

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
October 2, 2008**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, October 2, 2008, 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:

Frieda Christopher, Board Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Donn Gardner
Bruce Burton	Annette Mattson
Mike Centoni	Mike Price

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 reported on the OSBA regional dinner meeting which took place September 30. More than 60 board members attended the session, including our board chair and superintendent. The meeting focused on legislative activity and a review of sample resolutions OSBA board has adopted, as well as positions taken by OSBA on various November ballot measures. The OSBA Conference in November will feature a keynote speech by Governor Kulongoski. Mike Price attended the open house at Fir Ridge Campus, which included a dinner to welcome families back to school. He said a capacity crowd attended the event, and people expressed their appreciation for the Fir Ridge program. Board Chair Christopher attended East Portland Action Team’s implementation committee meeting, where the group narrowed a long list of priorities to ten recommendations. Number one on the list was to hire an advocate to seek grants and coordinate with schools, parks, and other departments. Ms. Christopher encouraged her fellow board members to attend the upcoming OSBA Conference.

Student Body President’s Report – Tyler Short, ASB Recording Secretary, reported on behalf of the David Douglas student body. The Scots recently hosted a meeting of ASB officers from around the Mt. Hood Conference which featured seminars, networking and entertainment. Homecoming Week starts next Monday. The leadership class has been selling glow-in-the-dark homecoming t-shirts featuring the theme, “Out of this World”. A Club Fair was held on September 26. All of the high school clubs gathered on the breezeway to provide information and recruit new members. The Scots Pride program has been the focus in the classrooms.

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Rommel commented on a KXL Radio report that aired recently on our district’s facilities task force, which featured a remark about David Douglas schools attracting many new families due to their excellent reputation. DDHS teacher Amy Straw’s class has been awarded \$2,500 from the Michael Jordan Foundation to support the Fantasy Basketball program for special education students. The class may use some of those funds to produce a video demonstrating a lesson. The superintendent noted that Curriculum Director Brooke O’Neill is away attending AVID training, and Student Services Director Barbara Kienle is at a special education conference. AT&T has awarded David Douglas High School with a grant for \$99,800 to help with attendance mentoring and drop out prevention. The superintendent congratulated Cherie Ann May,

Sharon Webster, and Maureen Utz for their efforts. High school teacher Amy McQueen has been selected by ODE to serve on the Assessment of Essential Skills review panel, charged with coming up with an exit test as part of a state mandate. A school supplies drive sponsored by KGW, OnPoint and Fred Meyer has benefited our students, as has the "Adopt a Class" project of Office Max stores. The 205 store adopted Debbie Green's class at Cherry Park. At a surprise assembly today, store employees brought her a new chair, as well as \$1,000 worth of supplies and a gift for each student. The 82nd street store has adopted Sarah Wolfgang's class at Gilbert Heights.

Enrollment Report – Mike Stout presented the comprehensive enrollment report for 2008-09. As of September 30, the official reporting date, enrollment is up 161 from the same day last year, totaling 10,330. The sixth grade class is the largest, followed by Grades 3 and 8. The senior class has increased by 126 students since the end of last school year. Unofficial discussions with neighboring districts indicate that we have the highest number of new enrollees in Multnomah County. Enrollment from 1997 to the present has increased by 37.25%. ERC and ESL numbers are both up.

Natalie Osburn reported that she met with Azbuka officials today, where she received a copy of their enrollment list. It shows 36 ninth and tenth graders, seventeen of which were previously students in David Douglas schools. At this point all of their enrollees were attending other schools last school year, rather than being the former home schoolers or dropouts Azbuka initially planned to recruit.

Elementary class sizes average 26.1 district-wide, the lowest they have been in the last ten years. Sixth grade enrollment is the highest in the past ten years at 31.1. Sixth grade classrooms at Ron Russell Middle School are running 34 and 35. The eight new classrooms there are expected to be completed in December with student occupancy in January. Alice Ott has several sixth grades over 30, and Floyd Light has one class over 30. The temporary classroom at Ron Russell should be delivered tomorrow. Another kindergarten class has been added at Gilbert Park, which includes some students from Gilbert Heights. Not as many temporary assistants were needed this year, since at the elementary level only eight classrooms are at 30 or above. Last year there were 40 classrooms with those high numbers. Opening North Powellhurst to kindergarteners has helped to mitigate class size at the most crowded elementary buildings.

Middle and high school section averages were reviewed. Mr. Stout also recapped district-wide ethnicity and demographic changes between 1991 and 2008.

Staffing Report – Susan Summers presented the fall staffing report. Total FTE for administration, licensed and classified personnel is 1,138.95. The certificated staff averages 10.8 years of experience. Thirty seven are brand new teachers, and fifteen have been teaching more than thirty years. Approximately 41% have five or fewer years experience. 61% of our new teachers came in with a Masters degree. 23% are age 30 or younger, and about 25% are age 40+. At the elementary level, 21.75 new FTE have been hired this year. Middle school level added 12.66 new FTE. The high school added 11.5 new FTE. 6.1 new FTE have been added at the district level. 80 new teachers have been hired as of today (37 elementary, 24 middle school, 15 high school, 4 district). 23% of our K-12 staff has been new in the past two years. 149 of our employees graduated from David Douglas High School. Mr. Centoni remarked that while our increased enrollment will generate about \$1million in revenue, the facilities improvements we are making to accommodate that growth far exceed that.

Facilities Task Force Update – Mike Stout reported on formation of the facilities task force. Dan McCue sent an email invitation to district staff, put the same on the front page of the district website, and sent invitations to key communicators. Twenty six people have responded with interest in being

part of the project. The group represents a good balance, with seven teachers, five support staff, four building administrators, six parents, and four non-parent community members. Elementary, middle and high school levels are represented.

The district has contracted with Innovative Partnership to study our current facilities and recommend areas for possible action. They will convene a site review panel on October 15-16. The process will begin on Monday with a meeting at the district office to review the data we have collected for them. They will conduct site visits on Wednesday, then will meet in the evening with the superintendent, the deputy superintendent, and committee members, as well as any interested board members. Site visits and meetings will continue on Thursday, with a presentation of findings planned for the board meeting on October 16. The \$12,750 cost will be partially offset by a contribution of \$5,000 from the Portland Development Commission. The first meeting of the facilities task force group will be held on October 23, 7pm. They will use the Innovative Partnership report to guide their study and recommendations.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

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

Audience Participation – Board Chair Christopher opened the meeting for public comment.

John May, high school parent, remarked on the recent decision by ODE to increase math requirements for graduation. He said that he believes the decision will have a detrimental impact in the future. He noted that our high school offers an exceptional palette of course offerings which will be negatively impacted by the resulting increase in math sections. He said the new requirement that all students must complete three credits of upper level math will impact our graduation rate and won't provide the creative, flexible, innovative work force which will be needed in the future. He said that while students who excel in math should be supported and challenged, schools should focus on producing better readers, better writers, and students with a better understanding of the world outside our borders.

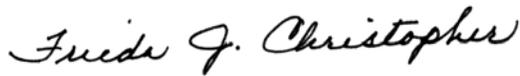
Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Superintendent Rommel announced that the board policy review committee met this week and recommend having OSBA undertake review and revision of the Board Policy manual. They have a good process in place, and would review our policy section by section, rotating updates to the committee and then the board for first and second readings. The cost is estimated to be \$8,250. It was the board's consensus to proceed with the committee's recommendation.

Janice Essenberg updated board members on fencing projects. The fence adjacent to the pool will be replaced. The baseball team has been replacing slats on the fence between a neighbor's property and the high school track. The patron is very pleased with the results. Ms. Essenberg presented a brief capitol reserve fund update. She will also present quarterly updates on the general fund, beginning in November. The Floyd Light project is nearly complete and the final payment will be made soon. The wing at Ron Russell is scheduled for December completion. Phase I of the track project is done. Quotes have not been received yet for Phase II. Required seismic upgrades as part of roofing improvements at Gilbert Heights, Alice Ott, and the high school south gym pushed those projects over budget. Courtyard projects at Lincoln Park and Mill Park are complete and right on budget. Phase III of the district's lighting upgrade is underway. \$550,000 has been budgeted

for this work, although we will receive some Phase II money back through SB 1149 to replenish this fund. Total capital reserve expenditures are just over \$8.8 million, and Ms. Essenberg expects to have the entire list of projects come in very close to the \$11.7million budgeted. Construction excise tax proceeds to date have been approximately \$60,000.

Mr. Burton expressed concern about remarks from teachers quoted in the most recent DDEA Dispatch, saying he sees some of them as a direct attack on board members. He said the comment that board members don't respect teachers was very offensive to him. He personally has three children who are certified teachers. He noted the comment asking what board members pay out of pocket for their own benefits, saying he would be pleased to bring in his pay stub to show anyone interested what is going on in the real world. He said his company's co-pays are all significantly higher than any of the district plans. Mr. Centoni said he thinks only a small sample of the association is represented by these comments. He remarked that most of his adult life he has been on a merit pay system. Mr. Gardner said he believes that the vast majority of our employees are very happy with the district and believe we are doing the best we can by our employees. Board Chair Christopher commented that the rank and file don't understand the true cost of insurance coverage to employers. Susan Summers said October 13 and 27 have been reserved by the mediator for bargaining sessions.

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



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk