

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
May 6, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, May 6, 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.

**Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Board Member Reports** – Mr. Centoni thanked Ms. Essenberg and her team for their efforts preparing the budget materials. He was pleased to announce that Mr. Gardner was nominated as a Citizen of the Year candidate by DDEA. Ms. Mattson said she appreciated the hard work of the administrative team and all the people who took time to send emails, input and ideas to the budget committee. Mr. Price thanked the administration and business office for their long hours of preparation. He remarked that although the district has dealt with a budget crisis before, he didn't recall having two budget meetings in the past. Ms. Christopher commented on the behavior of the audience, which she said was very respectful during all presentations and polite in their testimony. She attended OSBA's regional meeting on Tuesday, where *Race to the Top* was discussed. She later learned that Oregon has pulled their application for that funding. The East Portland Action Plan committee has made its presentation to City Council, where they requested another \$1million to continue their work. Ms. Christopher attended the meeting of the civic engagement subcommittee, which is developing a program modeled on El Programa Hispano for six other cultural communities including Russians, Asians, and Somalis, among others. School district representatives will be invited to participate in a session on education. She said the district's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party was a great success, and Josh Gray's film of reflections from former students was very well received. It has been posted for viewing on the district website. Opportunity Gateway's education subcommittee has been eagerly awaiting the release of the "Promise Neighborhood" grant application. All of the collaborators are in place and ready to come on board as they continue to refine their vision for the best ways to support our community. Although planning remains in the discussion stage, they are excited about this opportunity. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta said that this is the first time she has been part of the budget approval process as a board member. She said she testified herself many years ago as a parent, and really empathized with the presenters from the audience. She thanked Superintendent Rommel and her staff, and said she very much appreciated the interest and participation from our community. Mr. Gardner echoed the kudos to Superintendent Rommel, Ms. Essenberg, and the team who put the budget presentation together. He said the process will likely become more intense over the next few years, with more areas impacted in future budget discussions. He applauded the board's process and the decisions they have made this year, noting that those decisions will only get tougher. He said he would have felt better if there had been a broader spectrum of people supporting those who might be losing their positions. He remarked that he received an email from a classified employee asking him what task Mr. Gardner wanted him to drop, due to the loss of a coworker. He expressed his hope that all will pull together with the attitude

of, "I know we're in trouble; what can we do together to make it through these tough times?" Ms. Mattson reported that she recently attended the REAP reception hosted by NW Natural Gas, where she was very impressed by the presentations from several David Douglas High School students.

**Student Body President's Report** – ASB President Nick Anderson reported that this has been Teacher Appreciation Week. Advanced Placement testing got underway this week and continues next week. The concert choir will take part in the state competition on May 8 at George Fox University. The boys and girls tennis teams will compete at district tournaments on May 10-11, with the boys' event to be held at DDHS and the girls at Mt. Hood Community College. The same days, the District Golf Tournament will include both our boys and girls teams at Glendoveer. The state band and orchestra competition will be held at Oregon State University on May 15. The Career Center's spring celebration on May 12 will include presentations of student internship portfolios. All seniors will present research papers and portfolios at the Senior Venture Fair. Nick's topic is "Fourth Amendment Rights in Schools." He was asked whether he has heard any concerns from students about budget discussions. He said students particularly don't want to lose arts and music programs.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel remarked that while some community members and employees may only think about how budget reductions affect them, we don't hear as much about the positive problem solvers who ask how we can make this work together. She has received many messages from people with very positive attitudes, including an email from a mother who said her heart goes out to people who have to make a budget in time of reduced resources. The superintendent announced that High School science teacher Jan Wolford has received a grant for the Partners in Science program from the Murdock Charitable Trust. She will do research at the Oregon National Primate Research Center at OHSU, a nice honor for her. Cheerleading Advisor Amber Cowgill has been named one of the "Top 30 Coaches Under 30" from Cheer Limited. David Douglas School District has again been named one of America's best communities for music education, only one of two districts in Oregon so honored. Music Coordinator Cheri-Anne May reported that five of our high school students placed in the top five at the State Solo Competition. Twelve of our students competed, the largest group in awhile. Superintendent Rommel said Earl Boyles Elementary is still in the running to become a "Dreamer School" through the *I Have a Dream Foundation*. Final interviews with candidate schools will be held next Tuesday morning. Curriculum Director Brooke O'Neill is working with *Young Audiences* to partner on a grant for literacy in the arts.

**Approval of High School Math Adoption** – Brooke O'Neill announced that last year, the board adopted K-8 math materials but delayed the purchase of high school materials because ODE had not completed adoption of new state math standards. Cindy Bradley reported that Oregon adopted K-8 standards in 2007. National standards changed to focal points at that time to follow international standards, breaking instruction down into three overarching ideas. Oregon was one of the first states to align with those national standards. It took additional time to adopt standards for high schools, so the Curriculum Team requested that funds be held for high school materials until standards were formalized. A district committee was formed to analyze standards, review current research and national trends, to review what good instruction looks like and what students need to learn to be ready for algebra, then they adopted K-8 math materials. She described those materials, which were designed for in-depth understanding of concepts. The 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> adoption was designed by Oregon math instructors and aligned to state standards. Those materials are now in classrooms. In 2009, the state adopted standards for 9-12. The entire high school math department met for two days to

review the new standards to determine how they would impact instruction, and evaluated materials available to us, determining their recommendations in March.

Mr. Centoni thanked the math and curriculum departments for their work, but expressed his concern that the dollars might be better spent elsewhere at this time. Ms. Christopher noted that we delayed this adoption because of the new standards. She asked how the old materials align to those new standards. Ms. Bradley said while they were hoping that a textbook would come along that was absolutely aligned with Oregon standards, that did not occur. Teachers do feel that the suggested adoption would meet the needs of a spectrum of learners. These materials include materials for sheltered instruction with a textbook geared for English language learners; another difference would be cognitive tutor software. Teachers have a bank of concepts from which to choose; students do a pre-assessment online with immediate feedback. Their hope is to really impact students in a more targeted fashion.

Ms. O'Neill shared the state adoption schedule. It has been eight years since we last adopted high school math materials. Superintendent Rommel said that when new textbooks are adopted, the process helps teachers reassess their instruction, so that is often reflected in achievement. This is an achievement area where we need improvement. Students need to take math for three years. The textbooks are used all of the time, and wear out after so many years of use. She said having those up-to-date materials would support improvement in achievement. Ms. O'Neill said standards continue to drive instruction. If the board chooses to delay the adoption, the district will be required to apply for a waiver from ODE.

A comment was made about whether we need a new approach to achieve better results, or a couple more math teachers, instead of new books. Ms. Bradley was asked whether we had the option of purchasing a portion of the proposed list. She replied that she would want input from the math department. It was remarked that the same money which would purchase books to last seven years would only support three teachers for one year, with the additional concern about space constraints. Ms. Mattson made a motion to approve the high school math adoption as proposed, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion was approved in a vote of 4-3 (in favor: Barberis, Christopher, Gardner, Mattson; opposed: Centoni, Price, Scarcelli Ancheta).

**Discussion of High School Facility Needs** – Mr. Gardner suggested tabling this agenda item until after the board receives the CAC's subcommittee report on high school facilities. Mr. Stout said that presentation will be on the next meeting's agenda. Following brief discussion, it was the board's consensus that a brief overview would be beneficial at this time.

Superintendent Rommel reported that Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith made an appointment with her to ask if we would have any interest in considering use of the Marshall facility. Ms. Rommel was aware that interest has been expressed over the years by our community, so she was willing to discuss the topic. She then asked Mr. Stout and Ms. Osburn to represent the district in very preliminary discussions. Mr. Stout said a meeting was held in early March at PPS, where they talked about their work on high school redesign and listed many possibilities for the Marshall building including a focus program, or partnering with MHCC or PCC for a "two plus two" program for high school and community college credit. The campus could become a magnet school similar to the CAL Center in Gresham. They also brought up the option of the use of one floor by PPS and another floor by another district such as David Douglas. Mr. Stout asked if PPS has considered lease or sale of the property, should funding become available. He and Natalie met again with PPS reps and toured the building, which was in much better shape than he had been led

to believe. Superintendent Rommel said another possibility that was discussed would be using Marshall as a potential alternative placement location.

Mr. Gardner expressed his interest in looking at the building to make a personal assessment. Mr. Stout suggested that a couple of our board members meet with a couple of their board members to discuss what they envision. Mr. Centoni said he supports keeping a dialogue open, and would also be interested in seeing the building. Ms. Mattson remarked that it is premature to discuss facilities when we may be redesigning a new direction and vision when the new superintendent comes on board. Until that work has been completed, we won't know how that building will fit our goals.

**Consent Agenda** – Chair Barberis requested that the Approval of the April Board Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

- **Personnel Recommendations** – Ms. Christopher moved approval of the Personnel Recommendations, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.
- **Approval of April Board Meeting Minutes** – Chair Barberis made two corrections of the April 1, 2010 minutes. Under Budget Planning, a projected ending fund balance was incorrectly typed as \$2.9 million, and should have been \$9.2 million. It was also noted that the board vice chair adjourned the meeting, rather than the chair. Mr. Gardner moved approval of the April minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

**Audience Participation** – Chair Barberis opened the meeting for public comment. Mike Ewald, district patron, said that in watching the budget meeting, it appeared that some organizations got blindsided and weren't aware that they were targeted for reductions, such as the middle school sports program. He said that in his opinion, unless an item or program has to do with progress toward a diploma, it should be open to reduction. He thanked people who served on the Budget Committee, saying it takes tough people to make tough decisions.

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Ms. Mattson presented some follow-up to the earlier discussion of Ballot Measure 68, where concern was expressed about our district potentially paying the taxes if another district passed a bond. In talking with legislators, she said they are aware of our district's concerns, and the hope is that the administrative rules, which are not written until after a measure passes, would address those concerns. Ms. Christopher announced that another public meeting on the Portland Plan will be held on Saturday, May 15, 10:00am – 12:30pm in the David Douglas High School North Cafeteria. The East Portland Action Plan committee wants as many citizens from east of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue as possible to attend the meeting to let the City know we care and want our opinions heard. The East Portland Expo will be held July 17-18. "Sunday Parkways" will be part of the event this year, and will bring in between 15,000 and 20,000 people per day. She said if David Douglas plans to have an information booth at the Expo, there will definitely be an audience. As a money saving idea, Ms. Christopher suggested taking a hard look at high school elective classes with fewer than 15 students enrolled, when forecasting is completed. Superintendent Rommel said as the high school administrators reviewed the reductions included in their budget, they basically did that process, looking at smaller sections and tightening those up. Ms. Osburn said that John Bier has had discussions with department chairs about getting the most bang for the buck, although she doesn't think he has yet discussed section reductions with individual staff members. They have looked hard at courses and numbers, keeping in mind a balanced load for teachers.

Mr. Gardner said his granddaughter was very involved in music and theater during her time in David Douglas. Although she had scholarship offers to prestigious universities, she spent this year at Mt.

Hood Community College, where she has performed in a number of theater productions. Disney Corporation has a university that specializes in arts and entertainment, and selects students via audition by demo tape. His granddaughter applied, and was later called down for a live audition, which resulted in a full ride scholarship to Disney University in Orlando. He said that you never know which student will excel, so we need to look at the entire spectrum of offerings and how they impact students.

**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. The regular session was adjourned.



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Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



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Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

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