility in the conference. Annette Mattson thanked PGE for their support in purchasing a table for the 50th anniversary dinner. She attended the NSBA conference, representing OSBA, and said the sessions were excellent, with many focused on health and wellness as well as the childhood obesity initiative. Highlights among the keynote speakers were presentations by Wynton Marsalis and by Jeffrey Canada, who described the work he’s done in Harlem focused on support of children from preschool forward. About 30 Oregon board members attended this year’s conference. Mike Price attended Menlo Park’s presentation of the musical, “101 Dalmatians” at the PAC, joining a full house to enjoy the student performance. Spring Community Sports practice has started; he enjoyed watching the fun at a tee-ball game. Vice Chair Gardner announced that a district office penny drive raised \$1174.35 to support the DD Preschool program, far in excess of their original goal of \$300 for preschool bicycles. The additional funds will be used for scholarship assistance for the program. He noted that board members also contributed to the effort and enjoyed the spirit of the competition.

Student Body President’s Report – ASB President Nick Anderson reported that seniors viewed the leadership class’s video of upcoming year-end events during their career pathway classes this week. The Prom will be held this Saturday from 8-11pm at the Oregon Zoo, and is expected to be sold out. The class council election campaign is underway. The state speech and debate competition will take place April 22-24, and the Natural Resources career pathway will present “Eco Adventure” activities for elementary students April 22-23. The month’s activities wrap up with the “International Bite” on April 30. Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta said she spoke recently with Senator Jeff Merkley, who told her he is proud of ASB President Anderson. He said making his own reports to the board as David Douglas ASB President was a favorite activity during his senior year at David Douglas.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel presented a proclamation for signatures in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7. She said the administration and board very much appreciate our teachers. The proclamation will be reproduced and distributed for posting in the buildings. The superintendent shared photos of West Powellhurst's Arbor Day celebration. Candy Wallace announced that Portland won the "Tree City USA" award for the 33rd time. West Powellhurst was selected to host that celebration. The City sent arborists to classrooms with lessons about trees throughout the day. The celebration included many dignitaries, and the planting of a "learning landscape" on West Powellhurst property and in the adjacent park. It was a great day for staff and students, and really built a sense of community. Natalie Osburn announced that last weekend, several of our high school students went to the State Skills USA Teams competition. Several individuals placed and will advance to national competition. One of our teams placed second. Ms. Osburn thanked the many staff members and students who participated.

Mike Stout reported that in response to American Legion Post 1's offer to provide scholarships, Mark Haner got five boys to apply along with one alternate, to participate in Boys State at the University of Oregon. Post 1 was so impressed by the candidates that they are providing scholarships for all six to attend. Four girls will also attend Girls State thanks to American Legion's support. On April 24th, Ron Russell Middle School will host the East County Housing Fair from 10am – 2pm. Mr. Stout said Charlene Bassine and Dan McCue have worked hard to assist with planning and publicity for the event. Several hundred people are expected to attend. The fair includes classes for prospective homeowners as well as for those near foreclosure or fearing foreclosure. Translators will be on hand to assist.

Superintendent Rommel introduced Music Coordinator Cherie-Anne May to review the results of Mt. Hood Conference music competition. She was pleased to announce that the David Douglas Symphonic Strings were named co-league champions along with Reynolds High School. The Wind Ensemble placed fourth, and the Symphony Orchestra took second place. All three received superior ratings and state qualifying scores, as did the Choir. They are now awaiting news of which will be selected for state competition, following screenings of the tape pool recordings. 160 of our instrumental music students have been invited to attend a dress rehearsal of the Oregon Symphony, featuring a performance by world-renowned violinist Midori. Oregon Symphony Violinist Chien Tan has been volunteering with our students and facilitated this honor for them. On April 26, our jazz band will be playing with the Mt. Hood Community College Jazz Band as a warm up for the Gabriel Algeria Afro Peruvian Sextet. The jazz band will receive a portion of the concert proceeds. Eleven David Douglas students received recognition at the state thespian competition.

Superintendent Rommel announced that the District has applied to have one of our schools chosen to be a "Dreamer School" by the *I Have a Dream Foundation*. One school in Oregon will be selected, and beginning with the kindergarten class of 2011 the foundation will follow those students through high school, with financial support for their first two years of college. We were notified today that five local districts applied, and we are among three finalists. Site visits will take place next week, with the selection to be announced by mid-May.

Positive Behavior Support Update – Positive Behavior Support Coordinator Shawn Fletcher opened this report by noting that one of the things that makes David Douglas School District stand out from other districts is our commitment to PBS. The valuable work of our elementary and middle school level School Improvement Coordinators and our high school PRIDE Team leaders have helped us become recognized as a model across the state. David Douglas was selected as one of four districts to represent Oregon at ODE's Scaling-Up Evidence-Based Practices conference in

Eugene on April 30, due to the infrastructure we have built around PBS and school-wide literacy. Mr. Fletcher thanked board members for supporting this program. All schools in the district are implementing Positive Behavior Support, which includes three levels of intervention: universal, targeted, and individualized intervention. The PBS program is providing support and continuity in all of our schools and helping to improve student conduct, which improves classroom instruction.

Mr. Fletcher reviewed the stages of PBS implementation, which can take from two to four years. In order to get to a place of consistently positive results, a school must reach full implementation. As the data is reviewed, he said it is important to determine where we are in the implementation process, and what results should we expect at this stage. With PBS, universal systems are implemented first, then more time and technical expertise are used as school teams move into targeted and individual interventions. Research shows that for the group of students getting 0-1 referrals, punishment reduces the likelihood of a behavior reoccurring; for those receiving 2-4 referrals, punishment is contextual; for students who receive 5+ referrals, punishment can be ineffective or reinforcing.

Fidelity Measures help answer the question, "Am I doing what I need to do to get the outcomes I desire?" Mr. Fletcher reviewed benchmarks of quality, reporting that as a district we are at 84%, which means we have some room to grow, but are doing great work for all students. Feedback from principals indicates that their schools need more effective interventions for the most challenging students. The Checklist for Individual Student System (CISS) indicates the need for growth in using data to determine which students would benefit from which practices/interventions, and whether students are making progress.

Outcome Measures reflect student behavior and referral data. Mr. Fletcher reviewed a report showing percentages of elementary students receiving referrals over a four year period. He said elementary schools are seeing really nice trends, with more students being successful and fewer students getting a lot of referrals. Elementary schools are seeing positive outcomes for all subgroups. At the middle school level, the data looks a little different. There is not yet a concrete system in place at the middle schools to address students at the top of the scale, although targeted interventions are reaping positive results. The focus at the middle schools this year has been to look at the group in the middle of the scale. Trends are positive. The high school and Fir Ridge are gathering baseline data this year. Staff professional development was focused around referrals, to get everyone on the same page. Mr. Fletcher said it takes a tremendous amount of time and energy to implement each of the levels of PBS. Over the last two to three years, staff members have been provided considerable professional development, and are seeing positive outcomes for students. The staff is becoming more efficient and effective.

Assistant Principal Elise Guest reported on the high school's first two years of implementation of universal systems. She was pleased to announce that the high school's Scots PRIDE Team was invited to present at the State and High Desert PBS conferences. She said the staff has worked hard to learn about Scots PRIDE to help students prepare for success socially as well as academically. She thanked Mr. Stout for bringing the program to our district. The high school team has completed school-wide evaluation, benchmarks of quality, and set their goals. PRIDE Team Leader Kamala Skipper reviewed goals for this year: continue their school wide system; include more visuals; find additional ways to recognize students; improve data collection; use data to set goals and make decisions regarding lessons and correcting behavior; provide behavior management strategies to staff; and improve connections between school initiatives (attendance, school improvement, literacy).

PRIDE Team Leader Sarah Dorn reviewed student acknowledgements at the high school level, which include t-shirts, PRIDE tickets with monthly drawings, and "Good News" postcards sent home to parents of students who are generally under the radar. Balloons, buttons and stickers were also brought on this year to celebrate and acknowledge students. The "Super Scot" award has become very special. Staff are solicited for names of students who are facing adversity but are persevering. Selected students meet personally with Mr. Bier and receive certificates and movie tickets. Excellence Awards are distributed for students with a 4.0 GPA and/or Perfect Attendance during each semester. Bus drivers were recently acknowledged as well, for their positive contributions.

Ms. Guest said detailed data is being collected regarding minor incidents, and is being reviewed to see what is happening in the classroom and what supports are needed. The goal is to transform behavior rather than simply manage behavior. In reviewing the data, the biggest issue is tardiness. The team is looking at how they can transform that behavior. For the rest of year the entire staff is trying something new. Rather than issuing an after school suspension in response to a minor incident, they are using in-classroom detention, a more positive approach that is resulting in more positive outcomes. A major incident would be the point where an administrator becomes involved.

Ms. Dorn reported that all students are completing an online survey about how they feel about their school and the PBS effort. More than 1,600 freshman, sophomores, and juniors have taken the survey so far. Seniors will participate in May before they graduate. Their responses are confirming the positive results the staff is seeing after two years of implementation. A sample of student comments was shared. Ms. Guest thanked the board for the opportunity to share in tonight's celebration of our K-12 effort, which she said is unique among area school districts.

Shelly Hamness, School Improvement Coordinator at Ron Russell Middle School, said that our middle schools have been focused this year on the yellow zone - students who need targeted interventions. Looking at Ron Russell data, 75% have 0-1 referrals, leaving 25% (233 students) in need of targeted or individualized interventions. The yellow zone targets group interventions for the students in the middle. The team is building the supports and systems that need to be in place before they implement an intervention. The IPBS team identifies students who are at risk, reviews referral data, and assigns an intervention. So far this year, Ron Russell's team has assigned interventions to 107 students. An Attendance Intervention Team meets twice per month, and has used data to identify and assign interventions to 109 students. The PBS Professional Learning Team meets four times per year to create the interventions. Three have been implemented to date, including Check In /Check Out and Academic Intervention Mentoring. Students are assigned a mentor, and meet with that person to set four goals. They gather feedback from their teachers on a daily card and meet again at day's end with their mentor to review progress toward their goals. Ms. Hamness stressed the importance of having parents buy in to the process, as outcomes are completely different when parents are on board. This has been the most successful intervention so far, serving 99 students this year with 52 currently being served. 50% have shown improvement. They also came up with a "time out" card for students who need a break. Some students are not built for the 80 minute block schedule, and in reviewing referral data, the team saw need for this intervention. Time outs are not a punishment or consequence; they are used as a preventative measure. Students are taught how to take a time out, and are given specific directions regarding where to go, how long to be gone and what needs to be accomplished during the break. 21 students have participated with 48% showing improvement. Attendance Club includes an interview with the identified student, and bringing parents in to support the interventions. Students check in every morning, and if they don't, parents are called. The team buys alarm clocks, makes home visits, provides counseling, and make personal connections. 75% of the twelve students who are

part of Attendance Club have made an improvement. Looking ahead, the team plans to make modifications of their intervention plans, strengthen the parent involvement piece, develop interventions for students' organizational issues, address anger management, and implement boys and girls counseling groups. Ms. Hamness concluded by saying the middle schools have made considerable progress, and the teams are very proud of the work they've done to implement this phase of the PBS program. The data shows our students need these supports.

Lisa Oglesby, Lincoln Park's School Improvement Coordinator, said elementary schools are focused on the red zone, implementing intervention strategies and creating individual support plans for the most challenging 5% of students. She reviewed the team's approach, saying they use data to determine specific issues, where and when they occur, and what behavior is occurring. She reviewed a sample behavior assessment and behavior support plan. The team works to make sure staff members who interact with the student are consistently following the plan, and are working together to teach and reinforce alternative behaviors.

Ventura Park's School Improvement Coordinator Kellie Burkhardt said that when they do an assessment, they analyze the goal of a student's misbehavior. She reviewed the steps taken during a Functional Behavior Assessment, noting that the key to make an individual support plan work is to build good rapport with the parent and work as a team in a wraparound approach. They also do a student interview to get the student's perspective. After reviewing all of the input, the team narrows the focus to specific target areas, completes a behavior support plan, teach some new skills, develop a reward system, and review for success. Daily contact is made with the parent. This approach takes a lot of work and coordination of services, but it is time well spent.

Mr. Fletcher was asked how new staff members are integrated into the PBS system. He said the team's focus is sustainability and support, and that they work to provide a consistent training and orientation model for new staff at the district level. Ms. Kienle reported that DDSD will also be working in coordination with other east county districts to develop a consistent training model. She said that Mr. Fletcher and the school improvement coordinators have done a marvelous job. Mr. Stout said this is a long-term effort, and that the full benefits won't be realized until full implementation has been in place for several years. The team was thanked for their efforts to improve outcomes for our students at all levels.

Recommendation to Award Banking Services Contract – Janice Essenberg thanked the members of the Banking and Insurance Committee, Ms. Christopher, Mr. Price, and Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta, for their work reviewing the responses to the District's rfp for banking services. They, Ms. Essenberg, and Ann Marie Rears met to review the proposals from five highly regarded banks, selecting two for interviews, Bank of America and US Bank. At the conclusion of the process, the committee felt comfortable staying with US Bank, although going through this process was valuable as the bank confirmed they value our business by offering lower fees on many products and services, guaranteed for five years, and offering a \$15,000 credit bonus for the first year of the contract to offset fees. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the committee's recommendation to award the banking services contract to US Bank, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion was approved in a unanimous vote.

Recommendation to Award Audit Services Contract – Ms. Essenberg thanked Budget and Finance committee members Mr. Gardner, Mr. Centoni, and Ms. Christopher for reviewing audit proposals solicited from three highly regarded auditing firms which provide services to local governments. Proposals were received from two of the three: Pauly, Rogers and Company; and

Talbot, Korvola and Warwick. Although the District has been happy with Talbot Korvola, the committee recommends awarding the new contract to Pauly, Rogers, as their fees are significantly lower. The District will save more than \$85,000 over two years when comparing with the other firm. Ms. Essenberg said it is also a good to have the District audited by new eyes from time to time. Pauly, Rogers audits 46 districts in Oregon including several of our neighboring districts. Mr. Gardner made a motion to award the contract for audit services to Pauly, Rogers and Company as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. His motion was seconded by Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta, and was approved in a vote of 7-0.

Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the Personnel Recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Audience Participation – Chair Barberis opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Ms. Mattson presented a resolution supporting Ballot Measure 68, which the legislature has referred to the voters on the May ballot, for the Board's consideration. The measure would allow the state to issue bonds to help with K-12 construction, as they already do with state universities and community colleges. Measure 68 would also allow districts to use bond funds to buy books and furniture for schools. Following a brief discussion, the resolution was tabled for further review by board members. Ms. Mattson noted that voters' pamphlets should be received before the next board meeting. She said there currently have been no arguments filed in opposition to the measure.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Barberis announced that she would be convening an executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining.



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk