

Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
September 23, 2021

A Board Workshop of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 at 6:00pm in the David Douglas School District Boardroom at 1500 SE 130th Ave, Portland, OR 97233.

School Board Members present were: Stephanie D. Stephens, Board Chair; Donna Barber, Vice Chair; Aaron Barrow, Frieda Christopher, Andrea Valderrama, and Hoa Nguyen.

Also present were: Ken Richardson, Superintendent/Clerk; Derek Edens, Director of Assessment & Technology, and Laurie Brunelle, Board Secretary.

The Workshop Agenda included the following:

Call to Order / Native American Land Acknowledgement

Presentations by Applicants for Board Vacancy – Position 4 – Ms. Stephens announced we have 4 potential new Board members to replace our outgoing member, Sahar Muranovic. Each applicant will be called on to give a presentation followed by an individual question/answer session with the Board. The full presentations are located in the David Douglas School District Board Meeting Archives.

John Flaherty

- Has lived in the David Douglas School District since 1990.
- His kids attended David Douglas schools and currently he has two grandkids attending in the District.
- Impressed with the David Douglas school system as compared with others.
- Has been active in all the schools his kids have attended.
 - President and Vice President of the PTA.
 - Coach.
 - David Douglas Dad's Club (22 years).
 - Helped the high school and Fir Ridge with mock interviews, resume building, and scholarships.
- He feels it is time to take a step up to a different level of volunteering for the District.

Christopher Piekarski

- Has been a member of the David Douglas community since 2008 and has two kids in David Douglas schools.
- Started his career as a Criminal Prosecutor in Marion and Multnomah County and is currently an Attorney for All State Insurance Company.
- Provided some stats to consider in the following areas.
 - On time graduation and five year completion.
 - Enrollment and average spending per pupil.
 - Percentage of white teachers and white students.
 - Free and reduced lunch.
- Provided examples of what is working in the District and what we can do better.
- He feels that Board members need to:
 - Support the schools, care, listen, learn, and act.
 - Serve the vision and not themselves and have a stake in the outcomes (like having kids in the schools).
- The Strategic Plan's in place and working on diversity issues: we need to make sure to follow through with the plan.

Deian Salazar

- Has lived in the David Douglas District since 2013.
- Former student who has experienced the impacts of education policy on neurodiverse and BIPOC students.
- He serves on the Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder: advocates for underserved communities.

- Has a vision to improve the District to reach its full potential.
 - Pushing for more personalized education methods.
 - Restructuring and reimagining curriculum to allow for a more relatable and effective learning experience.
 - Reenergizing community engagement and ensure everyone has a voice.
 - Push to reduce class sizes and encourage class bonding through increased socialization.
 - All budget decisions should be carefully analyzed by the School Board with public input.
 - Improve social skills in a way that respects the boundaries of students.
- David Douglas teachers and staff are over worked and under supported.
 - Firmly advocate for pay raises and adjusting their responsibilities to reduce stress.
- He feels it's important that every member of the Board is in communication with each other.

Gabriela Saldana-Lopez

- She transferred into the District in the 3rd grade and is the first one to graduate in her family.
- Has worked on various issues: climate change, education access, food justice, and labor rights.
- Provided David Douglas stats: she's had firsthand experience with these being a former student.
 - Students: 76 languages and 75.5% on free and reduced lunch.
 - A majority of staff are white and a majority of students are BIPOC.
- Occupational Experience:
 - Americorp member for College Possible.
 - East County Rising Canvasser.
 - Bus Riders Unite Community Organizer.
 - Oregon Food Bank Coordinator.
- Community and Leadership Experience:
 - Portland Utility Board.
 - East Portland Tenants.
 - Patos Para Prosperidad.
 - East County Rising.
- DDHS Students expressed: Concern for lack of representation, facing racism and gender based discrimination and unjust discipline.

Below are some of the questions that were asked by the School Board. The full question/answer session is located in the David Douglas School District Board Meeting Archives.

- How many people in your life disagree with you and how have you managed to create a dialog with them?
- What is your stance on mandating vaccines for students?
- Watched Board meetings: What challenges do you see and how would you move forward with the Board team?
- Hispanic/Latinix Heritage Month: How are you reflecting on and celebrating this?
- Regarding the current make-up of the board: What can you bring to the team that isn't here now?
- What is your definition of racial equity and what direction should David Douglas take toward that vision?
- What will this seat give you the ability to do that you can't do now?
- Describe a significant relationship with someone that's different than yourself.

Adjourn



Stephanie D. Stephens, Board Chair



Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk