

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
October 6, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, October 6, 2011, 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:

Annette Mattson, Board Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Donn Gardner
Frieda Christopher	Mike Price
Shemia Fagan	Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta

Also present were Don Grotting, Superintendent/Clerk; Natalie Osburn, Assistant Superintendent; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Student Body President's Report / Recognitions – ASB President Tanner Adrian announced that this is Homecoming Week, the theme of which is "Round 'Em Up". The Homecoming assembly will be held tomorrow prior to the football game against Gresham. The homecoming king and queen will be crowned at halftime, and a dance will follow the game. New members will be recruited at a club fair on October 20th. Planning is underway for the winter formal. Student Council is again participating in the "Community 101" program, where they will designate the charities to receive \$4,000. \$1,000 will support efforts related to David Douglas activities.

Visiting Delegations / Audience Input – District patron Mike Ewald informed the board that the East Portland Action Plan grants committee, on which he serves, will award \$54,000 in grants for East Portland programs and projects. He forwarded the application form and criteria to Dan McCue to share with district personnel. The committee will review applications in November.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting recently attended an early childhood seminar with national presenters, saying early childhood is the best investment we can make, as studies show that every dollar spent at this level saves \$12-16 dollars later on. He said as we continue bargaining and developing the budget, full day kindergarten is a consideration, but he said he believes doing away with our full day program would cripple this district's children. Dr. Osburn is heading up a Scaling Up group as David Douglas was one of eight districts selected for this state-sponsored program. They recently made a presentation to State School Superintendent Susan Castillo. Scaling Up is a process designed to improve educational outcomes by implementing specific strategies to engage all parties involved.

Superintendent Grotting announced that the next board workshop has been moved from October 20 to October 27, 6pm in the Earl Boyles library, to discuss the possibility of putting a school bond before the voters. Along with Chair Mattson and Earl Boyles Principal Ericka Guynes, he met recently with Children's Institute Director Swati Adarkar and Board Chair Ken Thrasher, who will both attend the workshop and have offered logistical assistance.

The superintendent also met with Dawn Barberis and other representatives from Head Start to discuss blending some funding streams related to the Earl Boyles project. Superintendent Grotting said the Earl Boyles early childhood program will be a national demonstration site.

Dan Ryan, Portland Schools Foundation, will later address the board regarding the Cradle to Career initiative which involves government, school districts, businesses and non-profits.

All cabinet members have been doing learning walks every other week, visiting our schools and spending significant time in classrooms and debriefing with principals. The outreach is receiving very positive responses from staff. Cabinet is working to determine the budget reduction for next fiscal year, taking into account this fall's drop in enrollment and reduction in identified ELL students. As work continues to put the district in a position to have revenues match expenditures, he hopes to have a number by mid-November. The next revenue forecast could come in below projected levels, and the state could reduce this year's funding accordingly. Some positive news – because of money saved last year, this fall's cash carry forward should come in about \$7.5million. A 5% contingency is about \$4.5m. The board will need to decide whether to use the \$3million difference to mitigate future funding reductions.

Bargaining continues, with Certified meeting on October 12 in a small group format, and Classified meeting on October 13. David Douglas was recognized at the Healthy Schools Summit for efforts including installation of water stations. Chair Mattson noted that the childhood obesity epidemic is related to calorie laden drinks. There are water stations available during lunch periods which are being heavily used. The Healthy Kids program provides insurance to any student who is not covered by a parent. Superintendent Grotting announced that the high school received a grant to implement a robotics program, partially through the efforts of Senator Merkley. He also called the board's attention to the high school calligraphy class display in the board room. Student work won honors at the Oregon State Fair. The superintendent attended an event today honoring women in leadership, where Swati Adarkar from the Children's Institute was an honoree. Shemia Fagan also attended, and has been selected as a speaker on a panel at Mt. Hood Community College to promote women in leadership. On Monday, October 10, Congressman Earl Blumenauer will be meeting with Principal John Bier and taking a tour of David Douglas High School. He also requested to meet with any board members who are available.

Dr. Natalie Osburn briefly reviewed the annual October 1 enrollment report. Numbers show a reduction of 174 students compared to last year's report, a loss of 1.6%, with the greatest reduction at the middle school level. ELL numbers are also down. Fall 2011 elementary class sizes are larger than we've had for a long time. Those with 32-33 students are generally 4th and 5th grade classes. Kindergarten classes are about 31 students. Middle school class averages are looking good. David Douglas High School averages had been estimated at 37, which proved true although some electives have much larger sections. Reductions in ELL numbers reflect students who have tested out of the program. The superintendent announced that the district's ELL program will be audited by the state the week of January 16-20.

He also announced that Outdoor School supporters are near their goal to provide funding for a 3 day, 2 night opportunity for all sixth graders including staff stipends. The district will provide transportation. The group has received donations from Friends of the Children and Multnomah County. He said they have worked very hard and have had great support from parents. Dr. Osburn added that Friends of Outdoor School have also applied for a Gray Family grant, but will not be notified of any award until December. Our Educational Foundation is also supporting their efforts.

A question was asked about whether exit data exists to know where our students have moved when they withdraw. Dr. Osburn said that data would have to be compiled. Chair Mattson requested information on enrollment changes across the state.

Academic Status of the District – The state released school reports cards today. Derek Edens introduced a report on the district's academic status for 2010-11, which covered four areas: changes to AYP; David Douglas student demographics; whether we are making gains; and what we are doing to ensure academic success. He described AYP and performance targets, which took jumps upward this year in math and reading. He described testing requirements, and what targets schools must meet to make AYP. The academic portion of the requirements is based on two years of data. Changes since last year included increased targets; adoption of higher expectations for elementary and middle school students in math; and a new method of calculating graduation rates. The school of last record is responsible for reporting, and only regular diplomas are counted; no modified diplomas or GED certificates. Mr. Edens described the methods by which high schools meet AYP graduation requirements. He then reviewed student demographic information, and reviewed mobility rates, which were 21% at the elementary level, 16.5% at the middle schools, and 18.5% at the high school. Free/reduced lunch numbers were about 81% at elementary, 79% at the middle schools, and 78% at the high school.

Mr. Edens described the two paths to AYP – meeting or exceeding the academic target, or by growth (reducing numbers not meeting by at least 10% from previous year). Math scores include both the old target from 2009 and the news target raised for 2010. He reviewed scores by school and grade level, and by subgroup, comparing those numbers with statewide results. Four of our nine elementary schools made AYP last year, and we saw academic gains at our middle schools. Ron Russell MS made terrific gains with the exception of attendance for students with disabilities. This score was 90.8%, while the target was 92%. The high school also made strong gains.

Brooke O'Neill reported on district-level efforts to ensure student achievement. Work is focused on how we're responding to data, and on being strategic about how we increase student achievement. Professional Learning Teams need to know who our students are, and need to know the standards. They are developing assessments along the way to inform instruction. Teachers teaching core academic content need to unwrap the standards, with the goal of proficiency for all students. The PLT hour each week gives staff time to have these discussions. ESL and Special Education are big areas of focus district-wide. Administrators are meeting monthly as Professional Learning Teams doing work on student engagement. Ms. O'Neill reviewed work undertaken in reading, math, language arts and writing. Training on common core standards is to be fully implemented by 2014-15. This will allow future textbook adoptions to relate specifically to that common core. Our ESL team is part of an east county consortium which is working to create an instruction scope and sequence for state adopted ELD standards. The school improvement process has been revised to a model which is more sustainable and is built in a cycle. Principals are formally presenting their school improvement plans to the Cabinet and are given scores and feedback. This is important as we rely so heavily on principals to implement the improvement plan in their buildings.

Mill Park Principal Rolando Florez presented the school's improvement plan to describe what is happening there. The staff is focused on three goals: Reading, English Language Development, and Math. Mill Park's population of 65% ELL students drives their core instruction. Mr. Florez described the school-wide plan of action and strategies being implemented in each area, saying their plan is relying heavily on collaboration between classroom and ELL or Special Education teachers to offer more consistent instruction. Through a partnership with IRCO, a community liaison from Asian Family Services has been provided two days per week to support the staff's school-wide work on English Language development.

Principal Mark Gaulke showed an AYP summary report for 2004, when Floyd Light Middle School test scores in reading and math were very low. The Floyd Light site team began analyzing effective school research and developed a plan which included implementation of interdisciplinary Professional Learning Teams. They worked to improve student achievement by eliminating the anonymous student and reluctant learner, analyzing achievement data, and developing and implementing interventions for students who needed them. A key philosophical shift was moving from the needs of the whole to the needs of the individual. The staff worked on building relationships, and making content relevant, rigorous and engaging. Due to this collaborative effort by the entire staff, all federal targets were finally met in 2009. Although the target was not met last year, a systematic process for intervention is well underway.

Principal John Bier reported on the high school's efforts, saying that three years ago the staff set a three-year goal to reach 70% across the board in all testing areas. Efforts included educating the staff about what it takes to graduate from high school and educating students about the importance of test scores. The staff focused on teaching strategies as well as reading and writing strategies, became involved in the Oregon Writing Project, and started a peer observation program to watch other teachers teach, debrief, and adopt some new strategies. Professional Learning Teams were implemented last school year. Interventions include using data for incoming ninth graders to place students at the appropriate levels, and Freshman Academy, which includes 180 students in two groups with three teachers in core subjects, allowing students to build strong relationships with core teachers. Additional support is provided by Read 180, System 44, and Everyday Algebra. A reading class is provided for 10th and 11th graders who have not passed OAKS. Teacher training included targeted training in work samples so students have the maximum opportunity to graduate. David Douglas became a SUN school this year. The new SUN Coordinator has been rolling out great collaborations to provide additional mentoring and academic support. The Scots Center provides all day tutoring. The high school offers about 15 different advanced placement or college level courses with 575 students enrolled this year. In 2006-07, 56 students took an AP test; in 2010, over 300 students took AP exams, with 57% earning a score of 3 or better. This past year 440 took an exam with 62% earning 3 or better. Mr. Bier said he is proud that students are being offered these opportunities to reach for greater achievement.

Chair Mattson thanked the presenters for their leadership and hard work, saying she is very encouraged and appreciates what they're doing for our students. Superintendent Grotting said our staff has high goals to meet and challenges to overcome, but are making a really great effort.

Approval of September Board Meeting Minutes – Ms. Christopher moved approval, seconded by Ms. Fagan. The minutes were approved in a vote of 7-0.

Bond Discussion – The superintendent announced that the next board workshop will be held on Thursday, October 27, 6:00pm in the Earl Boyles Elementary School library, to discuss a possible school bond. The session is open to the public. DHM has been hired to develop a community survey. Chair Mattson said the workshop was originally planned for general visioning, but the survey company has requested greater clarity from the board prior to developing the survey questions.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none

Board Member Reports – Ms. Christopher announced that members of the East Portland Action Plan will have the opportunity to discuss their efforts with Congressman Blumenauer. Chair Mattson attended the Healthy Schools Summit, remarking that it is nice to see this multi-district grant having

a measurable impact across the county. The Parent Leadership Conference will be held at Parkrose School District on Saturday, October 22, sponsored by Community and Parents for Public Schools and area school districts. Chair Mattson will be a featured speaker at the Farm to Table fundraiser to benefit Zenger Farms, to be held at University of Portland on October 21. The OSBA Fall Regional Dinner Meeting will be held on November 1.

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



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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