

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
December 10, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, December 10, 2009, 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:

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

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 that her recent activities included the I-205 bike path dedication, participation on the Lents Urban Renewal advisory committee, and presiding over the OSBA Conference, which received great feedback on this year's workshop and training offerings. She also attended the first meeting of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue pilot committee, the district's Classified Employee Relations Council meeting, and the City's community meeting on the Portland Plan. She said that the high school musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie", was really well done, with wonderful sets. She enjoyed the AVID dinner on Monday night which was very well attended, but was very disappointed in the community turnout for the 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue pilot community workshop held at Gilbert Heights. 30 people attended from various City agencies, but only eight community members attended. She leaves tomorrow to attend NSBA's Pacific Regional meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Frieda Christopher said having the Board cancel their November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to attend the session on the Portland Plan made a big impact on City officials. She reported that the Mayor met with the East Portland Action Plan committee and told them to prepare a budget for \$1 million, double last year's. The City will fund Lore Wintergreen's position for another year. Ms. Wintergreen's effort to bring diverse representation to discussions resulted in 48 people attending, representing a cross section of East Portland's population. EPAP will be collecting data via their website regarding volunteerism in East Portland, to demonstrate to the City that we have an involved and committed community. She was pleased to report that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee has received RSVPs from some of the notable grads who were invited to April's anniversary dinner.

**Student Body President's Report** – ASB President Nick Anderson reported on high school activities. Two more performances remain for the musical, which is on stage tonight at the PAC. A Giving Tree sponsored by National Honor Society will benefit the "Toys for Tots" program. Winter sports are in full swing. A winter assembly will be held next week.

**Superintendent's Report** – In order to allow additional time for the budget discussion, Superintendent Rommel presented a brief written report on activities and events. Her report is appended to the minutes.

**2009 OSBA Officer and Resolutions Election** – Oregon School Boards Association’s slate of officers and resolutions were presented for a vote. Mr. Centoni moved to approve the full slate of officers and resolutions as presented, seconded by Mr. Price. Ms. Christopher commented that she didn’t completely agree with Resolution #3, which would discontinue the practice of referring a slate of officers to member boards for ratification, but would support the motion. The OSBA officers and resolutions were approved in a vote of 7-0. The results of the Board’s vote will be submitted to OSBA as part of the statewide election.

**Superintendent Selection Committee Recommendations** – Chair Barberis announced that, per the superintendent’s selection calendar, the Board is scheduled to approve a slate of candidates for the selection committee at the January 7 board meeting. This committee will review the applications of all candidates and submit recommendations of those to be interviewed. She suggested that the committee be comprised of all board members, three community members representing parents, the business community, and post-secondary education, and two each from administrators, DDEA, and OSEA, each selected from within their organizations. The Chair requested board member recommendations for community representatives by January 4. The opportunity to serve on the committee as a community representative will be posted on the district website, with a deadline of December 31 for responses. Response will be made via email to the board leadership.

Linda Borquist will provide a process for reviewing the applications to the committee members at the January 21 board meeting. The applications will be available on-line for selection committee members to review and rate. The group will also meet to discuss their recommendations.

**Approval of November Board Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Mattson moved approval of the minutes of the November 5, 2009 board meeting as presented, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The minutes were approved in a vote of 7-0.

**Budget Planning Workshop** – Superintendent Rommel opened the discussion by reviewing how the timelines for budget planning, superintendent selection, and collective bargaining align. It was commented that many of our staff and community members are unaware that the district is in deficit spending mode, and that a good communication plan is essential as we begin considering budget reductions.

The superintendent reviewed some considerations to begin the discussion. The District faces potential revenue reductions in 2010-11; if the tax measures fail we could lose approximately \$5.5million in a worst case scenario (representing about 70 teaching positions). Due to that large amount it makes sense to do what we can this year to mitigate those losses. Last year, we had some ARRA stimulus funds through Title I and IDEA. We used Title 1 dollars to fund part of our full day kindergarten program. IDEA funded PBS and school improvement coordinators. We won’t have those funds next year. December’s state budget forecast set out some economic triggers such as unemployment rates that could impact school funding during this school year if the economic downturn continues. We could lose about \$1.5million in 2009-10. Last year we lost about \$3million. \$7-9million will be used from our reserves this year. We have been dipping into reserves each school year since the conclusion of the I-Tax.

A number of grants are also coming to an end. The mentor teacher grant funded two positions this year. The \$100,000 AT&T grant concludes this year at the high school. Some after school programs funded from the Children’s Investment Fund are one year programs. We will resubmit a 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant request in February in partnership with Lewis & Clark. Other decisions which

were made earlier may need to be reconsidered. There was a moratorium on the purchase of science textbooks last year; next year world languages are scheduled to be purchased. We'll need to develop a strategy to catch up later if we continue our moratorium on textbook purchases.

Superintendent Rommel reported that the State is sticking to their new graduation requirements. It will take 2.5 FTE at the high school to accommodate the required third year of science. In order to fund the FTE for that requirement, we may need to look at electives elsewhere. Regarding contract negotiations, the Oregon Employee Benefits Board expected a 9% increase in insurance rates, but the increase actually was 15%. The legislature put some constraints on increases (the 15% came in under those guidelines), but those constraints will be lifted next school year. It was suggested that the board avail themselves of Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta's expertise to seriously review our plan options going into bargaining. It was noted that any plan we select will likely result in some increase. Vice Chair Gardner said that even if all 2010-11 expenses remain static, our budget will be \$5.5 million short, with only \$500,000 in reserves.

Ms. Essenberg briefly reviewed the November financial statements and projections. Although we projected enrollment growth of 100 students, actual growth was 653 as of November 25, which could eventually impact the budget to the good by \$2.6million. We have projected expenditures to be 96% of budgeted, although we have historically come in at 93%. If that holds true, it would positively impact ending fund projections by up to \$7.6million, so the news is slightly better than it was earlier. At this point the state has indicated it will maintain funding for this year as planned.

Suggestions for further study included: reviewing the textbook purchase schedule; determining how long to forgo bus purchases; looking at the impact of the PERS assessment; considering costs savings and instructional impacts of full day, half time kindergarten versus a half day program; considering a combination of days and program cuts and looking at how best to schedule lost days for maximum savings; looking at the cost benefit of requesting a waiver of instructional hours; whether there would be any cost benefits of offering an retirement incentive to eligible employees; review of MESD resolution and contract funding; whether there is an alternative to TAG's pull out program that could result in savings; whether we could reduce any unreimbursable bus routes; looking at the number of high schoolers who ride versus drive, and what cost savings could be realized by dropping high school bus runs and providing TriMet passes through the City for high schoolers; the cost impacts of having itinerant specialists who serve more than one building, rather than losing a specialty entirely; whether some programs could be offered at a reduced level rather than being eliminated; whether it would be better to increase class size than lose a program; and what cost savings might be realized if a specific number of instructional assistants were assigned to each building to use as needed, rather than assigning them by program. A list of each program, including costs and staffing for each, was requested in order to prioritize them, as well as information on which of the programs are required. It was remarked that our demographics need to be strongly considered as the board determines priorities. A list of items that the board can control (those that are outside of collective bargaining) was also requested.

Superintendent Rommel said that, unfortunately, as we prepare the budget, reducing supplies and refreshments won't be sufficient. People are the lion's share of the budget. She noted that there is no program that we have put in place that we don't think is a great thing for our students. That will be the hardest part of this process. Every single decision is going to hurt. As we look at ways to address these fiscal concerns, what's best for kids remains paramount, but the board will have to make some really tough decisions.

Vice Chair Gardner announced that he, Mr. Centoni, and Ms. Christopher serve on the budget and finance subcommittee. He requested direction from board members as to the approach to take

regarding budget preparation. He requested input on whether to start with a targeted dollar reduction, or prioritize a list of programs and costs to reach our target. Vice Chair Gardner noted that even if both tax measures pass, the district will be looking at significant cuts regardless. He would like to develop a list of priorities, and an indication from each board member as to how they view those priorities, and requested that input by the January 7 board meeting.

The superintendent said the community will also be asked to weigh in on their priorities via a web survey, as well as in face to face meetings. She noted that past information sessions for patrons really showed attendees what a difficult process this is, and how few dollars are actually saved by reducing some programs. Having some consensus from the public makes the budget reduction process less painful. Input will also be solicited from the staff.

Chair Barberis said it is important to get some of the superintendent's information out to our staff and patrons now via the district website, to share cuts that will have to be made regardless of the January election. It could be reinforced again and expanded upon after the holidays. She asked the superintendent for the total targeted reduction figure. Superintendent Rommel said the budget will need to be reduced by \$7million in order to maintain the recommended minimum reserve of \$5million (5% of budget) going into next school year.

The Board Chair requested that suggestions be submitted to members of the budget and finance subcommittee via email.

**Audience Participation** – Chair Barberis opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – none

**Adjournment** – There being no other business, Board Chair Barberis 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.



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk