

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
February 5, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 5, 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 reported on the NSBA Federal Relations Conference in Washington, DC, which she attended this week in her capacity as OSBA Board President. Oregon's attendees met with Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representatives Wu and Walden, as well as staffers for Oregon's other representatives. Ms. Mattson was pleased to deliver a DDHS pennant and "Scots Pride" t-shirt to Senator Merkley. Board Chair Christopher announced that the Portland City Council will hold their next meeting on February 18, 6:30pm at Midland Library. The East Portland Action Plan will be discussed.

**Student Body President's Report** – Stephanie Lutz reported on high school activities. The leadership class is brainstorming ideas for a "Scots Pride" spirit week. Student Council is working on decorations for the Father/Daughter Banquet, to be held February 25. The 2009 Rose Festival candidates for David Douglas High School were selected yesterday. They are Michelle Frazier, Linda Nguyen, Brette Ragland, Kayla Stevens and Stephanie Lutz. The student body vote will be held on February 24 following classroom reviews of videotaped presentations from each candidate.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel reported that Curriculum Director Brooke O'Neill is away this evening attending AVID training. The superintendent was pleased to announce that David Douglas senior Tyler Short has been named a Presidential Scholar candidate. High school students are continuing their graffiti abatement project, donating their services to assist district patrons as needed. Joey Peacock is taking this project on to keep it an ongoing effort as part of an Eagle Scout project. This week has been designated National School Counselors Week. State Senator Rod Monroe has scheduled a town hall meeting for March 14 in our Board Room. On Monday, February 9, 7:00pm, the Powellhurst / Gilbert Neighborhood Association meeting's agenda includes a presentation from Zenger Farms, and information on the 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue pilot study. Superintendent Rommel announced that outstanding golfer Vincent Johnson, a David Douglas High School and Oregon State University Graduate, has just received a Charlie Sifford Exemption from the PGA, which grants a spot in the PGA Tour's Northern Trust Open to a golfer who represents the advancement of diversity in golf. DDHS Science Teacher Eric Matthews has been active in the Jane Goodall Institute. He recently notified the superintendent that six David Douglas High School students have passed their reliability tests and have become the first high school researchers of chimpanzee behavior sponsored by the Institute. They will be spending their free time at the Oregon Zoo taking behavioral observations and conducting their own research. Ron Russell Middle School

student Pavel Buzhduga used his artistic talent to win the state Bus Safety Week poster contest, where he won a \$100 prize. His entry took second place in his division at the national level, where his prize was a \$250 savings bond.

**Report on Grant Collaboration with Lewis & Clark College** – Superintendent Rommel introduced Peter Mortola and Diane Gans, from Lewis & Clark College, to present a report on their grant collaboration. Lewis & Clark has been a partner in the elementary 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Communities Grant, which is currently serving students at Lincoln Park, Ventura Park, and West Powellhurst. The grant is in its fifth and final year and the grant requirements include a report to the board/community on the grant's impact. Peter, a Lewis & Clark faculty member, presented information on after school programming, noting that only 11% of K-12 youth are enrolled in after school programs. The site coordinators from each of our participating schools were introduced. About 100 students are being served at each site, and feedback from parents indicates the program serves a real need.

The Kids Club mission is to provide academic enhancement, recreational activities and counseling opportunities for children and families. Kids Club partners have been David Douglas School District, Boys and Girls Club, and Lewis & Clark, which provided students completing their counseling practicum to provide counseling services for students and families. Diane is the program evaluator. She said data collection shows that all three Kids Club schools met academic growth and attendance rate targets. The additional support provided for students and families through Kids Club is reflected in those schools' successes. Peter said the partners are now working to win 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant funding for the next five years. He said they are well positioned to show the program has been effective as they apply to continue. The superintendent noted the district's goal to provide equity in after school programs across all of our elementary schools.

**Report on Services through Metropolitan Family Services** – Superintendent Rommel introduced a report on another very productive partnership. Tricia Harding, Program Director, Metropolitan Family Services (MFS), presented. MFS has a contract with Multnomah County to lead the SUN services program in the East Multnomah County region comprised of Parkrose and David Douglas School Districts. They currently coordinate the SUN program at Earl Boyles, and previously did so at Gilbert Park. MFS is in the process of applying to again be the lead agency serving East Multnomah County school districts.

Ms. Harding said SUN Schools work to extend the school day and strive to be a community "hub" by linking with other service providers. MFS provides school-linked services in partnership with Human Solutions and Mt. Hood Community College. Human Solutions assists families with emergency housing and utilities issues as well as food and clothing, to allow students to participate fully in the educational process. Jean McMasters reported that Human Solutions provides shelter for about 85 homeless families each night, and annually provide about 2,000 households with utilities assistance, and 500 families with rent assistance, as well as operating a clothing closet on NE 99<sup>th</sup> & Glisan to provide donated clothing to families in need of that support.

Pam Greenough Corrie reported that Mt. Hood Community College provides child development and family support programs, Early Head Start and Head Start for East County children. They also provide intensive home visit and socialization services. Tiffany Purn, MFS Program Manager, said that MFS components include school-based case management for at risk teens, parent engagement classes, foster grandparents working one on one with students, and SUN Schools. She described various partnerships providing special opportunities for students, noting that it is necessary for all providers to pull together to use resources most wisely. She thanked the District for their efforts, and

for their support. Ms. Harding said that academic and attendance improvements have been some of the most exciting outcomes of the SUN program. One of the strengths of the system is that there is a wealth of services accessible through these partners.

A question was asked about whether the SUN school allocation is being adjusted to reflect the changing demographic. Ms. McMasters said that Human Solutions, thanks to the efforts of many, now uses 2004 census data, which has resulted in a 30% increase in funds for East County. The superintendent said we are pursuing an application with MFS for funding from the Children's Investment Fund to support after school programs.

**Mentor Task Force Update** – Cindy Bradley-Cross, Instructional Activities Coordinator, is heading up the Mentor Task Force, which was created in late Spring 2007 as the result of input from the district staff. Elementary, middle and high school teachers are represented on the task force, as are specialists. The mission of the David Douglas Mentor Program is to attract and retain high quality educators. Ms. Bradley-Cross described new teacher support offered in the district. The task force has been identifying areas where the program can be strengthened. A critical component is having a good match between mentor and protégé. A really good protocol is needed for assigning those teams. The task force recommends that the mentor teacher have five years or more of classroom experience. They would like to have really outstanding mentors take on more than one protégé. Professional Learning Teams should continue; that support frees up the mentor to help the new teacher focus on classroom management, the greatest area for new teacher growth.

The task force recognizes the need for professional development for mentor teachers to help them be most effective. Three mentor trainings are being offered this year. The task force would like this to be mandatory for all mentors and offered to any other interested teachers. These trainings would also be beneficial for student teacher mentors. Consistent and concrete feedback is very important; the need has been identified for more in class peer observation and immediate feedback. Teachers in their second year could use continued support. The task force would like to make that mentoring match a two year relationship to be accessible when needed. Many identified improvements are already underway and others are coming on line in the fall. Some Title II-A dollars are being used to support these efforts. Ms. Mattson noted that normal attrition among new teachers is 30% per year nationwide; the attrition rate at David Douglas is less than 5%. Our efforts to mentor new staff are paying dividends.

**Approval of 2009-10 School Calendar** – Superintendent Rommel presented the results of the online staff survey regarding calendar options for the 2009-10 school year. Of 333 votes cast, 284 voted for Draft A, and 49 voted for Draft B. Bruce Burton made a motion to approve Calendar Draft A, as the staff survey's most popular choice, seconded by Ms. Mattson. Draft A of the 2009-10 calendar was approved in a vote of 7-0.

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

- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes**

**Audience Participation** – Board Chair Christopher opened the meeting for public comment.

Ihor Levkiv, Principal of Ukrainian School of Knowledge – runs a Ukrainian language school on Saturdays. He requested that the District establish a venue for his students to receive credit at

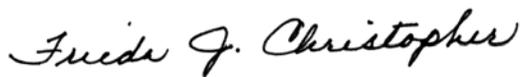
David Douglas High School for foreign language credits they have earned at his school. He said he is using an ODE-approved proficiency assessment, and that other districts including Portland Public, Gresham-Barlow and Centennial are awarding his students credit.

Mark White, Chair, Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association – announced that the two grant proposals he described to the Board earlier were both funded. One will support outreach to immigrant families to encourage them to be part of community discussions; and the other will fund a youth intern program for students to gain experience in grass roots activism. He will be in contact with David Douglas High School about these opportunities. A Neighborhood Night Out was also funded through the grant program. The eastside neighborhood associations will be hosting an East Portland Exposition, which would provide learning and service opportunities for students from the Hospitality and Tourism career pathway.

Jill Wier, Campfire USA – provides after school services at Mill Park in partnership with the District. She remarked that Campfire appreciates this partnership and that David Douglas has by far the most supportive, responsive, and committed staff they work with among seven local school districts with which they partner.

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – As a future agenda item, Mr. Gardner suggested reviewing the District's practice regarding family passes for District events (\$75 per year). He suggested finding a way to credit families per event, up to the \$75 total, as an alternative to coming up with the fee up front. The superintendent said his suggestion will be revisited when the board reviews fees in general.

**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. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.

  
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Frieda Christopher, Board Chair

  
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Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk