

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
September 3, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 3, 2009, 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 – Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta said she was very impressed and proud to walk through our buildings during the white glove tour. She remarked that the custodial and maintenance staff members were glowing with pride as board members admired their hard work, and said the grounds, classrooms, and, in particular, the floors, looked fabulous. She said the opening kickoff for staff this morning was a wonderful start to the school year.

Frieda Christopher reported on the Educational Foundation's plans for celebrating the 50th anniversary of district unification. The celebration will culminate in a dinner on April 24 at Persimmon. Former Superintendent Tony Palermi is helping to sponsor this event. The foundation will select fifteen notable graduates for special recognition that evening. Ms. Christopher thanked retired teacher Monrad Bjorge for designing the anniversary logo. She also presented a brief update on the work of the East Portland Action Team.

Mike Centoni echoed Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta's remarks about the fine work of our custodial and maintenance crews. He said he enjoyed the back to school kickoff and the new teacher luncheon.

Annette Mattson announced that a student of renewable engineering from Oregon Institute of Technology will be doing a 15 month senior project in cooperation with David Douglas High School and PGE. PGE is covering expenses for a wind turbine project which the OIT student will coordinate. High school students from the IES program will participate. Ms. Mattson and Mr. Centoni attended the August 27 project kick-off, along with PGE representatives and the president of OIT. Ms. Mattson said she really enjoyed spending the day with the administrative staff at their workshop on transforming school culture on August 25th. She helped welcome staff at today's back to school event, and this afternoon, along with OSBA Executive Director Kevin McCann, she spoke at the REAP Challenge Camp, a student leadership event held at Mt. Hood Community College. Ms. Mattson was pleased to announce that Superintendent Rommel will be among those honored at the ROSE Community Development donor breakfast on September 17, 9:00am at OMSI.

Mike Price said that the turnout was outstanding at Alice Ott Middle School's open house. He said the buildings look great and morale is high. He expressed his appreciation to the maintenance staff and the Director of Administrative Services for the outstanding job they have done over the summer in preparing for the start of the school year.

Donn Gardner said he has taken the white glove tour for years, and said it is an excellent opportunity to see the results of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. He noted that the custodians really have a sense of pride in the condition of their buildings. He was pleased to hear about the significant recognition received by staff members from a variety of outside organizations during presentation of the Apple Awards at this morning's Back to School event, saying it reflects the effort and commitment to the community by our staff members.

Superintendent's Report – Candy Wallace announced that Earl Boyles second grade teacher Deb McGowan was recently selected one of seven national winners in the Jones New York in the Classroom competition. Her husband entered her in the contest. She was flown to New York City, where she received a head to toe makeover, \$500 for her classroom, and \$1,000 for her school. Elaine Medcalf, a volunteer with the Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association, applied for and was awarded a grant to build a new walking path in West Powellhurst Park. A group of volunteers spent the morning of August 15 building that path. In response to vandalism at the Earl Boyles community garden, more than 100 volunteers from all over the community, including Principal Ericka Guynes, rallied to restore that garden in a heartwarming community effort. Superintendent Rommel reported that through the work of Curriculum Director Brooke O'Neill, Portland State University and Leaders Roundtable will provide adult ESL classes at Mill Park this year. Gilbert Park will receive a \$5,000 grant from Verizon, in an effort spearheaded by Rep. Mike Schaufler. Mill Park will receive \$10,000 from Tropicana through an online sweepstakes championed by volunteer Jenny Hudecek. Mayor Sam Adams will visit David Douglas High School on September 8, to welcome the freshman class. DDHS Art Teacher Mary Burgess has her artwork on display at the Clackamas Community College art show.

Energy Usage Update – David Callaway and Holly Wolfe presented a report on the district's energy management program. When Ms. Wolfe talks with community members about what she does, she said they are pleased to hear that the district is watching their operating costs and managing their resources wisely. In addition to producing cost savings, the program promotes good business practices and models sustainability to students. Activities undertaken as part of our resource conservation management program were reviewed. Student "Green Teams" have been established at several schools, and students are excited as they compete to win green awards for their classrooms. The Oregon Green Schools certification program encourages and recognizes sustainable practices in our buildings. Utilizing Utility Manager Pro, Ms. Wolfe has been tracking data from all of the district's utility bills, comparing this year's costs with last year's, and identified some errors in billing which resulted in credits. Weekend energy audits of district facilities have also been very useful in identifying potential cost savings. Mr. Callaway received an energy management certification through NEEI this summer, after completing a two week course energy management conservation course, which will benefit the district.

Some of the documented savings over the first six months of the district's program were reviewed. Weekend energy audits at Gilbert Heights and Floyd Light identified opportunities for cost savings, from replacing inefficient small appliances, to shutting down computers during the weekends. Energy use audits showing electrical use over the course of a month help to pinpoint areas where small changes can create savings. Disconnecting a number of downspouts around the district has resulted in storm water credits. In reviewing a graph comparing this year's and last year's energy usage, it was noted that even though overall usage has been reduced, costs are continuing to rise due to utility rate increases. Those increases make it more important than ever to conserve. Next steps include encouraging consolidation and removal of small appliances in the buildings; continuing weekend audits; a pool cost analysis; and "Green Team" expansion. SB1149 will provide reimbursements for some energy upgrades.

Summer School Report – Stacie Moncrief introduced a report on this year's summer academy program. Special emphasis was placed on supporting students transitioning to a new level of schooling, with a pre-K session offered in the elementary buildings, middle school focus on incoming sixth graders, and Ninth Grade Counts offered at the high school.

Ms. Moncrief and Kellie Burkhardt, summer school principals at Earl Boyles and Ventura Park, respectively, reviewed the elementary program, which was funded through the Title IA grant and served students from Pre-K through fourth grade. The summer curriculum included reading, writing and math, and focused on building basic skills as well as confidence. 475 elementary students completed the program. 42 ESL newcomers received extra language support. All students were recommended by their teachers for summer academy. Many early intervention students took part in the pre-K program, which was offered for the first time this summer. As a result of their participation and the evaluations completed during the program, support strategies will be in place for them from the beginning of the school year.

Florence Protopapas supervised the middle school program, which was offered at all three of our middle schools. A total of 240 students completed the program (94% of those who started) 72 at AOMS; 80 at FLMS, and 88 at RRMS. She reviewed focus areas at each grade level. The program included a "Skills for Success" class to build organization skills. Students transitioning from Grade 5 to Grade 6 were able to attend the summer program at the school where they would attend in the fall. They built great relationships with teachers. Feedback from parents and children was very positive. A combined field day was held at RRMS to conclude the program.

Amy McQueen reviewed the high school's summer program, which focused on helping students improve basic skills and retrieve credits to keep on track for graduation. Scott Cashdollar served as principal of the high school credit retrieval program. More than 300 classes were completed during each of the two credit retrieval sessions. Forty students participated in Level One or Two ESL classes. Ms. McQueen served as the director of "Ninth Grade Counts" a program for eighth graders transitioning into high school. 49 students completed the program, with 46 earning a half credit toward graduation. In reviewing student evaluations, 96% indicated that they are better prepared to begin high school having completed this program. 81 students attended a "College Institute", offered to incoming 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, which provided SAT prep and enrichment for some of our advanced students. A single session was initially offered but there was enough interest to provide a second session.

Citizens Advisory Committee Agenda Suggestions – Board members had the opportunity to offer suggestions to the Citizens Advisory Committee regarding possible research topics for the 2009-10 school year. Mr. Centoni suggested district communication as a topic. Ms. Mattson said that topic could include developing an expanded database for communications. Ms. Christopher suggested researching what it would take to merge district and foundation lists, including retiree contact information. Ms. Christopher also suggested the topic of parent involvement in leadership roles. Board Chair Barberis suggested building on the excellent report presented earlier on this subject. Mr. Stout requested that board members forward any other ideas to him prior to October 13, the CAC's first meeting of the year.

Consent Agenda – As there were no Personnel Recommendations to be considered, Mr. Centoni moved approval of the August Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Ms. Mattson requested a brief update on the status of the Deardorff property discussions. Superintendent Rommel said that according to City's budget presentation to TSCC, they are still working on it. Mr. Centoni expressed his disappointment that only Portland Public Schools students will benefit from free Tri-Met bus passes being offered through an agreement with the City. He remarked that many of our students have the same need for this assistance. Ms. Christopher said the East Portland Action Team is working on equity issues such as this one. Mr. Centoni requested a future report on the high school's Career Pathways program.

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



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk