

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

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 7:00pm 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:

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

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 that she spent last Friday and Saturday in Salem attending the meeting of the OSBA governance committee. She said changes in the governance model have resulted in increased participation by board members around the state. She reported that disabled citizen activist Michael Eagan had praise for Mike Stout for hearing his concerns about accessibility of our buildings and using Mr. Eagan’s expertise as a resource. Dawn Barberis remarked that former David Douglas staff and students were very well represented in Mt. Hood Community College’s production of *Guys and Dolls*. Board Chair Christopher reported that the Educational Foundation is working with the district to prepare for David Douglas School District’s upcoming 50th anniversary.

Student Body President’s Report – Nick Anderson reported on behalf of the Student Council. An exam will be held on Monday for prospective ASB candidates in preparation for this spring’s election of officers. The David Douglas representative on the 2009 Rose Festival Court will be announced at an assembly on Tuesday afternoon. Student Council members are visiting homes around the neighborhood to advertise their graffiti abatement project. This year’s Prom is scheduled for April 18, and will be held at the Zoo this year. Spring sports began last week, and the spring play, a production of *The Matchmaker*, opens this evening.

Superintendent’s Report – The superintendent announced that OSBA’s Spring Regional Dinner Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 14. Barbara Kienle reported on this week’s PBS conference in Eugene. 58 district staff members attended, and several teams made presentations, including our transportation department, a team from the high school, and a presentation by PBS Coach Shawn Fletcher, Barbara Kienle and Stacie Moncrief. The teams received very positive feedback. Candy Wallace reported that Menlo Park School presented “Come Walk in My Shoes” on February 19-20. Stations were set up in the gym to allow students to experience some of the roadblocks faced by people with disabilities. It was a great two day event, provided with the help of more than a dozen volunteers. Board members were invited to attend a luncheon hosted by Ventura Park School on March 12 for previous, current, and “future” principals. Students wrote essays on why they should be principal, and one was selected per grade level to represent principals of the future. Natalie Osburn said the high school’s IES department is sponsoring a run/walk to benefits their scholarship program on March 14, 9am. Superintendent Rommel announced that nine of our high school students have their artwork on display at **/Oregon College of Arts & Crafts Lewis and Clark College’s Hoffmann Gallery**. A

“first Thursday” reception opened that show today. Two teams of future problem solvers from the TAG program will be competing in a regional competition in the Seattle area, an honor for them. State Senator Rod Monroe will be holding a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 14, 10am-12noon in our Board Room. The dedication of the East Portland Community Center pool will also be held on Saturday, at noon.

Report on Student Fees – Natalie Osburn introduced this report, which was prepared in response to concerns brought forward regarding fees charged to students at the high school. She met with high school administrators to review the range of fees and how they are used; what happens when students can't pay; what other districts are doing; and what it would take to cover the full costs of those courses. Assistant Principal Kevin Taylor reported that 60 elective courses currently charge fees. Courses range from PE to fine and industrial arts and home economics. Fees are primarily used for direct costs (Individual Lifetime Recreation includes a unit at a bowling alley, for example). Woods classes charge for consumables; the Early Childhood program students get t-shirt to identify them as classroom assistants. Their fee also pays for required food handlers' cards. Foods classes charge \$15-20 for upper division food purchases. No student is denied access due to inability to pay; they receive all skills instruction but their work may not result in a project they can take home at the end of the course.

Other districts are using a variety of approaches. Portland Public has no fees for electives. North Clackamas charges fees for projects, but students on free or reduced meal assistance do not pay fees. Gresham-Barlow takes a tiered approach related to free, reduced, or full priced lunch.

There are approximately 6,000 student assignments in electives, which can cost up to \$100 for course and project fees. \$85,000 in fees was collected last year. Using an average project cost of \$75 plus \$15 as an average course fee, it would cost about \$120,000 to cover all fees for all high school students. Guidelines could be developed to inform students that some costs might be theirs should they choose to expand their project beyond the typical, such as choosing to use mahogany instead of oak, or adding a gemstone to a jewelry project.

Board members indicated support for elimination of course fees and will explore this topic further during discussions with the Budget Committee. Any action will be aligned to the budget process.

