

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
February 2, 2012**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 2, 2012, 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:

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| Annette Mattson, Board Chair |              |
| Dawn Barberis                | Donn Gardner |
| Frieda Christopher           | Mike Price   |
| Shemia Fagan                 |              |

Also present were Don Grotting, Superintendent/Clerk; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

**Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Student Body President's Report / Recognitions** – ASB President Tanner Adrian reported that nearly 800 students attended January 28's Winter Formal, with very positive feedback received. The second semester kicked off this week. In winter sports news, the boys varsity basketball team is currently ranked seventh in the state, and second in the conference. The girls team is also doing well with a record of 10-7. The wrestling team is having a great season, as are both swim teams, who won boys' and girls' district meets. Spring sports start at the end of February. On February 7 & 10, ASB officers will be giving Portland mayoral candidates tours of the high school campus. The Father-Daughter Banquet will be held on February 22. Speeches and voting for this year's Rose Festival princess are scheduled for February 23.

**Visiting Delegations / Audience Input** – none

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Grotting reported on the recent deaths of two students, expressing sympathy to family and friends, and thanking the District Flight Team for their hard work in supporting our students and staff. A letter received from Oregon Department of Education reported on their recent audit of our Title III/ELL program, which included classroom observations and interviews with students and families. The audit resulted in no major findings. Mr. Grotting congratulated our ELL staff for their fine work. Recently released graduation data for our high school students report a 7% gain over last year, with 70% graduating in four years. John Bier and Sharon Webster testified before the Mayor and City Council yesterday and were complimented for that improvement. As an outcome of OSHA's recent visit to the high school, the superintendent said we're finding out what we do well and finding out which processes we need to put in place to improve all of our processes regarding chemical safety in the district. Superintendent Grotting was pleased to announce that Barbara Kienle has been named OACOA Educator of the Year for Oregon, an honor he said was well deserved. The CAC has been meeting, with good participation and great dialogue as discussions focus on strategic planning. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7pm in the District Board Room and are open to the public. The Portland Roast is coming up, sponsored by All Hands Raised, with proceeds to benefit all children in Multnomah County. He asked board members to let him know if they wish to attend. The district received a grant through the Oregon Data Project which provides training for administrators in using data to drive instruction. The first training session was held this week after school and should yield great dividends. Administrators are looking at core curriculum implementation in our classrooms, and the resources needed to implement. Chair Mattson noted that Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta was not available for tonight's meeting due to a work obligation.

**Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the January Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

**Bond Survey Results** – Superintendent Grotting reported that as part of the board's consideration of whether to place a bond measure before the voters, they hired DHM Research, a polling survey company. DHM conducted a telephone survey of our community members to get an indication of whether the community would support a bond effort. He introduced Su Midghall and Rebecca Ball from DHM.

Ms. Midghall described the methodology of the telephone survey of 300 likely district voters. The sample reflects the age distribution and demographics of our community. Ms. Ball remarked that The Children's Institute paid for some questions which were tagged on to the survey, which would be reviewed as well.

Ms. Midghall reviewed the general perceptions of the community, noting that public safety and K-12 schools ranked highest from a list of priorities, and that 62% have a positive view of David Douglas School district, with three in ten respondents having a very positive view. When asked whether they would vote for a bond, 43% responded with a firm yes, and another 18% with a likely yes. That combined 61% indicates that a bond would have a good chance of passing, with a well-organized campaign. In reviewing responses to a list of possible bond projects, top tier priorities were roof repairs, replacing old drinking fountains, and replacing floors with asbestos tile. Middle tier items were replacing textbooks, computers, and HVAC improvements. Items receiving lowest priority were security programs, gym floors, and covered play structures.

Ms. Ball presented some reflections on the survey results. Only 25% of our voters have children under 18, so it will be important to get information out to the broader community. The survey was designed for a May election, which would skew a little older in terms of turnout than a general election in November. The May ballot will be less crowded but turnout will be lower. Turnout in May historically skews to age 55 and over, which are not necessarily the district's biggest supporters. The survey did have high support in that age bracket, but support will be even higher in the younger bracket. The November ballot will be more crowded, but voter turnout much higher. Mr. Gardner said he was gratified that the survey results were so positive. He said if a bond passes in May it will result in a very different situation regarding our district budget.

The board's consensus was to proceed with putting a bond before the voters in May, and to reactivate the Citizens for Schools campaign committee. A formal resolution will be prepared for action at the next board meeting. Superintendent Grotting said there are maintenance and facility issues will have to be addressed from the general fund without bond funding. Mr. Grotting commented on remarks made by Mr. Mike Ewald at a previous board meeting that the passage of a bond equals jobs, saying that is a true statement. Ms. Midghall said that in view of the survey results the board really has a good chance to pass a bond. She suggested that the board encourage our parents to register to vote as they are among the district's biggest supporters. She and Ms. Ball were thanked for providing their expertise and information.

**Open Enrollment Determination** – Assistant Superintendent Natalie Osburn presented the Cabinet's recommendation regarding open enrollment under HB 3681. She brought two action items for the board's consideration: whether to participate, and if so, how many openings we will declare. She presented recommendations for numbers by school, which include those currently here on inter-district transfer with the addition of a few openings per school. High school openings are a little higher than current inter-district transfer numbers, as Mr. Bier said they could accommodate 90 students under this program. Under this proposal, we would not admit students to Fir Ridge through

open enrollment. Recommended openings total 219, with priority given to students currently attending our schools on inter-district transfer, and their siblings. Dr. Osburn reviewed the application process and state-mandated timelines. The board will have an annual opportunity to revisit this topic and make adjustments as we see how this develops. Mr. Price presented a motion to participate in open enrollment for the 2012-13 school year, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve 219 openings for 2012-13 as presented, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 5-1 (opposed – Barberis).

**High School Credit and Grade Requirement Recommendations** – Superintendent Grotting introduced discussion regarding whether to allow a D grade for credit in ninth and tenth grade core classes at the high school. The current standard is a C or better for credit. The superintendent said he supports this move. Graduation standards have risen and he believes over time we'll start looking at proficiency instead of grades. He said this change would not take away the academic freedom of a teacher to determine grade requirements. He said as the board considered open enrollment tonight, and as students come to David Douglas from other high schools, making this change would not penalize transfer students for the grades they bring in. State standards will continue to increase.

John Bier reported that this recommendation was discussed with high school division chairs, who went to teachers in division meetings to discuss the issues. High school staff members were in favor across the board. He said that it is harder than ever to graduate from high school, with students feeling the heat as they must demonstrate essential skills. There is currently a large backlog of students wanting to enter credit retrieval, and that delay can set a student back further. Mr. Bier said this change would level the playing field with the other high schools around us.

Fir Ridge Principal Linda Vancil said that our staff still need to pay attention to the achievement of our students and still need to know why students are earning D's and Fs. She said the rigor and challenges remain for our students. She expressed support for this change in credit requirements. Mr. Bier said if the board approved this change, the high school administrative team will consider options and timing for implementation. Ms. Fagan suggested future consideration of an attendance component as part of graduation requirements. She requested information on this topic from other area districts. Mr. Gardner made a motion to modify high school grade and credit requirements as recommended, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

**Selection of Date for District Visioning Exercise** – Mr. Grotting recommended waiting until after the bond election in the spring to reschedule a board visioning session. It was the board's consensus to revisit this topic in the summer.

**Presentation of Graduation Cohort Data** – Derek Edens reviewed the changes instituted in the way graduation data are calculated. He presented a brief snapshot of cohort data, following a group of students from their freshman year forward to see how many graduated with a regular diploma in 4 or 5 years. The calculation is adjusted for students who move in or out, with the last institution where student enrolls receiving the impact. The State's passing score for graduation in four years is 65%; the passing score increases to 70% for students graduating in five years. He reviewed four- and five-year data for subgroups, and comparison data between 2009 and 2010. Good gains are being made, with an improvement of 7.1% over last school year. Cohort data show 70% of our high school graduating in four years.

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Chair Mattson recommended discussion of district disaster planning as a future agenda item for the summer.

**Board Member Reports** – Ms. Christopher reported that the Educational Foundation has set this spring's dinner/auction for April 21 at Camp Angelos on the Sandy River, beginning around 3pm with a sampling of outdoor school activities, followed by dinner and a limited auction. They hope to raise \$15,000 for David Douglas Outdoor School. Chair Mattson reported that there was a good discussion at the OEIB meeting on January 19. She will participate at tomorrow's meeting of the limited tax exemption committee, where the recommendation to reduce the number of exemption programs in David Douglas came through loud and clear. Chair Mattson announced that the Portland Development Commission has just cut funding of \$250,000 per year over the next four years for improvements at Leach Botanical Garden. The 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Rezone Committee will hold an open house on February 23, to share with the public their recommendation to rezone almost all property on 122<sup>nd</sup> from Powell south from high density residential to commercial neighborhood businesses.

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



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Annette Mattson, Board Chair



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Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk