

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
May 20, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, May 20, 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 – Mike Centoni said this is a bittersweet time, as there will be only one more board meeting for Superintendent Rommel and Deputy Superintendent Stout. He said both will be sorely missed. Mr. Centoni attended DDEA's year-end celebration, where Mr. Stout and Earl Boyles Principal Ericka Guynes each received the President's Award, very nice recognition from the staff. Mr. Gardner was nominated by DDEA members for an Education Citizen Award. Mr. Centoni announced that DDHS Sophomore Taylor Bowen, who plays soccer and softball, has been nominated for the Multnomah Athletic Club's Scholar Athlete award. OSAA Dairy Farmers of Oregon sponsor an academic all state award, given to teams in each activity who have the highest average GPA in the state. The David Douglas High School Varsity Boys Golf Team won that award this year.

Annette Mattson attended the 122nd Avenue Pilot citizens working group on May 13, where they refined recommendations which will be presented to the public on May 27, 7-9pm at Ron Russell Middle School. In addition to presenting their recommendations, input from the community will be solicited. They hope to have the same great turnout as they did at the last meeting. Along with Superintendent Rommel and Frieda Christopher, Ms. Mattson attended the Portland Plan II workshop at David Douglas High School on May 15. There was discussion during the meeting of need for more land zoned for businesses. Yesterday, Ms. Mattson met at Ron Russell Middle School with a group of students participating in the REAP program to talk about the work of the school board, and about leadership in your community. They got into an interesting and insightful discussion of what the students would like to see in their community. Donn Gardner commented about an article in today's *Oregonian* about the candidates for governor. He said comments in the article which were attributed to Paul Arzt could be construed as district endorsement of a particular candidate, and that employees should take care not to take a political position when they are speaking on behalf of the district.

Frieda Christopher remarked that as the East Portland Action Plan committee examined the City of Portland budget, they noticed the Bureau of Environmental Services is giving \$70,000 to PPS for durable lunch trays, as well as money for the Roosevelt football field. Per Lore Wintergreen, districts need to start asking for assistance from bureaus directly. The committee is pushing for equity in

distribution of City funds. Ms. Christopher attended a meeting of the Gateway Education Center subcommittee, where the group was shown a visual of a potential facility, should school districts, higher education, and the private sector partner to create such a project. The committee sees the effort as a “cradle to college” support system. The Promise Neighborhoods grant is one possible funding source. While this grant focuses on kids, school districts cannot apply. Applications must come from non-profits or higher education. Initial funding of \$400-500,000 would be awarded to twenty cities for planning, with potential for implementation money into the millions. Chair Barberis announced that Superintendent Rommel has been recognized as a “Patron Saint” by the Mt. Hood Community College Board, for her contributions and collaboration with the college.

Student Body President’s Report – Nick Anderson reported that this is his final presentation to the Board. Last weekend our instrumental music students participated in state competition. The Wind Ensemble placed fifth, and the orchestra placed sixth. The Senior Assembly will be held tomorrow at 10:30am, followed by the senior photo. Caps and gowns will be delivered next week. Seniors will spend their final day at Oaks Park on June 4. Senior Recognition Night takes place June 7, followed by Graduation on June 9.

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Rommel was pleased to announce that the Mt. Hood Reading Council has named Ron Russell Middle School Instructional Coach Kimberly Skach a 2010 Celebrate Literacy award winner. The superintendent shared a letter from Dr. Chris Chapman, Oregon State University’s Director of Bands, commending music teacher Tom Muller for his involvement and expertise in adjudicating at the Middle School Band Festival. Ms. Rommel announced that two of our district spelling champions took honors at the county competition. High school champion Amber Smith, Grade 9, took first place, and Floyd Light eighth grader Eric Larson placed second. High School Junior Kaitlin Nelson’s self portrait won the Third Congressional District art competition, and will be displayed at the Capitol for the next year. She will be flown to Washington, DC for the reception on June 17. It was suggested that Senator Merkley be notified of this honor as he may want to attend. David Douglas School District has been awarded \$20,000 from the Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, to support sending our sixth graders to Outdoor School next year.

Citizens Advisory Committee Reports – Mr. Stout introduced this year’s reports by the Citizens Advisory Committee, saying that the committee formed three groups to study individual topics in depth this year.

Revising the Elementary Report Card – Suzie Albin, Lincoln Park parent and David Douglas graduate, reported that this subcommittee’s work to revise the elementary report card began with a review of the current report card, which doesn’t provide parents with much detail. Member-at-Large John May described some of the challenges, noting that different groups want different things from the report card. Parents want more precise information; teachers want a report that matches curriculum and assessment, in a format that can be completed quickly; administrators want more consistency in grading. The current report card is not aligned with current practices in teaching and learning and hasn’t been revised in ten years. Teachers have requested changes. Ms. Albin said the subcommittee studied various versions of standards-based report cards from other districts. They developed a draft report card based on their research and their reactions to the various proficiency/grading scales they studied, and using language which was parent-friendly. Parents and teachers were surveyed at conferences on their reactions to the report card draft, and focus groups were held for parents and for teachers. 98 survey responses were received from teachers; those

survey results supported the new report card. The 239 responses from parents overwhelmingly supported the revised report card draft.

Mr. May said a different kind of proficiency scale was selected, which provides more detail. The new scale incorporates state standards, includes English language development for ESL students, separates behavior from academic progress, and expands the characteristics of a good learner. The section on Application of Life Skills was borrowed from Centennial's card. Ms. Albin said their goal was to create a better tool for communication between teacher, parent and student. It allows parents to focus on where a child might need help or how a child might need more challenge. They selected parent-friendly language and made it more positively focused.

Two schools, Gilbert Heights and Lincoln Park, have agreed to pilot the revised report card next school year. The CAC subcommittee is currently working on a parent guide which they recommend be sent home to parents with fall packets along with a sample of the report card. They also hope to complete a teacher guide this summer. The report card will be reviewed mid-term to gather feedback and confirm how well it aligns with new standards, with district-wide implementation targeted for 2011-12. Curriculum Director Brooke O'Neill worked with this team and said they worked very hard on this project, really studied the research and the work of other districts, and were very thoughtful in developing their recommendations. She said middle schools have also expressed an interest in considering report card revisions. There is more difficulty at the high school level, where there is a transcript issue. It was suggested that the district consider making report cards available online to parents.

Facilities – Mr. Stout introduced Kyle Riggs, who has chaired CAC for past two years, and who will leave CAC to become AOMS parent association president next year. Matt Soule, NP School Improvement Coordinator, represented certified staff on CAC this year. This subcommittee's study question was: how can the district acquire more high school classroom space? The goal was to identify potential sites without adding more square footage to the existing high school campus. The group's focus narrowed to two possibilities - Marshall High School and Mt. Hood Community College.

Mr. Riggs said this group considered Marshall for two reasons: location and past discussions. They initially looked at the idea aggressively, thinking, let's swallow that property, then reviewed district boundary issues and statutes and revised their thinking to the idea of leasing or using the facility cooperatively along with PPS. That option generated questions about how two districts could coordinate such use and how various scenarios could be developed with two collective bargaining agreements in the same building. If those issues could be addressed and if David Douglas ran the program, they saw potential for use of that facility as a focus center, educating through career based learning, using a model similar to the CAL Center in Gresham (Center for Advanced Learning).

The CAL Center program was described. The center serves approximately 500 juniors and seniors, who remain members of their own high schools and split their time between campuses. Community and business partners play a major role, and are enthusiastic to see their potential workforce being pre-trained there. The CAL program requirements were reviewed. They report a 99% graduation rate, with 89% of those students going on to college. The others graduate with an IT certification so they can proceed directly into the work force.

The CAC subcommittee considers such a focus program to be a big opportunity for partnership between David Douglas, Parkrose, and PPS. Such a focus center would also open up classroom space on our high school's main campus.

The group also considered opportunities at Mt. Hood Community College. A partnership would align with the district's goal of sending students on to college; the campus is in reasonable proximity to the district and public transportation is readily available. The high school already has the 2+2 program for college credit, as well as the expanded options program. An expanded relationship with MHCC could serve students who need another model than a traditional high school. Those students might start a high school program at MHCC and merge directly on to college. The subcommittee met with John Sygielski, MHCC President, to discuss various opportunities and hear how he might envision such a relationship. He said he could see a program where a student graduating from high school could graduate the same week with an Associate's degree. He said an expanded program working toward college degree would be a good focus for many students.

The subcommittee recommended the creation of a Focus Center modeled on the CAL center, and recommended expanding our district's relationship with Mt. Hood Community College. The Focus Center would create classroom space and further student education. They envision such a center as a district program, not a charter school. Ms. Christopher remarked that during Gateway committee discussions, they considered the MHCC Campus too far away for DD students. Mr. Riggs said that President Sygielski mentioned the Maywood Park satellite campus as a possibility. He said MHCC's main campus didn't seem that far away to the committee.

Ms. Mattson noted that PGE is one of the CAL partners and they have been very pleased with the results of that program. She thanked the committee for focusing on kids who don't fit the traditional model. She asked if the committee reviewed the study completed earlier by Innovative Facilities. Mr. Riggs said they did review that study, but tried not to duplicate those recommendations. Mr. Stout said the committee's focus on Marshall was not the result of the PPS plan. He said Kyle has been talking about that possibility for two years or more. Mr. Centoni asked if the group investigated any funding sources. Mr. Riggs said, only in regard to the MHCC idea; under the expanded options model the district and the college would share per student funding from the state. Ms. Mattson said strong business relationships have been key to the success at CAL, and that labor unions are also involved; she wondered if those sources are tapped out. Do we need new funding sources? Mr. Riggs said he thinks those businesses have the ability to support additional efforts, and there are many more businesses wanting trained workers. The irony is that this area is not known for its business base. A partnership with a district such as Parkrose, which has a broader business base, might be a benefit.

Alternative Placements: Mr. Stout introduced subcommittee member Dannette Flanagan to present this report. Other subcommittee members present were introduced. They included Kendra Simmons, Mike Ewald, Debby Smith-Rohmback and Barb Dyk.

Ms. Flanagan said this subcommittee was struck by the fact that there is a waiting list of more than 40 of our high school students for placement at Fir Ridge at any given time. They considered the possibility of creating another alternative education program within the district to serve those students or students currently in outside placement. She said that Barbara Kienle and Ed Knowles gave this committee tremendous assistance and support. The committee reviewed alternative services offered to students who have not been successful at David Douglas High School or Fir Ridge. They also reviewed the costs associated with outside placements and realized that the district was spending much more than state school funding to educate these students. These factors supported the idea of expanding alternative options within our district.

The group reviewed the types of students being served in alternative programs, the reasons they were not attending the high school, current alternative services offered for students, including Fir

Ridge, and the costs associated with the various programs.

They learned that many students in outside placements need individual mentoring, a smaller and more structured setting, focus on academics, and mental health or drug/gang prevention services. A strong home/school connection is a vital component. The group sent a survey to DDHS principals and counselors asking for a profile of an alternative student and the issues they face, and requesting an estimate of the number of students who fit that profile. Committee members toured Fir Ridge and interviewed Director Ron Knight, and visited two outside facilities, North Star and Rosie Hinton, where they had the opportunity to interview some students about what they needed to be successful in school.

After reviewing what they learned, they wondered if we could replicate at least some of these services within our district. Currently, 42 of our high school students are in outside placement, at an average cost of \$68 per student / per day. Those do not include the students in need of major intervention. They recommend developing an alternative program that would maximize individual student achievement while developing vocational, social, and life skills. Key features would include meeting the learning needs of students through individual, small and large group activities; project-based learning and credit by proficiency; an array of electives, vocational training, flexible day options and access to services for counseling, mental health, gang intervention and drug and alcohol services. The program should emphasize the parent-school connection which is vital for these students. The goal would be for students earn their diploma or GED on time, build their self esteem, and bring them back into the David Douglas community. Students to be considered for this option could include those needing a placement change in lieu of expulsion; students with behavioral issues in a traditional setting or who are transitioning from drug treatment or incarceration, or previous dropouts.

An unanswered question remains where to house such a program. The committee was asked whether they considered working with other nearby districts, since we all have these outside placement issues. Ms. Flanagan said the group talked about the need to keep it small, as we have enough students of our own to fill a program. They did not consider a partnership. Ms. Kienle said the committee focused on what a model would look like and the feasibility of it, rather than costs.

Ms. Kienle said the committee knows their recommendation comes down to dollars. Looking at an average sample of 25 students currently in outside placement, at an average cost of \$83 per student per day, the total would be \$369,450 in tuition and transportation. An average of 10 of those 25 students would receive extra weighted funding for special education. State reimbursement for those students would be \$210,000, leaving a cost to the district of \$159,450 over and above state reimbursement. The projected cost for a district run program for those 25 students is \$285,000+, which would include 2.0 FTE teachers, and 3.0 FTE assistants, and miscellaneous overhead costs, transportation, and the cost to lease or rent a facility. There is the possibility of additional revenue from the MESD's Reconnecting Youth Program for 10 students in new revenue of \$60,000. MESD could enroll up to 150 students, based on the success of a similar program at PPS.

Ms. Kienle and Mr. Knowles were thanked for their valuable contributions to the committee's work, and for taking the committee's discussions very seriously. Mr. Ewald said this is the tenth year he has served on CAC. He said the committee is losing a great asset in Mr. Stout. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Stout's outstanding leadership, and thanked him for consistently letting committees form their own opinions as they have studied varied topics over the years.

Audience Participation / Break – The Board Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Greg Becker, OSEA Ch 40 President, presented a list of budget recommendations from Chapter 40's executive board for the Board's consideration. He said the committee's goal was to identify general, reserve and contingency funding to increase our carryover. He thanked Ms. Essenberg for her assistance. He also requested that the board reconsider one position recommended for elimination, the library assistant at the high school. He said this position has direct, daily involvement with students in the library and handles daily business in the absence of the librarian.

Jennifer Muller, High School Band Director, thanked board members for their support of the instrumental music program. She said many of the students who participated in state music competitions this spring played on instruments purchased by the district. Every instrument owned by the district was in the hands of a music student this year. Out of 46 high schools eligible to participate in the OSAA competitions, our wind ensemble took second place, and the orchestra placed sixth. Those champion musicians got their starts in the fifth grade program. She invited board members to attend one of the six remaining performances this spring. The band will perform in the Starlight Parade on June 5.

Jeff Reardon, High School teacher, spoke in support of maintaining the current number of assistant principals at the high school. He said that the ability of teachers to do their job requires the strong support and availability of the administration. He also advocated for maintaining classroom assistants, noting that some of his students require constant attention and support that he alone could not provide.

Heather Anderson, parent of a high school senior, made the request for reconsideration of materials which is on tonight's agenda for the Board's consideration. She read a letter from her daughter to her teacher and principal which described her discomfort with the book, *House of Spirits*, and which emphasized that the content is grossly inappropriate for high school students.

The board chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Request for Reconsideration of Materials: Committee Recommendation – Mr. Centoni made a motion that this item be tabled until the next meeting, in order for him to have time to read the book in question before voting on it. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner. Following discussion, the motion failed in a vote of 2-5 (In favor: Centoni, Gardner; Opposed: Barberis, Christopher, Price, Scarcelli Ancheta).

Director of Curriculum Brooke O'Neill reported that as a result of receiving the parent's request for reconsideration, a committee was formed per Board Policy to review the book, *House of Spirits*, a novel used in the Advanced Placement English class, and to make a recommendation to the Board. The committee members read the book, and met for a lengthy and thoughtful discussion. The book is on the recommended list for IB classes. Along with the theme of violence were strong themes of family, and of perseverance in response to adversity. The teacher was asked about her reason for selecting this book. The teacher said she was seeking to add the voices of women and people of color to the reading list, to better reflect the demographics of her students. She discussed the selection with a Lewis & Clark professor. This is a college level class. The book portrays the history of Chile, does not glorify violence, and gave voice to the victims of a violent regime. The committee is recommending that the book be retained with restriction. Written parental consent would be required before the book is given to the student. Students also need to be pre-taught, and given contextual information about what is happening in Latin America. A materials list will be sent home

with families at the beginning of the year notifying parents what has been selected and why, and they will be told of the opportunity to choose alternative material. The teacher said an AP parent night will provide an opportunity to review the materials list. The teacher would certainly honor a parent's request for a student to read another book.

During discussion, it was noted that students may be academically mature, but are not necessarily emotionally mature. A concern was expressed about how the teacher will know that parents are fully aware of controversial material. Another concern raised was the stigma a student may face for opting out. It was suggested that the book could be made a part of the library collection and checked out with parental permission, although it was noted that there are no other books with such restrictions in the high school library. The English department was commended for seeking more current literature that students can connect with, and which represents all of our student body.

Ms. Christopher made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation to retain the book with restriction, saying that the committee and the teacher both heavily researched the selection of the book. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 4-3 (In favor: Barberis, Christopher, Price, Scarcelli Ancheta; Opposed: Centoni, Gardner, Mattson).

Budget Update – Superintendent Rommel reviewed the recommendation from the budget meeting to move \$1million from Contingency back to Operations with priority for kindergarten assistants and middle school sports. To maintain both at current levels would cost more than \$1 million. She presented some scenarios to provide both at modified levels. Natalie Osburn met with middle school principals and athletic directors, who came up with another possibility. Their proposal was to keep the Varsity and JV format as in the past, with a 25% cut across the board, with the exception of Track. They felt strongly about not wanting to single out a particular program, and weren't convinced that the integrity of the program could be maintained with an intramural format. Instead of a 9-week season, it would be 6.5 – 7 weeks. Mr. Stout said the football season would be four games and a jamboree. The extra duty pay for middle school athletic directors and coaches is part of the collective bargaining agreement. Reducing extra duty pay would require approval from the teachers' union through a memorandum of understanding. The current middle school program serves 257 students at AOMS, 209 at FLMS, and 288 at RRMS, for a total of 754, or about a third of the middle school student body. With that 25% reduction in the middle school program, we could maintain the kindergarten assistants at 5 hours per day.

During discussion, a question was raised about whether buildings would prefer to have the individual ability to allocate how a given number of kindergarten hours should be used. Principal Kate Barker said buildings are currently using that flexibility in their scheduling. It was remarked that the number one choice to maintain during the budget committee discussion was keeping the kindergarten assistants, with only two people indicating their first choice was middle school sports. If we maintain kindergarten assistants at the six hour level, that would leave \$177,000 for middle school sports. Ms. Osburn said the athletic directors would be willing to take a dollar figure determined by the board, and develop a program. It was suggested that they consider what kind of a program they could structure with \$177,000, in order to maintain kindergarten assistants at the 6 hour level. It was remarked that the PE program and the SUN offerings expose students to a number of sports opportunities.

Ms. Mattson said she was not willing to give up instructional support in kindergarten for sports travel, and that she wants to maintain the kindergarten assistants at a minimum of 6 hours. Mr. Gardner

preferred five hours of instructional support with the balance to middle school sports. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta said she would like to see a way to support both, but that her preference leaned toward sports because it brings in community. Ms. Christopher said she wants to keep six hours of instructional support, and to see what the athletic directors can come up with for \$177,000. Mr. Centoni said there is money in the budget to support a full middle school sports program. He cited reductions in other expenditure areas, including travel, to make up the difference.

Mr. Stout said that another budget concern is the potential loss of another \$1 million in state funding for our ELL students, as based on ELPA testing we may be required to exit up to 20% of our current ELL students. We are still waiting to hear the final word on this from the state. This loss may mean reductions for both certificated and classified employees. Title program funding is also down and could again impact both groups.

Ken Richardson said in following up on questions from an earlier meeting, he reviewed staffing position by position. Looking at the ripple affect of proposed personnel reductions, the actual loss of positions would affect 3-4 FTE for classified, and a licensed reduction of 1.5 FTE (3 individuals). He discussed this with union leadership.

Revision of Board Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements: First Reading – As required by the legislature's recently adopted changes in graduation requirements, a revision of Policy IKF was presented for a first reading. Action on this item will be taken at the next board meeting.

Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Price made a motion to approve the Personnel Recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Centoni said he received a bulletin from OSBA soliciting proposals for music groups to perform at their fall conference. He wondered if there was any interest in submitting a proposal. He also asked when the administrator salary review committee would be meeting. The superintendent said she would check with the committee next week to schedule a session.

Adjournment – There being no other business, the Board Chair 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 meeting was adjourned.



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk