

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
January 8, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, January 8, 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:

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

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

**Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Board Member Reports** – Annette Mattson and Superintendent Rommel attended the swearing in of Mayor Sam Adams on Monday. The ceremony was hosted by Parkrose School District. Mike Price said he was pleased the classroom addition at Ron Russell Middle School has been completed. He suggested that the Board collectively respond to the articles on contract negotiations which were published in December's issue of *The Highlander*. Mike Centoni said he supported Mr. Price's suggestion of a Board response. Board Chair Christopher thanked Ms. Mattson for representing the Board at the Mayor's event. She announced that the City Council meeting which was cancelled last month due to snow has been rescheduled for February 18, 6:30pm at Midland Library. Ms. Christopher also announced that PDC has purchased the old bingo/JJ North site on NE Halsey as the future site of a park. Contract negotiations with teachers are continuing.

**Student Body President's Report** – Christina Patan, member of the Senior Class Council, reported on student body activities. Work continues in preparation for the winter formal, "Night on the Nile." One project will be to construct a large pyramid as a backdrop. Rose Festival applications are due tomorrow. Not as many students are trying out this year due to the changes in selection procedures made by the Rose Festival Association. Student votes will only count for a quarter of the decision in the selection process this spring.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel reported that Owa Odighizuwa, one of our student athletes, was invited to the US Army High School Football All-American Combine in San Antonio, Texas, where he was named Most Valuable Defensive Player. She remarked that in addition to this national recognition, he was also named to the All-State Second team, along with David Douglas senior Jon Byers. Three additional Scots received All-State Honorable Mention honors, Brian Teague, Adron Collins, and Dimitrios Finney. Susan Summers presented an update on contract negotiations. Session #22 took place on Monday in a small group format, with a good, productive discussion focused on the financial portion of the contract. Mike Stout was pleased to accept an award for David Douglas School District from the Police Activities League at a ceremony held December 11 at the Pittock Mansion. He said there were very nice remarks made about the district, and the League very much appreciates the partnership they have had with us over the last four years. Janice Essenberg presented board members with a copy of the audit report for their review. The auditor's formal presentation will be made at the January 22 board meeting.

The superintendent announced that David Douglas School District has been chosen to participate in the "State Implementation and Scaling Up of Evidence-Based Practices" (SISEP), quite an honor. Oregon is one of four states selected to participate in this five year project, an initiative that aligns state and district professional development goals and resources. Oregon, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois received federal grants to implement the project. David Douglas is among four Oregon school districts chosen, along with Hillsboro, Tigard-Tualatin, and North Santiam. Our district was selected in recognition of our staff's implementation of school-wide Positive Behavior Support.

Superintendent Rommel noted that January is National School Board Recognition Month. Establishing Scots Pride was the high school's mission this year. The superintendent thanked members of the board for modeling Scots Pride in every way. Scots Pride shirts will be ordered for each board member. Additional tokens of appreciation were presented by several district schools. Added together, current members of the Board have amassed more than 100 years of service as board members of David Douglas School District. The superintendent expressed her thanks for their staunch support of all facets of education for David Douglas students.

**District Demographic Data Update** – Mr. Stout presented a snapshot of district demographic data, which included some information from the US Census Bureau. Enrollment over the past ten years has increased by 2,394 students. In just the past five years enrollment has increased 9.4%. In response to that growth, the teaching staff has increased by 26.5%, support staff by 30.4% and administration by 19.2% over the past five years. 73.2% of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch. Ten years ago that figure was about 47%. The district started tracking and reporting on the number of homeless students four years ago. 255 students have been identified as homeless at this point in the year, about the same mid-year total as the past couple of years. Mr. Stout reviewed the 2008 federal poverty guidelines. Of the fifteen largest school district in Oregon, David Douglas has the highest level of poverty. Of 148 schools in Multnomah County, nine David Douglas schools are in the first quartile of the poverty index and four are in second quartile. Total population in the school district was listed as 54,057 from the Census Bureau's 2007-08 data. Of that total, 9,926 were ages 5-17. 2,592 of those students were living in poverty.

In reviewing the district's ethnicity data, 46% are students of color, with our Hispanic population showing the most growth. 12.9% of our students receive special education services, totaling 1,333 students as of the December special education census. English Language Learners have increased from 1,336 in 1998 to 2,450 this year, coming down a bit from our high in 2005. This year, 48% of Mill Park's students receive ESL services. Ron Russell serves the highest number of ESL students among our middle schools. Natalie Osburn remarked that when the report on statewide drop-out rates was issued this fall, she sat down with a group from the high school to review the report and develop strategies. In looking at those numbers, they discovered that a large portion of students considered drop-outs by the state were actually fifth-year ESL students who were in attendance at David Douglas High School. The state considered them drop-outs because they didn't graduate on time. Students who attend school in outside placements were also counted as drop-outs.

Mr. Stout concluded his report by saying that David Douglas serves a very diverse student population with diverse needs.

**Superintendent's Mid-Year Goal Report** – Superintendent Rommel presented her mid-year goal report. Goals for 2008-09 were developed during last summer's board retreat. Major goal statements were reviewed under the headings of Instruction, Management, and Community Involvement. An earlier report on the State Assessment highlighted focus areas and efforts to support student achievement. Staff development and school improvement plans have been tied to

those goals. The Facilities Task Force has been meeting and will conclude its work with a report to the Board this spring. A board subcommittee is in the process of updating the Board Policy Manual. A report was presented earlier on the proposed timeline for a superintendent search. Efforts to enhance communication with our constituents include expansion of the key communicators list, publication of a seasonal community newsletter and an online staff newsletter, *The Piper*, and enhancement of the district website. Parent involvement efforts are being bolstered by coordinator Katy Chase, and by the development of a parent involvement action plan through the *La Familia* project.

**Update on Deardorff Property Status** – Superintendent Rommel reported that the decision from the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) came in on January 2. This was the ruling on the appeal of the City’s decision to create a satellite urban renewal district using funds from the River District to construct a school in David Douglas School District. LUBA ruled in the City’s favor on all issues except for the explanation of how the school/community facility would benefit the River District Urban Renewal Area. The City/PDC attorneys will have an opportunity to respond to that issue. The superintendent will be discussing the next steps with PDC and the City.

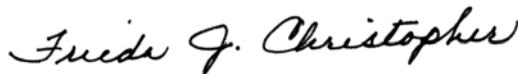
**Consent Agenda** – Mr. Burton moved approval of the following Consent Agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- **Approval of MESD Programs and Services 2009-10**
- **Oregon Standards Compliance Assurance**
- **Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes**

**Audience Participation** – Board Chair Christopher 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 Christopher announced that the Board would reconvene in Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining, and (2)(h) Litigation. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.

  
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Frieda Christopher, Board Chair

  
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Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk