

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
October 1, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, October 1, 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 – Annette Mattson shared copies of reports on the achievement gap in Oregon from the Chalkboard Project, noting that Gilbert Park and Lincoln Park were mentioned for their successes in achievement gains for Hispanic and Black students. She also shared a letter sent by the East Portland Action Plan to Mayor Adams regarding funding inequities in East Portland. OSBA's regional dinner meeting was held on September 29. Along with Ms. Mattson, Chair Barberis, Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta and Superintendent Rommel attended. Ms. Mattson announced that she will miss the next board meeting as she attends regional meetings in the eastern part of the state, in her capacity as OSBA Board President. Mike Price attended the Fir Ridge open house last night along with Mr. Stout and Ms. Osburn. He said 60 students attended with their families. Donn Gardner attended the first home football game, where the Scots lost 27-26, and remarked on how nice the upgraded stadium facilities look. He suggested that the older restrooms beneath the stands be considered for an upgrade. Mr. Centoni concurred, recommending that handicapped access be a priority. Frieda Christopher reported on the work of the East Portland Action Plan committee, saying that Parkrose Superintendent Karen Gray will be following up on the group's letter to the mayor with a face to face meeting. Ms. Christopher announced that there are grant opportunities available for schools through the Soil and Conservation Commission for sustainability projects, of up to \$10,000 without matching funds. She shared information on development of the park space on NE Halsey Street formerly occupied by North's Chuckwagon. The Educational Foundation is continuing planning for the District's 50th anniversary. The Foundation is also considering donating a defibrillator to the district. Chair Barberis attended the meeting of the East Portland Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday morning in the high school library along with the superintendent. A high school presentation to the group included information about the Celtic Heart program. Ms. Christopher noted that the Education Foundation supports that project. Ms. Mattson said that during this charitable giving time of year, United Way allows you to designate DDEF as recipient of your gift.

Student Body President's Report – ASB President Nick Anderson reported on high school activities. This afternoon students received a PRIDE lesson regarding assembly and football game etiquette. Tomorrow's spirit assembly will generate enthusiasm prior to the football game against Centennial. Students will be invited to participate in a 'red out' where everyone will wear red to the game. Homecoming Week begins October 19. There will be a Homecoming dance ticket presale,

and a door decoration contest. Last Friday's club fair was a success, although there were issues with debris left around the campus following the event. Football player Owa Odghizuwa is featured on the cover of the October issue of ESPN's RISE magazine. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta thanked Nick for his leadership, and told him the Board is open to hearing his leadership team's ideas.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that David Douglas students were among the beneficiaries of the KGW school supplies drive. Our elementary counselors distributed supplies to students in need of that assistance. Dan McCue announced that the Educational Foundation will have a table at the Mid-Autumn Moonfest at Eastport Plaza this weekend. Proceeds from a classic car cruise-in held as part of that event will benefit the Celtic Heart. Superintendent Rommel directed the Board's attention to the beautiful display of student calligraphy at the back of the board room. All were prize winners at the Oregon State Fair.

The superintendent introduced Dick Kemp from American Legion Post 1. He presented board members with printed information about the signers of the Declaration of Independence and copies of the Gettysburg Address. He said the American Legion is the largest veteran organization in the United States, with 14,000 posts across the country. He said members were proud to serve to defend our freedom, and continue to serve the community, state, and nation. Post 1 members provided and served 1,800 hot dogs at Earl Boyles, Cherry Park, and Gilbert Park open houses. They continue to support the David Douglas clothes closet, and maintain a relief fund at Lincoln Park. They have also assisted the Neighborhood Association with graffiti cleanup. The Post took part this summer in the dedication of the new skate board facility at Ed Benedict Park on SE Powell, and provided complimentary refreshments at the "Neighborhood Night Out" at Earl Boyles Park. November 19 marks the 146th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Post members will do a presentation regarding the Address for Lincoln Park fifth graders. The Post will host a Red Cross blood drive for Thanksgiving. Mr. Kemp said he will share information with John Bier about the American Legion oratorical contest for college scholarships, and about Boys and Girls State, a shadow government experience for students which will be held at University of Oregon and Willamette University. On behalf of American Legion Post 1, he thanked the Board for permitting him to present to them, and said the Post will continue to be dependable partners in confronting the challenges in our neighborhood. He also offered the Post as an offsite venue for district meetings.

Enrollment Update – Mike Stout presented an update on district enrollment. 10,520 are enrolled as of today, an increase of 190 (1.8%) from the same day a year ago. The greatest growth is being experienced at the high school. Of Mill Park's 535 students, 310 qualify for ESL services. The official enrollment report will be presented at the October 15 board meeting.

REAP Presentation – Mike Stout introduced Mark Jackson, Vice President of REAP (Reaching and Empowering All People) to highlight last year's activities and accomplishments and preview plans for this year.

Mr. Jackson reported that REAP began working at David Douglas High school in 2001, and at Fir Ridge in 2005, connecting African American students with mentors to encourage academic success. He said his organization is also passionate about empowering students to be leaders. Mr. Jackson introduced students Brittany Brown and Seph Johnson to share their experiences in the REAP program.

Eleventh grader Brittany Brown said being part of REAP has opened the door to so many new opportunities, including speaking before the mayor; and a chance to gain self confidence and to be

out in the field strengthening her skills for the future. Seph Johnson, a senior, said that REAP made him feel important and that his opinions really matter. He also spoke to the mayor, and said he felt he was really listened to. He said the experiences REAP has afforded him have made him feel like an adult, and that he can succeed. He thanked the REAP program for the excellent academic support as well, saying he is passing all of his classes. Through REAP's support, he said he knows he can do what he wants in life.

Mr. Jackson presented a video describing the REAP program and areas of support for students, as well as the community impacts. Students connected with more than 300 business leaders last school year, in a three-pronged focus of business, civic and educational leadership. REAP's strategic mission in East Portland is to continue to build capacity to empower students. Mr. Jackson said that REAP's partnership with the district can change educational outcomes for under performing students and provide them a different mind set in the community and in their classroom. Five REAP students planned and executed a five day leadership camp at Mt. Hood Community College this summer, hosting 140 students in interaction with more than 40 business professionals and government leaders in meaningful dialogue.

Mr. Jackson said he is advocating for the REAP model to be expanded on the main campus and at Fir Ridge. In partnership with the District, he recommended building a pipeline of continual support to pair high school student leaders with middle school students. A fundraiser for the REAP program will be held on October 30, the Impact Now Evening of Empowerment, to highlight accomplishments of the program.

The program has grown from thirty students enrolled last school year to 80 enrolled this year. Mr. Jackson said participation brings about a change in students' self confidence, performance in the classroom, and leadership in the community. Their goal for expansion is to put 1.5 FTE coordinators in the school building to build community; adding an in-school leadership class; and mentoring of middle school students. Mr. Jackson thanked the district administration for the space they have provided for the program. He said he would like to have a conversation about how to make this program a district budget item, and that he welcomes the district's and board's support and advocacy. Ms. Mattson thanked Mr. Jackson for the time he took to meet with her, and for his passion for improving outcomes for students. Mr. Nate Golden, REAP's coordinator at David Douglas High School, was introduced.

Staffing Report – Ken Richardson noted that as we review the district's staffing, the core focus remains what's going on in the classrooms, where great things are happening every day. He reviewed changes in FTE from 2007 to 2009, reporting that licensed FTE has increased by 1.5 since last October. Among the 16.5 FTE increase in classified staff, 9 FTE are maintenance/custodial positions. Our teaching staff have an average of 10.4 years of experience, compared to the state average of 12.1 years. 38% of our teachers have five or fewer years of experience. The trend is to see many more new hires coming to us with a Masters degree or higher, as many college teaching programs in Oregon now require a Masters degree. There is a discrepancy between the demographics of our teaching staff and our students, although our staffing reflects the statewide averages. It was suggested that we consider reactivating the Teacher of the Future program to help address that issue. 173 of our employees are David Douglas graduates.

Audience Participation / Break – The Board Chair opened the meeting for public comment. As there were no remarks from the audience, she declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Board Policy Revision: First Reading – Superintendent Rommel reported that a committee has worked for several months reviewing OSBA’s suggestions for board policy changes. The revised policy manual was presented for a first reading, along with some of the administrative regulations which the board is required by federal mandate to formally adopt.

Approval of September Board Meeting Minutes – Ms. Christopher made a motion to approve the September board meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Centoni remarked that proposed tax increases will likely be repealed by the voters. With the revenue forecast down, and PERS costs rising, he recommended that the board have some discussions regarding the budget as he expects the District will face some serious resource issues in the near future. He suggested a workshop on the topic, although he said he will defer to the board leadership about how and when to hold such a discussion.

A question was asked of Ms. Essenberg regarding the PERS article in today’s paper. She said she attended the PERS board meeting last week, where the outlook was gloomy. She received a calculator spreadsheet to look at the implications for the district, should the tax measure fail. She will share it with board members at the next board meeting.

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



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk