

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
July 19, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, July 19, 2007, 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

Swearing in of Newly Elected Board Member – Superintendent Rommel administered the oath of office to newly elected board member Mike Price, who assumes Position #5. She also congratulated Mike Centoni and Frieda Christopher on their reelection to Positions 4 and 7.

Board Member Reports – Mr. Centoni welcomed Mr. Price, saying it will be a great opportunity to have him on board. He said he was sorry to note the departure of Mr. Wilton to Clackamas Community College, but was happy to welcome Gary Haase, who is serving as interim Director of Administrative Services. Ms. Christopher was pleased to represent the Board at the groundbreaking ceremony for the East Portland Community Center pool and at the Earl Boyles Park ribbon cutting ceremony. She also attended OSBA's summer board workshop with Mr. Price. She sat in on a community communication session, where it was suggested that districts build a community asset list of businesses and organizations, then determine how you might partner for the benefit of your community. Mr. Price reported that he enjoyed the presentations at the OSBA summer board workshop and found the information valuable. Ms. Mattson attended NSBA's Pacific Regional meeting in Idaho recently. Ben Cannon spoke about K-12 funding at a meeting of the East Portland Chamber of Commerce meeting on Wednesday. The next scheduled speaker is Sam Adams. Chair Gardner thanked Ms. Christopher for stepping in to represent the Board at recent ceremonies. He suggested a discussion of items coming out of the legislature as a workshop topic, if the new board leadership elects to use the second meeting of the month in that format.

Superintendent's Report – Susan Summers reported that 46 new teachers have been hired for fall, with a few positions remaining to be filled. Hiring has proceeded at a bit slower pace than previous years, but she anticipates all positions will be filled for the start of the school year. About 27 FTE are new positions. Sherrie Barger reported on upcoming staff development activities and presented a list of back to school events. Board members are invited to attend the new teacher luncheon on Monday, August 27 and the all staff meeting on August 28 at Palermi Stadium. A workshop on data-driven decision making will be held August 16 at Ron Russell Middle School, which includes a presentation by national consultant Mike Schmoker. 130 are registered representing K-12, including attendees from several other districts. Interested board members are welcome to attend.

Superintendent Rommel said that there was a case of bacterial meningitis identified during summer school at the high school. A letter was sent home to parents, but we did not hear of any other incidents of infection. She shared an inspiring letter from one of Connie Herington's students who works with youngsters in the DD preschool program.

Election of Board Leadership for 2007-08 – Board Chair Gardner opened the nominations for Board Chair for the 2007-08 school year. Mr. Centoni nominated Annette Mattson. Ms. Christopher made a motion that the nominations be closed. Ms. Mattson was elected in a vote of 7-0. The Board Chair opened nominations for Board Vice Chair. Ms. Mattson nominated Frieda Christopher as Vice Chair for 2007-08. Ms. Barberis made a motion that nominations be closed. Ms. Christopher was elected in a vote of 7-0. Board Chair Mattson took her place to chair the rest of the meeting. Superintendent Rommel presented Mr. Gardner with a plaque in thanks for his leadership as Board Chair for 2006-07.

2007 Legislative Summary – Superintendent Rommel shared a list of new laws passed by the legislature, compiled by OSBA. She highlighted four.

HB 2650 establishes minimum standards for food and beverages sold in public schools. Nutrition Services Supervisor Jodi Taylor is completely on top of this, making sure that the additional requirements of this legislation will be met. She has indicated that the new requirements won't entail major changes.

SB 479 prohibits use of R type metal halide or mercury vapor light bulbs in schools. Some time ago a teacher was injured in another district when the cover on one of these bulbs broke. We began making changes at that time. Costs can be recouped through other legislation that permits payback for most expenses. There is no grace period here, so Paul Arzt will be implementing a replacement schedule immediately.

HB2260 abolishes CIM and CAM, creates a 10th grade testing requirement, and allows biennial budgeting of school district budgets. High school committees are looking at some of the requirements of our CIM/CAM program to see which are still useful and which might be revised to best meet the educational needs of students. We don't anticipate making a major change in the career pathways program. The superintendent will report later on any recommendations for modifications.

SB1036 enables school districts to enact an excise tax for development within their boundaries. The Board would have to vote to collect this tax. There are a number of unknowns regarding this legislation, including determining which government entity would make the collection. OSBA will share a sample resolution for boards to consider.

Chair Mattson said that SB 10 regarding gifts, expenditures, and meals for public officials expands to boards and will affect everybody who receive taxpayer money. Ms. Christopher said that according to OSBA, administrators will go directly into the insurance pool as they are not a collective bargaining unit, per a workshop on the statewide insurance pool. Mr. Burton commented on HB 3279, the student newspaper law, noting that reporters don't have freedom of speech rights regarding their publisher's policies. He asked for future clarification regarding what we as the publisher of the Highlander have a right to control.

Superintendent's Evaluation and 2007-08 Goals – Chair Mattson requested comments on the superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Gardner acknowledged that opinions have varied on the new evaluation instrument, which is in its first year of use. Further modifications may still be in order.

Ms. Christopher commented on an OSBA workshop on this topic, where the sample scoring mechanism reflected a consensus score rather than an average. It was suggested that discussion and goal setting occur prior to budgeting, rather than year's end. Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the Superintendent's 2006-07 evaluation, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The evaluation was approved in a vote of 7-0. Superintendent Rommel thanked board members for their efforts in her evaluation, saying she appreciated their comments and found them instructive. She presented her proposed goals for 2007-08.

Under Instruction, she proposed continued focus on literacy, with performance improving at each level in Reading and Writing; continued emphasis on math, with improvement in State Assessment math scores, and secondary staff completing their work to align math course content with state expectations and prepare for new graduation standards; and keeping the ball rolling on Positive Behavior Supports, where improvement will be more measurable after this first baseline year.

Under Management, the superintendent will oversee selection and transition of new administrators and plan for the future in terms of preparing people to be ready to assume those roles. There will be major emphasis on gathering community input about our facilities to meet the needs to growing enrollment, and to inform them about needs we have identified. The staff will also be involved in determining the ongoing needs of our students, keeping them major players in determining priorities.

Under Community Involvement, the superintendent noted that the CAC worked on this topic and made some good recommendations. Booster clubs and parent teacher associations are established but they are not flourishing. Ms. Rommel recommended taking a new look about how we have traditionally tried to involve people. We will continue to utilize communication tools to spread information about the district's needs to parents, staff and community. Chair Mattson suggested adding presentations to community groups, as they would welcome speakers from the district, to Bullet #2.

It was suggested that the district also provide meeting space for community groups at no charge to get them into the schools. Ms. Mattson expressed concern that the superintendent's goals as listed are not measurable. Following discussion, Mr. Burton moved approval of the Superintendent's Goals for 2007-08, with the addition of presentations to community groups, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The goals were approved in a vote of 6-1 (opposed - Mattson).

The proposal for the Superintendent's contract and compensation will be presented at the August meeting.

Audience Participation / Break – Board Chair Mattson opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience. A brief recess was declared, after which the meeting was reconvened.

PERS Bonding Proposal – Superintendent Rommel reported that in reviewing the benefit that districts participating in this bond program have generated in the last few years, hindsight would tell us that issuing these bonds is a prudent fiscal move. Seattle Northwest is preparing another opportunity for issuing PERS bonds, which would require the Board's approval if we wish to participate.

Mr. Haase shared an email from Rob Shelley from Seattle Northwest, which works with Oregon districts participating in this program, and a list of Oregon districts which have already issued bonds. 89 districts have joined, including most of the state's large districts. Mr. Haase reviewed statistics on participating districts and various scenarios for returns over time, noting that there is an element of

risk. Superintendent Rommel requested the Board's approval to ask Seattle Northwest to put some actuarial numbers together to look at, at a cost of approximately \$1,000, then make a decision whether to issue bonds. Ms. Christopher so moved, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried unanimously.

Staffing Requests – Superintendent Rommel requested approval of 1.5 FTE in additional licensed positions for 2007-08. Middle and high school math teachers have been working together this year to align course content with state expectations, develop common assessments to track progress through the year, and to prepare for implementation of the new graduation standards. They would like to have someone assist them with strengthening the process through the next year. One position would be designated for a Teacher on Special Assignment to work with staff to implement the assessments, collect data, give feedback to the teachers, and coordinate additional development. This position could be split with .5 FTE at the high school and .5 FTE at the middle school levels. The remaining .5 FTE would be for a half-time TAG teacher to address the increased number of students who were approved for TAG service this spring. Funding would be taken from the contingency fund. Mr. Centoni moved approval of the staffing increases as outlined, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion received unanimous approval.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

- **Resolution Adopting Budget, Making Appropriations and Levying Taxes for Fiscal Year 2007-08 (Amended)**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of June Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Temporary Committees for 2007-08 – Board Chair Mattson requested that board members forward their preferences for committee assignments to her. A list of assignments will be presented at the meeting in August.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Superintendent Rommel presented three housekeeping resolutions for approval. It was necessary to amend these resolutions to reflect the appointment of Gary Haase as Interim Director of Administrative Services.

- **Resolution to Appoint Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2007-08**
- **Resolution Appointing Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Designating Depositories for School Funds for Fiscal Year 2007-08**
- **Resolution for Facsimile Signatures for US Bank for Fiscal Year 2007-08**

Mr. Burton moved approval of recommended changes, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The resolutions were approved in a vote of 7-0.

The superintendent presented a draft of a letter to Mayor Potter regarding the East Portland Plan. It was the Board's consensus to send the letter on their behalf. Superintendent Rommel will host the Board's summer social on Monday, September 3.

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



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk