

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
November 3, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, November 3, 2011, at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97233.

School Board Members present were:

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

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** – Chair Mattson reported that Dawn Barberis is away this evening due to a work obligation. She introduced ASB President Tanner Adrian. He reported that today's American Red Cross blood drive was a student-organized event which had great participation. The annual canned food drive begins on November 14 and will benefit Celtic Heart and Snow CAP. This year's goal is 15,000 cans. In fall sports news, the football team plays North Medford tomorrow, and both water polo teams made the playoffs, with the girls first in the conference, and the boys team in second place. Winter sports begin on November 14.

**Visiting Delegations** – A celebration of the district's music program was presented by several Elementary Music Teachers. Val Ellett from Gilbert Park said our music program prepares students for a lifetime involvement in music. She reported that 2,162 students are participating in the district's K-12 vocal and instrumental music program. More than \$100,000 in funding has been received from outside organizations. Suzi Zehsazian-Darnell from Menlo Park reported on the success of the music department's professional learning team, saying it is a model of integrity and value of process. The PLT has created district-wide common curriculum and common assessments. Their work will be posted on the district website as well as the national association's website, and will be presented at a statewide conference in January. She reviewed a list of staff accomplishments and said our music department is recognized for excellence. Diane Miller from Mill Park reviewed how music looks in the classroom, noting that lessons reinforce other academic skill areas including reading, math, strengthening memory, listening, fine and gross motor skills, and foster coordination, cooperation and teamwork. Mari Schay from Earl Boyles reported that music primes the brain for learning, describing the process and benefits. She said the music program also promotes parent involvement, and the teachers develop relationships with every student in the school. Music provides students a connection with school and learning. On behalf of the Music Department, she thanked the board for their support of music in David Douglas, and expressed hope that their support can be continued.

Cheryl Bland, Sixth Grade Teacher from Ron Russell Middle School, represents the district on MESD's Outdoor School Advisory Committee. She reported on efforts to provide funding for an abbreviated Outdoor School session for our sixth graders. Gresham-Barlow and Portland Public Schools were able to send their sixth graders for 3 day/2 night sessions this fall. Additional students from PPS and Gresham-Barlow will attend the short session in March, and Riverdale and Corbett students will attend for a full week.

Parents from Reynolds, Parkrose and David Douglas have been doing fundraising in an effort to provide this experience for sixth graders, and we have \$104,000 collected toward a spring session. A grant requests has been submitted to the Gray Family Foundation with a response expected in December. Ms. Bland said our high school students have provided great support for this effort. Some additional funds are banked with DDEF from an earlier "Walk for the Woods" fundraiser, but an additional \$56,000 is still needed in order to provide the 3 day/2 night session. It would take \$190,000 to provide the full week. She presented a list of fundraising events planned and underway, and reviewed some of the community efforts to provide sustainable founding into the future. Ms. Christopher said that this spring's Educational Foundation fundraiser will benefit Outdoor School.

**Audience Input** – District patron Mike Ewald commented on the changes in the law regarding school choice, wondering how many of our staff members will bring their students to David Douglas. He also congratulated ASB President Tanner Adrian for being selected Homecoming King.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Grotting has been a participant at funding coalition meetings in Salem. In the past three years, 16% of the teaching force in Oregon has been reduced. Class sizes are up, and accountability standards continue to rise. The percentage of the state general fund supporting education has been continually reduced. The superintendent commented on an incident near the high school campus during a recent football game, a hostage situation in a private residence near our pool. He said police, staff, administration, students, and parents did a great job, and our kids were well cared for. Congressman Earl Blumenauer spent a day at David Douglas High School recently, where he was escorted by ASB President Tanner Adrian, who was taught how to tie a bow tie by the congressman. He expressed great admiration for the work being done here, and was very impressed with the conduct of our students. Chair Mattson, School to Work Coordinator Deb Murray, and the superintendent met with executives from Adventist Medical Center, who plan to expand learning opportunities for our students and our staff through expanded partnerships. Chair Mattson said that Adventist will sponsor a performance by musical group "Committed" for our high school students. Superintendent Grotting said that Adventist hospital and clinics are not currently preferred providers under OEBC, but that will change effective December 1, 2011.

Rep. Patrick Sheehan visited the superintendent recently, as he now represents a portion of our district in the legislature. Building principals have been presenting their School Improvement Plans to the Cabinet for feedback and critique. Bargaining with both employee groups continues. Superintendent Grotting met with Warner Pacific College President Dr. Andrea Cook to hear about the college. Dr. Cook said they really focus on local students and those in poverty, with 60% of the student body Pell Grant eligible. Governor Kitzhaber plans to visit the district on Thursday, November 10 at 2:30, with the site to be announced.

**Bond Discussion** – Superintendent Grotting reported that a polling company is preparing a community survey to determine support for a bond, which would be used to respond to deferred maintenance needs, energy efficiencies, and provide a small portion of the funding for a preschool pilot at Earl Boyles being developed with other community partners. Although the amount has not yet been determined, the cost of a bond of between \$30-50 million would be offset by some bond debt coming off the rolls. Chair Mattson said that the district is paying for only a portion of the survey and there are legal restrictions on what can be asked from the portion paid for by the district. The Children's Institute will fund the remainder of the survey cost.

**Consent Agenda** – Ms. Christopher moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion was approved in a vote of 6-0.

- **Approval of Budget Calendar for the 2011-12 School Year**
- **Approval of Manager/Supervisor/Confidential Memorandum of Understanding 2011-12**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of October Board Meeting Minutes**

**Appointment of Budget Committee Members** – Positions 4, 5, and 7 on the Budget Committee have expired. Tom Petrie, Position 5, and Christine Larsen, Position 7, have each agreed to be reappointed to new three-year terms. Ms. Christopher nominated each for reappointment, seconded by Mr. Gardner. Appointment of Budget Committee members 5 and 7 were approved in a vote of 6-0. Position 4 remains open. Chair Mattson reviewed the process undertaken last year to solicit interest, and said she was very pleased with quality of applicants. It was the board's consensus to use the same process to fill this vacancy. Dan McCue will post information on the district's website.

**Portland Plan Discussion** – Superintendent Grotting said the Portland Plan is an effort by the City to plan for growth and infrastructure over the next 25 years. A group of superintendents will review and comment on the education portion of the plan. The Plan also includes areas including transportation, housing, and zoning which will impact the district. There will be meetings for public comment. Chair Mattson said that it is important that everyone be aware that every city is required to submit a comprehensive plan to lay out where development happens, and this is the first time for this area to participate in the process. Zoning issues and growth are concerns. No changes are planned for high density here, and no land has been set aside for schools. She said it is critical to the future of our community that patrons respond, and the one chance to get our comments in. She will be testifying. She also said the board has the opportunity to submit their official concerns in writing by the end of this month. She requested the board's permission to work on an official letter from the board and superintendent expressing concerns or support for various components, to provide input on the Plan by the deadline. She received the board's consensus to proceed.

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Chair Mattson serves on the Limited Tax Exemption committee, which is looking at TIF money which goes through the Housing Bureau. She requested board member input on discussions regarding development. Ms. Christopher said a full design review should be a requirement, and she would like to see no more tax exemptions added than the amount losing their exemption. Ms. Mattson said the Housing Bureau is developing a two-year pilot for development of workforce housing which is competitive and private sector/developer- driven. She said we have a champion for our concerns in Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen. He appreciates having David Douglas voice concerns as this area has not been previously represented in these discussions.

**Board Member Reports** – Ms. Fagan attended the Multnomah Bar Association East County Social, where the opening of the East County Court House was discussed. The new courthouse will open next year near SE 185<sup>th</sup> and Stark, providing our community with better access. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta commented on the work being done by the City renewing the Johnson Creek watershed and addressing flooding issues near SE 110<sup>th</sup> and Foster Road. She said there have been opportunities for our students to participate in that effort. Chair Mattson said she was honored to be invited to the Oregon Mentors luncheon representing David Douglas. She also attended the OSBA regional dinner meeting, which she said was very informative, including information on such topics as collective bargaining, hot legal topics, the latest on Title IX, and a review of public meetings and executive session law.

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



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Annette Mattson, Board Chair



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Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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