Report on Building / Facility Use Fees – Janice Essenberg and Natalie Osburn gathered a group together to discuss use of the high school stadium and field. Much interest has been expressed in the new turf field as it will be available year-around. They reviewed fees for like facilities in other districts, noting that fee schedules are inconsistent around the area. A central concern was to charge enough to cover maintenance, but not to create a barrier to our community for use of the facility. A draft fee schedule was presented for the Board's input. Ms. Essenberg noted one correction on the draft: the fee for non-competitive events (practices, etc) should be listed as \$207 per event, rather than per hour. A two hour minimum for custodial services is built into the fee schedule. They also recommend building in some sustainability regarding field upkeep and replacement. They believe it is important to have a site supervisor to assure appropriate use. Fees are broken down between non-competitive and competitive events, and by number of expected spectators. Spectator events include cost for added security and clean up. Additional fees could be assessed for extra equipment such as field lighting, scoreboard, PA, and press box. Requests for use of concession stands could be referred to district groups to provide them fund raising opportunities by keeping these services in-house. Fields would be cleared by 9pm and all lights out by 9:30pm.

Board comments included thinking about the replacement timeline of the field turf and building in revenue for replacement as part of the fee schedule, and charging different fees for out of area events versus our own community groups. It was suggested that a portion of use fees be set aside toward eventual replacement rather than having all fees go right back out for custodial salaries and electricity. Half of the maintenance savings resulting from the move from grass to turf could be set aside toward long term maintenance.

Ms. Osburn requested input on how often the field should be used, since it could conceivably be in use every night of the week. It was suggested that the district share information with neighbors close to the field regarding our intent to open use of the field to groups, and planned hours, etc. in order to provide an opportunity for their input. Ms. Essenberg said types of scheduling software are being investigated for district-wide tracking of facilities use. She noted that having authorized groups using the field keeps unauthorized people off the field. A question was asked about requests for use of the field for purposes other than athletics, such as concerts or political rallies, and whether our use procedures need to address those possibilities, as well as requests for use of other areas such as baseball fields or tennis courts. Ms. Essenberg said the presented draft represents a starting point. Ms. Osburn said we want to have a use and fee schedule in place before we open the field up to the public, so we don't establish precedents before we have firm guidelines in place. She thanked board members for their input and said a final draft document will be brought back for approval at a later meeting.

Update on School Funding – Janice Essenberg presented a brief state school fund update, saying that numbers are still wildly fluctuating. She reviewed 2007-08 adjustments, saying the district expects disbursement of \$357,000 in May 2009. The revenue increase for 2008-09 is mainly due to ADMw adjustment of 668.80 students. The school improvement grant was a little higher than budgeted. The school day restoration fund will add \$966,000 to our budget. Districts are required to complete an application for these funds, certifying they have made a good faith effort to minimize loss of school days. Our interest earnings are coming in much lower than budgeted. Those losses will probably offset any increase in revenue from state and federal sources. The PERS rate for the next biennium has already been set. Ms. Essenberg said she plans to stay a step ahead by proposing that we continue to charge the same PERS rate we have been using, to build reserves for when rates increase in the next biennium. She expects another revenue forecast in a week or so. The legislature did put out a preliminary estimate for 2009-10 as required by statute, but numbers are unreliable.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Centoni. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

- **Licensed Contract Renewals**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes**

Audience Participation – none

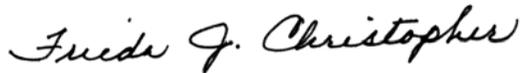
Other Business / Future Agenda Item – Superintendent Rommel said she met today with Paul Arzt, David Callaway and Janice Essenberg regarding maintenance staffing needs. The district has the opportunity to hire some people with expertise in electrical, HVAC and plumbing. She recommended adding those positions to catch up with a backlog of work orders. One position was

already in the budget for this year, and remains unfilled. The amount budgeted for the position for 2008-09 would pay for these three hires through June, then the positions would be added to the budget for 2009-10. The Board's consensus was to proceed.

Ms. Mattson said that Senate Bill 224, Senator Rod Monroe's bill regarding satellite districts, is currently on hold awaiting the LUBA decision on the appeal. The superintendent said the conversation is continuing regarding the process by which districts can have input regarding building permit applications. The law requires we set up procedures and process with the Planning Commission.

Mr. Centoni remarked that he appreciates the trend of receiving school news letters via email rather than hard copies.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Christopher declared the meeting adjourned.



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk