

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
September 20, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 20, 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

Board Member Reports –Bruce Burton said he was impressed with the excitement of students and parents and the real sense of optimism at the open house events around the district. He noted that the buildings and grounds were in great shape. Donn Gardner remarked that the buses were also shining and ready for the start of the year. Mike Price attended several open house events and mentioned he appreciated the enthusiasm of staff members as they welcomed families. He said it was great to see all the neighborhoods come together. Mike Centoni attended Back to School Night at the high school on Monday evening, and enjoyed visiting with staff members and parents. He thanked the superintendent for researching his question on Executive Sessions, saying he is comfortable that we are meeting all requirements. Frieda Christopher attended the latest meeting of the Opportunity Gateway special task force, which is reviewing street configurations. She said a number of City departments are working together to make some positive changes in the area. Superintendent Rommel said a community meeting will take place on October 22 at Menlo Park to discuss transportation services and other issues. Board Chair Mattson attended the Lents Urban Renewal District open house, where they are also looking at transportation safety improvements. The intersection at 122 & Foster, among the most dangerous in city, has been identified for improvement. They are taking public comment through this month. The board chair also attended the high school open house, where she said it was good to visit with staff and parents.

Student Body President's Report – Stacy Chao reported that student council officers from around the Mt. Hood Conference met to discuss fundraisers and joint activities. They plan to promote the Pennies for Patients fundraiser and will discuss sponsoring another 'Battle of the Bands' or a film festival. The freshman class will host the Sadie Hawkins dance following the football game against Reynolds on September 28.

High school teacher and DDEA President Bob Gray presented high school yearbooks to board members, Ms. Rommel and Mr. Stout, and shared copies of the DDEA Dispatch and an article from NEA magazine. He said he was pleased to meet with new teachers, commenting that 92% of them joined DDEA.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel met with all principals and many of the coordinators and managers, who mentioned that this was one of the best starts we had in a number of years. Principals were appreciative that the Transportation Department had the buses running right on time, and thanked them for their efforts. Principals are also grateful for the new School Improvement Coordinators, who are really helping the school and students to be at their best, and remarked that their staffs appreciate the purchase of the new presentation stations. The superintendent announced that Jodi Taylor has been elected president of the statewide nutrition services organization. Ms. Rommel extended the District's thanks to the American Legion and Burgerville for providing refreshments for our families at various open house events. At Tuesday's meeting of the Multnomah County Commissioners, David Douglas School District received an award for outstanding Community/School Partnership as one of the SUN Schools program partners.

Preliminary Enrollment Report – Mike Stout reviewed current enrollment, announcing that as of Monday this week our enrollment was 10,076 students, an increase of 189 over the same day a year ago and the highest enrollment level in the district's history. Looking back at enrollment numbers on the final day of school in June, we've experienced an increase of 463 from that point. An in-depth report will be presented on October 4.

Student Assessment Report – Derek Edens presented the 2006-07 AYP report. Although the final State Assessment results for the 2007 Spring tests are still not finalized, we are not contesting any of the data. All of our elementary schools reached AYP targets, keeping David Douglas from the sanctions of Year Two of District Improvement status.

Mr. Edens reviewed district demographics, noting the dramatic changes over the past ten years, as we have experienced a 70.2% increase in the English Language Learner population, and a 20.3% increase in the number of students representing minority groups. Enrollment has increased 34% in that period, to a total this fall of more than 10,000 students K-12. Of the fifteen largest districts in the state, David Douglas has the highest rate of poverty. The goal of NCLB is to raise the academic achievement of all students in reading and math, with the AYP progress requirement at the core of NCLB's accountability system. NCLB changed the emphasis from overall performance to performance of sub-groups. If one sub-group of students fails to meet AYP targets in any area, the school received a rating of 'does not meet'. Mr. Edens reviewed testing requirements and 2006-07 targets of 49% in math, 50% in reading for all students in all sub-groups. All of our elementary schools met targets in reading and math. Gilbert Park showed great gains in meeting AYP this year. Targets were not met with all sub-groups at the middle schools or high school, but schools are making progress. In comparing data from 05-06 with 06-07, fewer sub-groups scored as 'not met'. Challenges will continue, as AYP targets will increase to 60%.

Sherrie Barger said that achievement data is shared with principals every year and is used to establish school improvement plans. The district site team also uses the information to determine district goals. In reviewing the data for the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) the need to work on aligning curriculum vertically and horizontally was recognized. Professional development has been focused on the area of literacy. The new reading adoption has been emphasized during K-5 inservices, and the middle and high schools have been working on literacy across the curriculum. The new literacy and math coaches have been an important part of those efforts. All three middle school early release sessions have focused on vocabulary and comprehension note taking. SUN Schools and Kids Club have provided many activities to engage our families. PBS, wellness efforts, and flight team training are addressing goals for a safe and healthy school climate.

Mr. Edens introduced Nanette Twist, Alice Ott teacher and math coach, who reviewed the work of the middle and high school math department collaboration. The group audited the textbooks for strengths and weaknesses in supporting state standards. Grade levels are now teaching the same things at the same times across the district. The group collaborated to write common assessments, three each at grades 7 and 8, which use language and directions similar to the State Assessment. At year's end, staff will meet again and share best practices. She said the process has been valuable and has built cohesiveness between middle schools and the high school. She said it is very exciting to be learning from one another and to have all math teachers on board targeting the same goals.

George Bryson, Gilbert Park Principal, reviewed the work undertaken by the Gilbert Park staff to meet AYP requirements. He said the staff developed action plans for each strand of instruction for targeted groups. He shared a sample of an 'assessment wall' which has proven to be a powerful visual tool for staff members, and said that the progress of all students is being monitored with the goal of improving achievement for every student.

Kimberly Skach, Ron Russell Middle School reading teacher, reported on literacy efforts at the middle school level. She described the Read 180 instruction model, saying teachers are thrilled with the program and how it assists struggling readers. She shared sample lessons and noted the focus on building student vocabulary. Ms. Skach also described the instruction taking place on effective note taking, saying that students having problems with note taking serve to form her reading instruction.

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 Participation Notification – In regard to the PERS bonding program, Gary Haase reviewed the report sent by the actuary, which included a variety of possible scenarios with differing rates of return over 28 years. The superintendent said that even in a worst-case scenario, the Board's PERS liability fund, if left intact, would sufficiently cover the district's costs. Based on historical interest rate fluctuations, she believes participating will be a positive and cost-effective move. Following discussion, the Board let their previous resolution to participate stand. Mr. Haase and Ann Marie Rears will attend a hearing with TSCC on October 3 to get approval of the Supplemental Budget reflecting the PERS Bonding for 2007-08.

Staffing Requests – Superintendent Rommel requested the Board's approval to hire two full time temporary teachers to serve students in the SLP-B program at Floyd Light Middle School, and the CTP program at North Powellhurst. Enrollment has increased in those classrooms to the point where a second teacher is necessary for each. Enrollment in the SLP-B classroom has reached 18, and the Community Transition Program enrollment has grown to 22 students. Mr. Gardner made a motion to increase the special education staff by 2.0 FTE, per the superintendent's request, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion was approved in a vote of 7-0.

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

- **Approval of Alternative Education Providers**
- **Personnel Recommendations**

The Key Work of School Boards: Student Achievement – The superintendent announced that the focus of this workshop session would be student achievement, which has been discussed as the primary focus of the district's efforts. Board Policy 7100 - The David Douglas Educators' Mission Statement, defines elements of student achievement. It was last revised in February of 1988 during the Vision 90s process. She suggested that this policy should be revisited to determine whether the statement still reflects the district's objectives.

Among comments during discussion, it was noted that the statement doesn't address diversity or technology, and that the language is dated. There was consensus that the statement should be more concise, and that it should be the entire district's mission statement, rather than only focusing on educators. There was a suggestion that the CAC be asked to provide input on language. There was a reminder of the value of keeping policy language broad to give future boards latitude in working within the policy, as education is a dynamic process. As this item is different from other district policy statements, it was suggested that the mission statement might better be a stand alone document, apart from Board Policy. Superintendent Rommel said that while it is a valid point that this doesn't match the normal type of policy items, the reason to include it as policy is to give it higher status; it would also potentially be useful if there were future budget discussions about reducing programs, as the Board could come back to this to guide their decision making.

The superintendent said that drafts will be developed and reviewed by the District Site Council, CAC, and staff. Input will be gathered and revisions made. The revised policy will be brought back at a future meeting for board review and possible adoption.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – A question was raised about the possible timeline for board discussions in preparation for collective bargaining. Superintendent Rommel said that Mr. Stout and Ms. Summers will be participating in a two day collective bargaining workshop this week. She said the board will want to visit this topic several times this fall. It will be appropriate for those discussions to occur in Executive Session.

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



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk