

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
July 14, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, July 14, 2011, 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	
Frieda Christopher		Annette Mattson
Shemia Fagan		Mike Price
Donn Gardner		Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta

Also present were Don Grotting, Superintendent/Clerk; Natalie Osburn, Assistant Superintendent; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Shemia Fagan was welcomed and said she is pleased be joining the board. Frieda Christopher announced that the recently held Foundation fundraiser raised more than \$29,000 for the district's performing arts department. Ms. Christopher is serving as co-chair of East Portland Action Plan's subcommittee on housing, which is seeking representation from the community. The East Portland Expo will be held in two weeks at Ed Benedict Park. Vice Chair Mattson reported that the friends of the park's Memory Garden received a grant from Lents Urban Renewal for installation of raised beds and 40-50 new community garden spaces. Ms. Mattson will participate in a roundtable discussion tomorrow with Senator Merkley prior to a Town Hall the senator is hosting at Gilbert Heights.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting welcomed Ms. Fagan as a new member of the board, saying she is energetic, listens well, and will have some great ideas to contribute. The superintendent introduced Patt Komar, the district's new Director of Administrative Services. Ms. Komar comes to David Douglas with previous experience from Portland Public Schools and Salem-Keizer School District. Dr. Osburn reported that the City of Portland will fund improvements at city park properties adjacent to Cherry Park, Gilbert Park, Ventura Park and Mill Park Schools, to include such improvements as all-weather paths, drinking fountains and benches. A fitness path will be included near Gilbert Park, which students will be able to use during the instructional day. Superintendent Grotting announced that tomorrow Senator Jeff Merkley will hold a formal senate hearing at Gilbert Heights to hear formal testimony regarding reauthorization of NCLB. The superintendent will testify on behalf of the district. Mr. Grotting thanked Chair Barberis for the outstanding leadership she has provided over the past two years and especially this past year.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Board Member – Chair Barberis administered the oath of office to newly elected board member Shemia Fagan. She also congratulated Ms. Christopher and Mr. Price on their reelection to the board.

Election of Board Leadership for 2011-12 – Chair Barberis requested nominations for Board Chair for the 2011-12 school year. Mr. Gardner nominated Annette Mattson. Following a second, it was moved that nominations be closed. Ms. Mattson was elected in a vote of 7-0. Chair Mattson requested nominations for Board Vice Chair. Ms. Christopher nominated Donn Gardner for the position of Vice Chair. Following a second, it was moved that nominations be closed. Mr. Gardner was elected in a vote of 7-0.

Mill Park Courtyard Presentation – Mill Park’s principal, Rolando Florez and teacher Kelly Cutler thanked board members for the invitation to show what has been accomplished in the Mill Park courtyard. Three years ago the board approved adding a second access door to bring the space up to the Fire Marshall’s requirements. Ms. Cutler said the space was then used to build an outdoor classroom and garden. Since January she was able to win a number of small grants and donations totaling about \$7,000. One of her goals for the project was to not pay for labor or equipment, and she was pleased to say that goal was met, as all work was completed by volunteers. The culmination of the project was a student and family work day with more than 100 family members and students helping to complete the garden. She shared a video showing the project’s development. Mr. Florez said the garden is now up and running, and vegetables have been sown and reaped thanks to Ms Cutler’s efforts in spearheading the project. Superintendent Grotting thanked Ms. Cutler for starting with this idea and running with it, and for the support of Mr. Florez and the Mill Park staff. Mr. Price said he was very impressed with the ribbon cutting ceremony and all of the people who came and supported this effort. Chair Mattson recalled discussing uses for the courtyard several years ago when she was a Mill Park booster club parent, but they were prevented at that time because of the lack of adequate access.

Report from the REAP Program – Vice President/Executive Director Mark Jackson thanked the district for a ten year partnership. REAP (Reaching and Empowering All People) supports students on the high school, Fir Ridge and Ron Russell campuses. Mr. Jackson reported that several REAP students received scholarships as they graduated this June. He said the REAP program interfaces with the community regarding what a career pathway looks like, believing all kids can learn. Chair Mattson thanked Mr. Jackson for his commitment to our students and for his leadership in the community.

CAC Reports – Dr. Osburn introduced this year’s reports by members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noting that many of many of their reports have resulted in positive change for the district over the years. She thanked members of the CAC for their work this year and said that three study groups would present reports this evening.

Volunteerism: Stephanie Rowley and Jennifer McMonagle reported on behalf of a group who studied volunteerism in our schools. Their study group illustrated the challenge of retaining volunteers, as they began with around 10 people and concluded with three. They visited the schools and asked questions of the volunteer coordinator, staff and volunteers. Some schools are using the district website to post volunteer opportunities although others do not. Some post notices in the office. As not all parents see the weekly newsletters, they didn’t feel this was an effective vehicle for posting the need for volunteers. They suggested that schools maintain a current database of email addresses and utilize that method to connect interested people with volunteer opportunities. They recommended consistency across the district in getting volunteer information out to parents, and said each school should have a volunteer coordinator who can work collaboratively between the staff and the booster club, and with parents. Concerns were raised that booster clubs who seek volunteers seem at times unappreciative, demanding, stressed, or disrespectful, and don’t always treat volunteers appropriately. This concern could be addressed with training opportunities for the coordinator. The wide disparity in booster club participation among our schools was noted. They recommended that the volunteer coordinator attend booster club meetings, and report on volunteer hours served as well as needs to be met. Volunteer hours should be more accurately recorded. Coordinators from each school would like a core leadership team to actively lead the full group, to address concerns, serve as a sounding board, and provide resources for schools which don’t have

active booster clubs. Coordinators should attend workshops on volunteerism and leadership. The district volunteer interest form should be simplified to include basic contact information and an email address so skill-specific or school-specific volunteer opportunities could be easily posted and the right connections made. As the district experiences budget cuts, they said parents have the skills to step in and assist if they are made aware of opportunities. They suggested that translation technology be utilized to get information out to parents in the appropriate language to let them know of ways they can become more involved. They requested the district's assistance with providing a comprehensive database for the volunteer coordinator's use, and recommended that the district take a more active role in recruiting coordinators to ensure that each of our schools has a coordinator with the appropriate skills and mindset as well as generosity of spirit. They also recommended that coordinators be made aware of opportunities to improve their leadership skills.

Ms. Christopher remarked that the Oregon PTA would be a resource for training. She said she hopes the Educational Foundation will at some point pay for some training for volunteers. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta said she appreciates the group's motivation to bring us to an increased level of volunteerism. Chair Mattson thanked them for their report and for their recommendations, noting that family and community engagement are very important to this board and to our superintendent. Superintendent Grotting said we should not underestimate the talents of our community, as they could do so much if their skills were tapped. The committee was thanked for their efforts and for their report.

Sustainability: Mike Ewald reported on behalf of a group who looked at sustainability across the district. This was his eleventh year of service on CAC. He said his son graduated in 2000, but he continues to enjoy volunteering for the district. He said the district could do a better job of implementing sustainable and more economical practices, such as using Metro's recycled paint, which is much cheaper than the product the district currently uses. Outdoor lights are on timers instead of sensors, and lights are left on in classrooms. He said that if all personal refrigerators, fans and coffeepots were removed, the district could save \$11,000-14,000 per year. He also suggested the district consider buying trash compactors for our kitchens in order to use smaller dumpsters. Taking up floor tile and painting the concrete would result in less maintenance. He concluded by saying taking a closer look at waste would result in savings to our taxpayers.

Dr. Osburn said that conservation efforts are underway and that Holly Wolfe, our conservation guru, is gathering data to present further recommendations this fall. Chair Mattson said a public purpose charge on electric bills has been paid to ESDs, from which districts can apply for funds. Through new legislation, money will now go directly to districts for conservation and sustainability. Superintendent Grotting said the district has already submitted an application for use of these funds, which could be used for more efficient boilers, sensors, and other cost saving technology. Mr. Ewald said it is tough to make 50-year old buildings sustainable, but those front-end costs will be worthwhile in the end. He encouraged sharing monthly costs with the staff to encourage conservation. Chair Mattson thanked him for his report.

Excellent Schools: John May, Kyle Riggs, and Barbara Dyk served on this committee, which discussed the topic of excellent schools. John May reported on behalf of the group, saying they believe the time is right for our school district to decide for ourselves what makes an excellent school, rather than letting outside entities determine the definition. He said that in this time of raised academic requirements and expectations and diminishing resources, schools need to demonstrate that resources they are given are being used effectively. He said that using data as a tool can be very valuable, but some policy makers think that tool is a sledgehammer, which is both uninformative and unproductive; data should be a flashlight used to inform but not to punish.

The committee recommended that the district develop and implement an accountability framework which is generally understandable to any stakeholder who wants to use it. Mr. May said there needs to be a conversation about what is valued by district leaders and how that is demonstrated, and there should be consensus among all stakeholders. State test scores provide a very narrow picture and should not be used to reflect the full measure of a school. The Oregon School Report Card provides a better, broader look, but uses a one-size-fits-all method, being the state's vision but not the district's vision. Cradle to Career milestones with very specific metrics are also very useful. With limited resources, the district should leverage good work being done around the area, but the committee believes the district need a more comprehensive tool that measures holistic student achievement and school excellence, and which reflects our own district's values. The framework should focus on causes as well as effects, and has to provide feedback to drive improvement. Developing this tool would be a deliberate and labor intensive process, but this committee thinks it would be valuable to the district in the long run. He concluded by saying the process is really about determining and declaring your values.

Kyle Riggs said all kinds of things are said in the community, and in the schools, but this process would give the district the chance to say 'this is who we are.' He said administrators would need to work with staff, parents and students to gather input about what makes a good school. Chair Mattson thanked the committee for their passionate work on this important subject.

Audience Participation / Break – The board chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Anne Kemp, OSEA Chapter 40 President, advocated for a fair, equitable contract which includes fair share, saying the community and labor stands with OSEA Chapter 40.

Kyle Riggs, district parent, said that through Dan McCue he had the opportunity to meet with people from Community and Parents for Public Schools, and has been elected to serve on their board. He said he is looking forward to seeing what they have accomplished and sharing his ideas as well. The group is expanding to include David Douglas and Parkrose.

Mike Ewald, district patron, commented on collective bargaining, noting that he hasn't received a raise in three years in the private sector.

As there were no further remarks from the audience, the chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Superintendent's Evaluation Report – Chair Mattson reported on the annual evaluation of the superintendent, which reflected three key areas tied to the superintendent's goals: instruction and student achievement, management of the district, and dealing with the various political stakeholders. She said the board is very pleased with the new superintendent's performance during his first year on the job, and look forward to the future and to the good work Mr. Grotting will continue to be doing. She said he stepped right in, made connections in the community, and continued the good things already happening in the district while increasing the focus on student achievement and inspiring the staff with his leadership. Mr. Grotting thanked the board for their support, saying the district is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff who really care about students, and said he very much appreciates the skill and support of his cabinet as well.

Chair Mattson remarked that to provide continuity, the Superintendent's goals were written for the three-year period of 2010-13. She asked if those would be adjusted or rolled forward. Mr. Grotting said those initiatives are in their infancy. While good progress is being made, it's too soon to know

how much of that progress will be sustained. He is determining which of those changes will make ongoing positive impact. He said next year will be even more challenging financially, and the board will be under considerable pressure as contracts are negotiated with our bargaining units and deeper budget cuts are considered. Chair Mattson thanked the superintendent for all he is doing, saying she can't think of anyone she would rather have at the helm. Mr. Gardner moved approval of the superintendent's 2010-11 evaluation, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Superintendent's Contract – The Superintendent's Contract Committee presented their recommendations for Superintendent Grotting's 2011-12 contract, which included the option of a rolling three year agreement and some language adjustments to make the section on leave and vacation accrual consistent with other administrators. They also recommended adjusting mileage reimbursement to align to the new IRS rate. Ms. Barberis said it was important to note that despite all of Superintendent Grotting's hard work and the outstanding leadership he's provided, like the other administrators he'll also experience a pay freeze. She said she regrets the board cannot offer more at this time. Mr. Gardner said this is the third year that all administrators have gone without an increase. He then made a motion to approve the Superintendent's contract with the changes as recommended, seconded by Mr. Price. The contract was approved in a vote of 7-0.

July 21st Board Workshop – It was the Board's consensus to begin the board workshop scheduled for July 21st at 6pm, to conclude by 9pm. The group decided to meet at Mill Park Elementary in order to visit the new courtyard project. Superintendent Grotting said a light dinner would be provided. He proposed some possible discussion topics: a potential bond election, new legislation, new academic initiatives, high school grading policy, board committee assignments, a refresher on accessing online board packets, and the board meeting process. He asked for other suggestions. Mr. Gardner said he had ideas to share about board member reports and how they might be done differently. Chair Mattson suggested discussing a community survey as preparation for a possible bond election, and the possibility of public access TV or webcasts of board meetings posted on the district website so constituents can view the proceedings. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta said she would like to consider some strategic ways to enhance partnerships between businesses and the district. Chair Mattson asked everyone to bring their calendars to the workshop to schedule any additional sessions deemed necessary.

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

- **Approval of Alice Ott Roof Repair**
- **Formal Action to Close North Powellhurst School**
- **Personnel Recommendation**
- **Resolution Appointing Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Designating Depositories for School Funds for Fiscal Year 2011-12**
- **Resolution to Appoint Budget Officer**
- **Resolution for Facsimile Signatures for US Bank**
- **Recommendation to Increase Lunch Prices**
- **Approval of June Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment – There being no other business, Chair Mattson declared the meeting adjourned.



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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