

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
November 5, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, November 5, 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 – Frieda Christopher reported that she recently attended a meeting regarding fair housing at Floyd Light Middle School. She announced that a community workshop to discuss the Portland Plan will be held at David Douglas High School on November 19, 6:30pm. Ms. Christopher said she was told it is very important that the District be represented at this session. Superintendent Rommel said she spoke with Joe Zender, one of the meeting planners, to express her concern that it was scheduled on a board meeting night without prior consultation. Ms. Christopher said the Educational Foundation is continuing work on the District's 50th anniversary celebration. Although there will not be an oral auction, there will be a raffle of five or six major packages.

Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta attended the meeting of the East Portland Chamber of Commerce on October 21 at Cherrywood Village, along with Superintendent Rommel. The 122nd Avenue project was discussed, and she learned at the meeting that the superintendent served on the initial Chamber board. Superintendent Rommel remarked that Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta won two tickets to OMSI at the meeting, which she donated back to the District.

Annette Mattson reported that in her capacity as OSBA Board President she toured Central Oregon during the week of October 19th, meeting school board members and hearing about unique and common challenges. One district had 80 K-12 students in hundreds of square miles. She attended Mike Schaufler's town hall meeting on October 24. He will host another at Ron Russell Middle School on November 14. Ms. Mattson attended a panel discussion on "Achieving Metropolitan Equity" on October 27 at Portland State University, which featured Myron Orfield, one of the nation's leading social demographers and an expert on racial and economic equity issues. Superintendent Rommel served on the panel. He also spoke on growth and fairness that day in Clackamas. Ms. Mattson said they were fascinating conversations. He spoke of his concerns regarding the "resegregation" of cities, including Portland, where minority and poor families are resettled into concentrated pockets, saying there is a tipping point in a city where you no longer have integration. She asked him what school districts such as ours can do to attract middle income professional families. His suggestions included having magnet programs and special focus schools; continually broadcasting and communicating successes to the larger community; and working with local realtors, getting them into the schools so they know about our successes. Last Friday, Ms. Mattson attended

the REAP banquet, noting that several DDHS students were involved in that event. She shared a Declaration from the Oregon Arts Commission which she received at an arts education conference on November 2, remarking that despite the increased financial challenges the district faces, support for arts programs remains critical. Ms. Mattson has been invited by the City of Portland to serve on a citizens working group of the 122nd Ave project. The group will hold its first meeting on November 16th. A public workshop will be held in December. She plans to facilitate a meeting between the district and ROSE to discuss how we might partner with them in their efforts. Ms. Mattson is preparing for next week's OSBA Conference. She invited board members to the President's Reception following Saturday's banquet.

ASB Report – ASB President Nick Anderson reported that attendance at his year's Homecoming dance was double last year's, with more than 600 students participating. Winters sports began on Monday. The girls water polo team finished first in conference, and will compete at the state level this weekend. The Scots are tied for fourth place in football and are hoping for a playoff slot. The volleyball team finished eighth; boys soccer placed fourth and are headed for the playoffs. Rachel Shelley made First Team, All League in cross country and will go to the state competition. A blood drive will be held on November 17, and Night with the Scots will take place on November 24. Rose Festival applications have been made available in anticipation of this spring's activities.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that nine Portland community and business leaders spent part of Tuesday, October 27, in David Douglas schools as guest principals. The Principal for a Day program is organized each year by the Portland Schools Foundation, giving local leaders a close-up look at public education. Five of our elementary schools and all of our secondary schools participated. West Powellhurst Principal Allen Browning was invited to share his school's experience at the Portland Schools Foundation board meeting. The superintendent reported that fifth grade students at Mill Park will welcome US Children's Poetry Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman on Friday, November 6, 1:15pm. The District received a certificate of appreciation from the Relay for Life, which used the FLMS track for their fundraiser this summer. The David Douglas School Board will receive an outstanding achievement award from the Oregon School Boards Association at the annual conference banquet on Saturday, November 14. The Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association has been named the Spirit of Portland Neighborhood of the Year. Superintendent Rommel congratulated Cheryl Scarcelll Ancheta, who was recently honored by Marylhurst University when she received their Distinguished New Graduate Award.

Kindergarten Report – Curriculum Director Brooke O'Neill introduced Stacie Moncrief, district liaison for our kindergarten programs, and Katie Callaway, North Powellhurst kindergarten teacher, to report on our district's efforts on behalf of our youngest students.

Ms. Moncrief reported that beginning in 2003-04, each of our elementary schools piloted one full day classroom in addition to the half day program. The full day program began in 2005-06. Strengths of our kindergarten program include aligned curriculum, standards and expectations across the district, as well as common assessments and common criteria for grading. The kindergarten curriculum includes a strong core reading and math program, and supplemental and intervention programs for students not meeting standards.

Former district teacher and reading coach Shane Bassett, now a principal in another district, did a longitudinal study of the impacts of our full day program compared to the half day, for his doctoral

dissertation. He asked what effect the full day program has on the reading achievement of high-risk, mid-risk, and low risk kindergarten students, and whether the effects persist through third grade. An intact sample of 138 students was followed from kindergarten through Grade 3 using the DIBELS assessment. Full day students outperformed half day students as whole and among subgroups. The advantages were maintained at the end of first, second and third grade. Using the state assessment for third graders, the entire intact sample who attended the full day program met or exceeded state standards, providing exciting evidence of closing the achievement gap in the early years. DIBELS data also confirms growth in first grade readiness since implementing full day program.

Katie Callaway described her background in teaching 15 years in our schools, originally in Title I, then as a full day kindergarten teacher, second grade, third grade, then as a literacy coach, before returning to a kindergarten classroom. She described the daily schedule of a traditional half day program compared with the additional opportunities of a full day schedule, which includes a 90 minute reading block. The full day permits time to include PE, music, library, counseling, and computers. Academic benefits include a solid foundation in reading, writing, and math. ESL students are immersed in a language-rich environment for a longer period of time each day. There is also adequate time for assessments in order to individualize instruction. Numerous social benefits were noted as well.

In closing, Ms. Moncrief shared a letter from a first grade teacher expressing her appreciation of the full day kindergarten program and the efforts kindergarten teachers are making to have students ready for first grade. Mr. Centoni commented that the board has made the commitment to the full day program for the past three years, along with many important programs. As future budgets are determined, there will be some hard choices to be made. In considering quality over quantity, he requested feedback from teachers and principals regarding the idea of a full day kindergarten program, half time. Ms. Mattson requested a copy of Mr. Bassett's report to share with legislators, saying 2010 will be the time to lobby our legislators to fund full day kindergarten statewide.

Actuarial Reports – Janice Essenberg reported that the actuarial study of our Early Retirement Plans (health and stipend) is being finalized. She will provide a summary for board members when it is completed. The study will provide valuable data as we move into the 2010-11 budget process.

Last week the District received its PERS December 31, 2008 Valuation Report, which presents advisory information on employer-specific contribution rates and side accounts. Ms. Essenberg said the most important part looks at what our rates could be in the future. This is an advisory report only, and will not impact our rates for the next biennium. 2008 was an anomaly; earnings are already up 14-15% in 2009. 2009-11 rates are projected at 9.3% for Tiers I and II. The report shows a net employer rate of 17.3%. The net increase will be about 4.95%. Over the four years beginning 2011-12, districts will be looking at steady increases. The good news is that we have been setting aside a little more than we need for this year's debt service, building up a small reserve to offset future cost increases. Potential rates depend on how the market performs, and decisions the PERS board will make. Oregon's in better shape than many other public employee retiree systems around the country, but there needs to be a statewide solution. Ms. Essenberg reported that she has been attending PERS meetings for several years, saying that employer groups need to do a better job of being at the table. PERS board members have a very strong fiduciary duty to PERS members, but not necessarily to PERS employers.

Audience Participation / Break – The Board Chair opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

2009 OSBA Officer and Resolutions Election – Superintendent Rommel presented a copy of the OSBA Voter's Pamphlet describing four resolutions and a slate of officers that are being referred to member school boards for a vote. Voting opens on November 16th, the day after the OSBA Annual Convention. Action on this item will be taken at the next board meeting. Ms. Mattson explained details of each of the resolutions.

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

- **Approval of Mandated Administrative Regulations**
 - EEACC – AR: Discipline Procedures for District – Approved Student Transportation
 - GBEDA – AR: Drug and Alcohol Testing – Transportation Personnel
 - GCDA/GDDA – AR: Criminal Records Checks / Fingerprinting
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of October Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – A meeting and workshop to discuss the Portland Plan will be held by the City of Portland Planning Bureau on Thursday, November 19, 6:30-9:00pm at David Douglas High School. As this will be an important forum for the District to provide input, it was the Board's consensus to cancel the board meeting scheduled for that evening. That evening's agenda will be postponed to the meeting on December 10.

Ms. Essenberg was asked to report on the 2009 ending fund balance at the December 10 meeting.

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



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk