

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
October 4, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, October 4, 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; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Dawn Barberis attended the District Site Council meeting on Tuesday, where the group is reviewing assessment data in preparation for development of their improvement plan. Frieda Christopher reported that the Educational Foundation is working on the theme for the next dinner/auction. Ms. Christopher has submitted an application to serve on the East Portland Action Plan committee. Mike Price attended the Fir Ridge open house, which was attended by 141 students and parents. Donn Gardner thanked his fellow board members and the administration for their support upon the passing of his mother earlier this week, noting that the sense of family in the district really rings true at times like these. Board Chair Mattson attended a meeting of the charter school committee, as well as the OSBA regional dinner meeting in The Dalles. She will also participate in regional meetings of Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, in her capacity as an OSBA officer.

Student Body President's Report – Stacy Chao reported that the boys and girls water polo teams are undefeated in conference play. More than 130 students donated blood during today's Red Cross blood drive. She introduced Freshman council member Kim Nguyen. Homecoming Week activities will take place the week of October 15, with the spaghetti dinner scheduled for October 19, 5-7pm prior to the football game against Centennial.

Superintendent's Report – The superintendent noted that Director of Student Services Barbara Kienle is away attending a special education conference. Gary Haase reported that he and Ann Marie Rears attended the bond sale. The district's bonds were sold at 5.66%, with the hope for an average return of 8% over the life of the bonds. The superintendent referred board members to a revised resolution based on the actual rate of sale, which will be part of tonight's consent agenda. Mike Stout commented on an article in today's paper regarding a regional terrorism exercise called "TOPOFF". David Douglas High School will be participating in the simulation.

Enrollment Report – Mike Stout presented the September 30 enrollment report. 10,169 students are enrolled, an increase of 2.9% over last year at this time. Mr. Stout reviewed a two year enrollment comparison by school. Floyd Light Middle School has experienced the largest increase.

Fir Ridge Campus is full with 245 students, a 14% increase over September 2006. 32 elementary classrooms have fewer than 25 students. Elementary class size averages 27.1 district-wide. Of the 18 classrooms with 31 or more students, the majority are at grades 4 and 5, although Mill Park and West Powellhurst have kindergarten classes with 30 or 31 students. Mr. Stout noted that we have historically had similar class sizes at the intermediate grades, although our population and needs have changed over the years. Each of those 18 classrooms has been given additional assistant time. These buildings do not have additional classroom space available, unless they use their vocal music classrooms and have the teacher move from room to room.

This week, principals determined which classrooms had additional need for assistance with English language learners. Mr. Stout said he increased ESL liaison time based on those numbers, and added additional ESL assistants where classrooms numbers are high. Core class section averages at the middle schools and high school were reviewed. Although numbers are lower at Alice Ott, there is no space there to ease class sizes at Floyd Light or Ron Russell. Mr. Burton was pleased to see that high school math class size numbers are much improved from last year. District demographics and ethnicity were also reviewed.

Middle school projections show 4.6% growth this school year. Mr. Stout reviewed a chart designed by John May. Looking at boundaries for each middle school, Mr. May projected enrollment through 2011-12, using 2.5% for projected enrollment growth. If projections prove accurate, middle schools will continue to be very crowded across the board.

Staffing Report – Susan Summers presented this year's fall staffing report. The district's total FTE as of September 30 is 1072.41. 43 permanent classified positions were filled between May and September, with five positions open at this time. The large number of bus drivers hired reflects the loss of a number of drivers to retirement. Licensed FTE of 622.5 represents an increase of approximately 10% from October 2005 to October 2007. In reviewing years of experience, Ms. Summers reported that 40% have five or fewer years of experience. 42 are first year teachers; seven have been teaching more than 30 years. 432 teachers, or 66%, have a Masters degree or higher. She reviewed teaching positions added during the budget process, as well as FTE added subsequent to 2007-08 budget approval. 59 new teachers have been hired due to leaves of absence, resignations and retirements, which also includes 18 brand new positions. Of those 59, 60% came to us with Masters degrees or higher. 150 district employees and three board members are David Douglas High School graduates.

Audience Participation / Break – The board chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Tim Hurley, David Douglas High School teacher, parent and district resident, expressed his concerns about high density housing being developed in the district, and asked whether the district has made any attempts to stop it. Board Chair Mattson shared information on the East Portland Action Plan Committee, which is looking for members. She mentioned that there has been no mechanism for the district to affect housing permit approvals until this legislative session. She noted there would be discussion of related legislation that will be a potential tool for districts, later in the meeting. Ms. Christopher said that in her work with city planners and department heads, she thinks they are finally listening to the district's concerns. She said she is optimistic that a broad range of people from this community will be represented on the East Portland committee. Superintendent Rommel has consented to serve.

There being no further remarks from the audience, a brief recess was declared, after which the meeting was reconvened.

Facilities Report – Superintendent Rommel reported that due to increased enrollment, there are real concerns about the impact on our facilities. She shared information showing school floor plans, square footage, and available classrooms per building. Maps will be updated further to show our community how our buildings are being used. Some of our schools have held more students at one time or another; but support areas (libraries, cafeterias, gyms) are overwhelmed. Gilbert Park, for example, currently has five lunch periods to accommodate all students for lunch. It is obvious that we also need some additional classrooms.

Since the last board meeting, City Commissioner Erik Sten proposed using some urban renewal money from the River District to finance a school on the Deardorff property. The proposal addresses concerns we have expressed regarding housing density and some of the related issues we are dealing with. The Portland Business Alliance does not intend to oppose this proposal. The East Portland Action Plan committee will be discussing this proposal in depth. Superintendent Rommel has agreed to serve on that committee, but they are looking for additional citizen involvement. The superintendent requested comments on the proposal for Commissioner Sten.

It was the board's consensus that the City's acknowledgement is long overdue that their decisions regarding land use planning and zoning activity are having a major impact on our school district and community. The board was generally encouraged that we may get some support on this project. No concerns were expressed regarding the City's input on the structure's design or on incorporating community use. Concerns were expressed regarding having this partnered effort become a lever to increased involvement in school governance by the City. Clarification that only urban renewal funding would be involved, rather than money from the City, was reassuring, as those funds can only be used for infrastructure. Superintendent Rommel said the proposal seems to be a forthright effort to right some wrongs, and to address some very real concerns.

Regarding the timeline, the superintendent said the East Portland Action Plan committee will meet for the next couple of months to look at all of the possible needs of the area and to endorse certain priorities, but ultimately it will take action by PDC and the City Council, which has already expressed support of this proposal. The proposal will come before the City and County Commissions in the spring, when the decision will be made. Action will take place prior to July 1 to align with PDC's budget process. The superintendent expressed hope that if all is in place to be ready to go the minute the action is taken, we could anticipate opening the new building in September 2009.

Superintendent Rommel said another topic that falls under the facilities category is recent legislative action. SB1036, the construction excise tax which passed in the last session of the legislature, permits school districts to collect a tax on development within their boundaries. SB336 will allow districts to weigh in on the approval of future residential land-use applications. Districts will need to develop a facilities plan as part of the process. Business managers from Multnomah County school districts have had one meeting regarding the process for establishing an intergovernmental agreement and the logistics of collection, and confirmed that they would only have to deal with the City of Portland in collection of this tax. The City will research how much tax revenue each district could expect. While in the case of David Douglas it is not a huge amount of money, it would allow us to put some of the burden of the impact on schools on the developers. We have the highest rate of enrollment growth in Multnomah County. The superintendent will bring a resolution to the board at a future meeting, if there is support for the concept. It was the Board's consensus to proceed with investigation and development of resolution proposals.

A suggestion was made to look at North and South Powellhurst, and what could affordably be done to make better use of those spaces. Another suggestion was to consider renovating this office wing into student space and moving District Office out to leased commercial office space. Superintendent

Rommel said the board will have a full facilities workshop in November to identify specific district needs. Those facilities will be part of that discussion, as will the possibility of modular classrooms.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Centoni requested that item #8 be removed from the consent agenda. Mr. Gardner moved approval of items 9 and 10, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Resolution to Adopt Supplemental Budget: PERS Bonds – Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the PERS bond resolution, seconded by Mt. Burton. The motion carried in a vote of 6-1 (Barberis, Burton, Christopher, Gardner, Mattson, Price in favor; Centoni opposed).

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Burton will not attend the October 18th meeting as he will be having surgery.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Mattson announced that the board would reconvene in executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk