

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
March 1, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 1, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130th Avenue, 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; 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 – Board Chair Gardner announced that the regular board meeting scheduled for March 15 is being canceled in order for board members to meet in open session with the Governor's Chief of Staff. He also announced that he would be calling an Executive Session at the conclusion of the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining, and (2)(h) Litigation.

Bruce Burton attended the girls' basketball playoff game Tuesday night at Lake Oswego, and said that while they lost, it was impressive to see them make the playoffs with a coach who is new to us this year. He said Coach Blevins handled himself very well, maintained a strong sense of humor, worked well with the girls, and remained a teacher throughout the game. Mike Centoni echoed Mr. Burton's remarks, and noted that the boys team represented the high school very well at the playoff game against Sheldon. He shared an email from County Chair Ted Wheeler sent in response to the concerns of a district patron regarding placement of the mentally ill to group homes in the area. Frieda Christopher said tickets are on sale for the Foundation's dinner/auction on April 21. Invitations are available from the Special Projects office. Ms. Christopher reported on the progress of the Central Gateway committee in completing their strategy plan. Construction improvements for 102nd Avenue have been delayed for a year as not all rights of way have been acquired. Annette Mattson attended the COSA/OSBA Legislative Policy Committee session on February 18-19, reviewing issues including school funding, a mandatory insurance pool, and the requirement for a double majority for bond passage. Jeff Merkley was the keynote speaker. Ms. Mattson thanked Chair Gardner for joining her for meetings with elected representatives to express the Board's concerns. She encouraged board members to attend the upcoming OSBA Spring Regional Meeting on March 13. A committee drawn from across the state is reviewing governance of that organization and will present their recommendations for changes. She also shared her daughter's remarks on the changes she noted at Mill Park since she was a student there ten years ago, during a recent visit as part of a class on public education she is taking at OSU. Board Chair Gardner expressed appreciation for Ms. Mattson's tireless work with legislators through OSBA, and for that organization's advocacy for local districts.

Student Body President's Report – Elyn Ward reported that ASB members participated in a Mt. Hood Conference meeting at St. Mary's Academy. The group is planning for a 'Battle of the Bands' to be held at Centennial High School on April 5. A band representing each school will compete at the event. Juniors are planning for prom, ASB elections are coming up, and Rose Festival Week will be celebrated March 5-9. The high school's representative on this year's Rose Festival Court will be crowned on Monday, March 12. 180 people attended last night's Father-Daughter Banquet. A 'Pennies for Patients' fundraiser is under way this week.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel introduced Bill Miller, Second Vice Commander and convention chair from American Legion Post 1, who presented the School Board with a plaque in appreciation for use of our facilities during the group's national convention. Board Chair Gardner accepted the gift on behalf of the Board and thanked Post 1 for their support of our schools over the years. Barbara Kienle reported that members of the Ventura Park staff were recognized at last week's MESD board meeting for their work in presenting the "Come Walk in My Shoes" program for students. MESD has a classroom at Ventura Park. Sherrie Barger announced that the district is entering a partnership with Lewis & Clark College to support our new teacher mentoring program. A grant will fund a two day workshop for mentors and will provide support dollars for planning and enhancement of our program. Mike Stout provided an enrollment update, which shows that in comparing last Friday's totals with the same day a year ago, our count is up by 84 students. Mill Park has had an increase of 29 students since Winter Break, reflecting the opening of the Lincoln Woods development. The statewide PBS Conference was held this week on Tuesday and Wednesday on the OSU campus. Team leaders attended from each of our schools, as well as many principals. The transportation department staff has completed training, have developed a handbook, and staffers Janet Mauldin and Brian Williams were on a panel presenting at the state conference. Ericka Guynes presented to a standing room audience, and has become one of most respected coaches in the state. Mr. Stout announced that Michael Allen Harrison will present a concert at Cherry Park on March 6 as a fundraiser for their music program. Mr. Harrison donated a grand piano to the district last year. Superintendent Rommel said that the work of ten high school students has been selected for display in a juried show at Oregon College of Art and Craft. House Speaker Jeff Merkley will be the featured speaker at the meeting of the Powellhurst/Gilbert Neighborhood Association on March 12, 7pm. Eighth grade visitations are taking place at the high school. The Board's budget workshop will take place on Monday, March 5 at 6pm.

Classified Employees Appreciation Week – Board Chair Gardner expressed appreciation to our classified staff in honor of Classified Employees Appreciation Week, taking place March 5-9. He read a proclamation which will be signed by board members and displayed in each of our buildings. Greg Becker, OSEA Chapter 40 President, thanked the Board for the support the association has received over the years, on behalf of the more than 500 classified staff members in David Douglas School District.

After School Programs Report – Sherrie Barger introduced Barbara Kienle, Cheryl Bland and Ericka Guynes, who play significant roles in coordinating our after school programs, to provide an overview of the many opportunities available for students outside of the school day. One federal 21st Century Schools Grant funds classes and experiences at the middle and high school levels. Another 21st Century Schools Grant funds after school activities and childcare at Lincoln Park, Ventura Park, and West Powellhurst. Both of these grants will be ratcheting down next year and will terminate within the next two years. We hope to continue some of the opportunities with district funds, looking for grants to fund some, and charging participation fees for others.

Barbara Kienle serves as the district liaison for the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) program. SUN is funded with a combination of county and city support. She reported that the mission of SUN is to improve the lives of children, families and the community, with goals to improve student achievement and increase family, community and business involvement. The SUN program is currently offered at Earl Boyles, Gilbert Park and Alice Ott. 845 students have been enrolled, with 2,703 participating in school-wide evening events. Earl Boyles SUN Coordinator Derek Coffey described some of the program's offerings, noting that there has been great buy-in from the school staff with ten teachers and five assistants teaching after school classes. Superintendent Rommel said she has been working on the SUN task force, and that there seems to be a renewed commitment on the part of Multnomah County commissioners to support this program and perhaps even expand it in the future.

Erica Guynes reported on the Kids Club program housed at Lincoln Park, Ventura Park and West Powellhurst, through the 21st Century Learning Communities grant. Awarded in 2004, it was funded at 100% for the first three years, then funding diminishes during the final two years in the hope that the program will become self sustaining. Working with community partners, Kids Club includes academic, recreational, and mental health components. 225-250 students participate each session. Long-term goals include performance improvements in the state assessment, as well as improvement of school attendance. Ms. Guynes shared a comment from teacher Annie Falconer, who noted that children who are supported by this program are gaining confidence to do their homework independently. Sharon Berry, West Powellhurst parent, remarked that her daughter has participated for the past two years. She said she appreciates the safe, secure environment, the homework help her daughter receives from older students during 'Power Hour,' and said it has been a great opportunity socially for her daughter as well. Lincoln Park parent Julie Noah said her fourth grader is in her second year of Kids Club and "just loves it." She said it gives her a safe place to be after school, has been a godsend financially, and provides a great program with a wonderful staff.

Cheryl Bland reported on the secondary program funded through the 21st Century Learning Communities grant, noting that we are in the final year of this funding which was awarded in February 2003. The program serves all five secondary buildings from dismissal to 5pm. 1,000 students, or about 20% of the district's secondary population, have participated. Components include evening programs offered throughout the year, early release programs, field trips, summer school and Hello English classes for adults. Science programs at the high school are standing room only. The grant also funds Link Crew, a web program for 6th grade, and internship career fairs. Program goals include academic improvement in reading and science, and improved attendance. The program has been an outstanding success at Fir Ridge, where more than 50% of the students participate in after school programs. 82% of the Class of 2006 used after school programs to earn credit towards graduation, and the program has contributed to a positive school environment. The grant funds an after school coordinator and part time family liaison there, as well as a family resource fair and environmental leadership team training later this spring. Great relationships have been built between students and the Fir Ridge staff members who lead the after school activities. It has proven very effective to be in touch after school as well as during the day.

Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 426 – Board Chair Gardner expressed his frustration with legislators, saying that after providing them with clear information and discussing the negative consequences SB426 would have on public schools, he saw no effort to slow this process down or study the issue further. Following discussion of the probable cost increases to the district and employees, as well as the loss of bargaining rights, Mr. Centoni moved approval of a resolution opposing Senate Bill 426, seconded by Mr. Clinton. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

The district will host a meeting with Chip Terhune, the Governor's Chief of Staff, on Thursday, March 15, to discuss this issue and other concerns related to education. Other district superintendents, board members, and association leadership will be invited to attend.

Licensed Contract Renewals – Mr. Centoni requested removal of the licensed staff contract renewals from the consent agenda, and requested that teacher and administrator renewals be voted on separately. Mr. Centoni moved approval of the teacher contract renewals as presented, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0. Ms. Barberis made a motion to approve the administrator contract renewals, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion carried in a vote of 6-1 (in favor – Barberis, Burton, Christopher, Clinton, Gardner, Mattson; opposed – Centoni).

Consent Agenda – Mr. Burton moved approval of the remaining Consent Agenda items, seconded by Mr. Centoni. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Audience Participation – The board chair opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Burton announced that he will not be in attendance at the open meeting on March 15 due to another commitment. Mr. Centoni expressed his appreciation to Communication Specialist Dan McCue for the online staff newsletter, "The Piper."

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Gardner requested the Board's approval to reconvene in executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining, and (2)(h) Litigation. His request was approved in a vote of 7-0. He then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Donn Gardner, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

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