

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
February 7, 2008**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. 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:

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

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Sherrie Barger, Director of Curriculum; Susan Summers, Director of Human Resources; 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** – Mike Price reported attending the January 31 winter jazz concert at the high school, which featured students from Ron Russell Middle, Floyd Light Middle and DDHS. He also discussed the high school jazz band's recent performance in Seattle. Mr. Price also enjoyed the winter festival at Earl Boyles. Board Chair Mattson noted the Bruce Burton is absent tonight due to surgery, and wished him a speedy recovery. Frieda Christopher reported on her work with the housing and transportation subcommittee of the East Portland Action Team. Construction on 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue improvements has begun. In addition to mailed invitations, information on the foundation dinner auction will be posted on the district website, including photos of auction items. That event will take place on April 19. Board Chair Mattson reported on her recent trip to Washington, DC as an Oregon delegate to the National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network Conference. Nearly 1,000 school board members from across the nation briefed elected officials on education issues. She reported that Medicaid reimbursement faces termination at the end of the school year. A proposed increase in Title I funding would come at the expense of eliminating Perkins grants. The group lobbied for NCLB reform, as will be addressed during another agenda item.

**Student Body President's Report** – Stacy Chao reported that this year's Rose Festival Court has been selected. Activities coming up this weekend include the Valentine's Dance, a girls basketball game against Barlow, and district meets for boys and girls swimming as well as wrestling. Tickets are on sale for the Father-Daughter Banquet.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel said she was pleased to announce that David Douglas High School's automotive team took second place overall in state competition. The team was awarded a \$750 prize. Several students earned first places with perfect scores in their specialties. Oregon Alliance for Arts Education has named David Douglas High School as a "Creative Ticket" award winner for maintaining outstanding arts programs. In other news, Barbara Kienle announced that DDHS student Zach Abbott is a member of a wheelchair basketball team that just won the west coast conference championships. The DDHS competitive cheerleading team is in its first year of competition, and has won all three events it has entered this year. They will compete at the state tournament. More than 200 Ron Russell students will be guests of the Trailblazers at a

Blazer game, as a reward for outstanding student achievement. The RRMS choir will perform in the Rose Garden lobby. Mike Stout reported that one of our district families lost everything in a house fire this week. Thankfully, everyone got out safely. Two of the children attend our schools, which have been working with the family to access resources and assistance.

**Azbuka Charter School Proposal** – Sherrie Barger briefly reviewed the Azbuka charter school proposal, which was presented by Slavic Youth of America at a public hearing on January 15. The target population would be Slavic students and those interested in studying Slavic history and language, students who are currently attending home school, private school or who have dropped out of traditional programs. The proposed program combines classroom, independent study and online learning. The contract would be for three years. Ms. Barger described the process the charter school subcommittee used in determining its recommendation, which included several preparatory meetings prior to the public hearing. The committee met on January 28 and reviewed the minutes of that hearing as well as written remarks submitted for consideration. They also reviewed the criteria developed by the State of Oregon. Ms. Barger said the proposal meets the state's criteria for approval at this time. Based on its review, the David Douglas School District charter school committee recommends conditional approval of entering into a contract with the Azbuka Charter School. They presented a list of conditions which must be met and information to be submitted to the district no later than May 1, 2008, before the final contract would be approved.

Mr. Gardner served on the charter subcommittee and said he that from the committee's perspective, this proposal doesn't reflect negatively on our school district's programs. Targeted students are those not attending school or those currently being home schooled. This proposal will provide another avenue to give them an opportunity to complete their education. He said he supports the committee's recommendation. Tonight's approval will give Slavic Youth of America a genuine opportunity to complete their planning and program development.

Mr. Centoni said he served on the charter subcommittee, and reviewed the materials and written comments. He said his vote would be in opposition to the charter proposal, as he preferred to have time for the initiatives at DDHS to be put into place in response to concerns raised by the charter school proposal. Mr. Price said he attended the public hearing, and agrees that we should focus on supporting potential dropouts from within our program. Board Chair Mattson said it was important to acknowledge that this proposal was not raised as a criticism of our program, but as a tool for students who have not been able to find their niche within the traditional school system. She noted that an important component of the contract would be program evaluation by a third party.

Mr. Gardner moved approval of the Azbuka Charter School proposal with stated conditions, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The proposal was approved in a vote of 4-2 (in favor: Barberis, Christopher, Gardner, Mattson; opposed: Centoni, Price).

**Library System Purchase Resolution** – Management Information Services Manager Keith Seher presented a resolution to purchase a new system to track library and textbook materials. It would replace the existing system which has been used in all of our libraries for a number of years. Following the district's formal request for information, a committee of librarians and technical staff reviewed proposals from six vendors, and selected three for formal presentations. The committee recommends purchase of the Follett Destiny system, at a cost of \$133,107.28 for five years. Follett was the only vendor which could bring our history forward and could work with our purchased hardware. The new system could be installed at the high school this spring, followed by the middle and elementary schools during the summer and fall. Mr. Centoni moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Budget Committee Appointments and Calendar Approval** – Superintendent Rommel presented the nominations for Budget Committee, which include one returning member, Glennis Merrifield, and two new members, John Thomas and Tory Engelgau; as well as the proposed budget calendar. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the nominations as well as the budget calendar, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

**Resolution to Purchase School Buses** – Transportation Manager Bob Jacobsen recommended continuation of the fleet replacement schedule, and presented a resolution to purchase seven new buses from Western Bus Sales, piggybacking on the competitive bidding process of other school districts. The purchase would include two 84-passenger buses, two 72-passenger buses, and three 21-passenger buses. Five would be used to retire five of the oldest vehicles in the fleet, and two would accommodate enrollment growth. Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve the bus purchase as outlined, seconded by Ms. Christopher. A unanimous vote approved the resolution

**Audience Participation / Break** – Board Chair Mattson opened the meeting for public comment. As there were no remarks from the audience, she declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

**Revision of Board Policy #5210.1: Harassment Prohibition (First Reading)** - Mike Stout presented a first reading of this board policy revision, which adds cyberbullying to current harassment prohibitions as mandated by recent legislation. The revision would also address harassment in the certificated and classified personnel sections of board policy (3410.35 and 4410.35). It will be presented for a second reading and possible adoption at the next meeting.

**Resolution in Support of the NCLB Improvement Act (HR 648)** – Board Chair Mattson presented this resolution draft, and reviewed work on this issue undertaken by NSBA delegates to the Federal Relations Conference in Washington, DC. NSBA has asked that districts consider approving this resolution to fortify support for congress to adopt changes to NCLB. She requested one correction to the draft, adding the words, “and all congressional representatives from the State of Oregon” following “urges Representative Earl Blumenauer”. Mr. Gardner moved approval of the revised resolution, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

**Consent Agenda** – Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items, seconded by Mr. Centoni. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

- **MESD Programs and Services Approval**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes**

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Superintendent Rommel presented a memo authorizing acceptance of bids for courtyard exiting improvements at Mill Park and Lincoln Park Elementary Schools. Five bids were received in response to the district’s request for proposals, and the construction committee met and recommends that the board award this project to the low bidder, Payne Construction. Mr. Centoni so moved, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

**Adjournment** – There being no other business, Chair Mattson announced that the board would reconvene in executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with

ORS 192.660 (2)(i) Superintendent's Evaluation. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

/gh