

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
January 4, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, January 4, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130, Portland, Oregon 97233.

School Board Members present were:

|               |                           |                    |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
|               | Donn Gardner, Board Chair |                    |
| Dawn Barberis |                           | Frieda Christopher |
| Bruce Burton  |                           | Carl Clinton       |
| Mike Centoni  |                           | Annette Mattson    |

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Courtney Wilton, Director of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk; Sherrie Barger, Director of Curriculum; Barbara Kienle, Director of Student Services; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

**Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Board Member Reports** – Carl Clinton attended Tuesday's swearing in of new Portland Police officers, which included a graduate of David Douglas High School, Jasmine Crowley. Frieda Christopher reported that businesses can sponsor a table at the Foundation Dinner/Auction on April 21. Donation items are welcome. Board Chair Gardner met with the Citizens for Schools committee for an election debriefing session. The group concluded that there was no one reason for the failure of the district's bond measure request, but that the district should improve its ongoing communication with the community.

**Student Body President's Report** – Elyn Ward reported that winter play auditions are underway this week, and preparation for the winter formal is in full swing. The annual Father/Daughter Banquet will be held on February 28, and will include a catered dinner and dance.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel presented board members with a token of appreciation as well as proclamations from the Governor and the Multnomah County Superintendent's Council, in honor of National School Board Appreciation Month. She remarked that board members are the ultimate volunteers, donating hours of effort on behalf of our students. Barbara Kienle announced that Ron Russell Middle School student Jacob Wittren collected more than 8,000 books for the Bedside Book program, which distributes books to several service agencies. He was the program's top collector for the second year in a row. Mike Stout reported that Cherry Park and Gilbert Heights elementary schools were nominated for "Celebrating Student Success" awards by the Oregon Department of Education, for their successful work with at-risk students. He also announced that the transportation department staff will participate in Positive Behavior Supports training on January 26. High school administrators are preparing for implementation of the program at the high school. Mr. Stout and Ericka Guynes have been invited to address the PBS coaches' conference in Corvallis in February. Superintendent Rommel invited board members to join administrators, supervisors and coordinators for a workshop on public engagement to be held January 12 from 9:30am to noon. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo was sworn in on Tuesday. She mentioned David Douglas School District in her remarks, noting our full day kindergarten program and support for at risk students.

**Proposed Graduation Requirement Changes: Input Session** – Superintendent Rommel introduced this agenda item, saying the State Board of Education is planning to increase the graduation requirements and tie higher expectations to the diploma. They have asked districts to hold information sessions to get input from the staff and community regarding the proposal. Derek Edens reported that the changes in graduation requirements are being proposed in order to ensure that Oregon high school graduates are ready to compete in a global economy. An Oregon committee joined with 24 other states to form a diploma project network, to review demands of colleges and the workplace. John Murray described the proposed requirement changes and discussed potential impact on our current program. Board members and audience member John May presented oral remarks, and participants completed a survey regarding the potential changes. Those surveys and a summary of the comments will be sent to the Oregon Department of Education for consideration. The State Board will make a decision on the proposals on January 19.

Sherrie Barger, John Murray, and high school and middle school math teachers will be meeting this spring with a consultant to review some district-wide strategies to better align math curriculum. The superintendent reported that an additional section of math was added at the middle schools, both to challenge gifted students and to provide support to those who are struggling. It was suggested that advanced math classes at the middle schools be considered for high school credit, if course requirements are the same.

**Multnomah Education Service District Presentation** – Superintendent Rommel welcomed MESD Superintendent Ed Schmitt and ESD board members Harry Ainsworth and Kevin Spellman, who presented their annual report to the board and described the service programs provided to David Douglas through resolution funds and general fund contracts. The majority of services provided are for special education students. Dr. Schmitt commented on the excellent working relationship of county superintendents, noting that they were a very effective block in providing input to the county commission regarding school funding issues. Dr. Schmitt was thanked for his report and congratulated on his upcoming retirement in June.

**Audience Participation / Break** – A brief recess was declared, after which the meeting was reconvened. The board chair opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

**Consent Agenda** – Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Oregon Standards Compliance Assurance**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes**

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Superintendent Rommel presented copies of four possible drafts of the 2007-08 school year calendar, as an information item. The drafts will appear on the district's website in order for input to be gathered from parents and staff members before a final recommendation is made to the board on January 18. It was the board's consensus to support the majority choice. Mr. Gardner said the superintendent's mid-year report will be an agenda item for next meeting. Any specific questions may be sent to her as she prepares her report. Annette Mattson reported that the superintendent and board leadership met with Rep. Mike Schaufler at the end of December. He encouraged board to visit Salem to observe the legislative process and participate. Ms. Mattson attended a business/government summit, and reported that state leaders hope to establish a floor for education funding by April 1 in order to assist districts with budgeting.

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



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Donn Gardner, Board Chair



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Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

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