

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
March 13, 2014**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 13, 2014, at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130 Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97233.

School Board Members present were:

	Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta, Board Chair
Bryce Anderson	Christine Larsen
Frieda Christopher	Shannon Raybold
Donn Gardner	Kyle Riggs

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

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Student Body President's Report – ASB President Kylan Carlson reported that both basketball teams made the playoffs, although they were defeated in the first round. Spring sports are underway. The Cheerleaders took second place in state competition and will go to nationals during Spring Break. So many students turned out for track this year that coaches will need to make cuts for the first time ever. This year's Rose Festival princess is Samantha Westmoreland. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta commented on the praise the high school received from the Rose Festival Association about the great assembly, great energy and great students. Sparrow Club is raising money by selling raffle tickets. Their goal is to raise \$6,000 to send a five-year-old student and his family to Disneyland, and to assist with the cost of his medication. One of the Rose Festival representatives works for Alaska Airlines and wants to assist with the trip. A sophomore student, Osawaru Odighizuwa, took a state championship in wrestling.

Visiting Delegations / Audience Input –

- **Bond Oversight Committee / Construction Manager's Report** - Mike Ewald said the bond oversight committee has received a report on this summer's projects. He introduced Rick Rainone to present this month's update. Mr. Rainone said the bond oversight committee has been amazingly committed to staying informed on the projects, and members have remained involved. The pool's excavation is complete and surface work on the pool walls has begun. Construction of the Earl Boyles early childhood center project has begun and children are enjoying watching the activity. Mr. Rainone said the City has been very helpful in the permitting process. Bidding of 2014 projects is underway and many have bid under budget. The goal is to save about \$500,000 in this year's bidding. Coverage from subcontractors continues to be strong, and CMGC contractors have been very helpful. Some of the work will happen during spring break, with concrete being polished in three or four buildings. They will be working in areas which won't impact classrooms. Doing some of the work now will lighten the load during the summer. Mr. Rainone expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gardner and Mr. Riggs for being involved in both management team and bond oversight committee discussions.

- Andrea Valderamma, Outreach and Policy Advisor from City Commissioner Steve Novick's office, introduced herself. She is policy advisor on East Portland, transportation emergency management, and emergency communication. She offered herself as a contact regarding concerns to be brought to the mayor's attention. She can also assist in accessing Commissioner Novick to let him know of meetings he should attend or areas that should be focused on. Mr. Riggs noted that she is a David Douglas resident, and said it is refreshing that she understands our area.
- Francisco Acosta, MESD Board Member, introduced himself, saying he has been recently elected to OSBA's LPC Position 17. He said he is visiting board meetings and getting a feel for the districts he represents.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting reported that our district was highlighted during the All Hands Raised Roast at the Moda Center. He played the video, which featured our students talking about school folks who make a difference in their lives. Another video was shared with the board which featured Alice Ott Middle School due to their recognition as one of nine "Breakthrough Schools" nationally. Mr. Grotting announced that Oregon Principal of the Year Ericka Guynes is now president-elect of COSA's elementary principals organization. Last week was Classified Employees Recognition Week. The superintendent expressed his appreciation to our classified employees, saying their hard work and support make all the difference to the district, our staff, and our students. The district's long-range facility planning process continues. The next meeting will be held March 31, 6pm in the board room, and is open to the public.

Financial Report – Patt Komar reviewed highlights of the February financial report. General fund revenues are trending a little higher than anticipated, so she has adjusted estimates accordingly. The Oregon Department of Energy has approved approximately \$538,000 of projects from last summer at Ventura Park and North Powellhurst. We are still closing purchase orders and confirming payment of all of last year's projects, but should have final numbers at next month's meeting.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Riggs moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Ms. Larson. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes
- Personnel Recommendations
- Approval of Contracts for Bond Construction: Menlo Park, Gilbert Park, West Powellhurst
- Bid Award for Telecommunications Local/Long Distance/PTI-T1 Services
- Resolution to Increase Meal Prices for the 2014-15 School Year
- Resolution to Commit Funding for the Earl Boyles Early Childhood Center

Achievement Compact Briefing – Superintendent Grotting reported that legislation is in place requiring all districts to have an Achievement Compact process. Part of the requirement is to brief the board on the work being done. The Achievement Compact Advisory Committee is comprised of teachers, specialists and administrators. Some board members have also attended the meetings. The group comes together to set academic goals related to particular benchmarks, recommending actions in each area to improve achievement and close the achievement gap. The superintendent noted that while the recommendations are good ones, we do not have funding to implement them all. The board is already making an investment in kindergarten readiness, which is vital as the majority of our students are coming to us two years behind their peers across the state. We will be increasing emphasis on

third grade reading and math benchmarks. Research shows 75% of all third grade students not meeting benchmarks will not graduate. We're working on 6th and 9th grade chronic absenteeism. Attendance is improving but some kids are still missing 30-40% of the school year, with teachers held accountable for their success. There are some punitive consequences through the courts for chronic absenteeism. Eighth grade math proficiency is also an indicator of graduation. Social promotion remains an issue, as students need to master content before we pass them on. Another focus is ninth grade credits earned. Graduation rates for four- and five-year cohort also remain a focus although our graduation rates have improved. Many of our ELL students find it impossible to graduate in four years, as some have never been in a formal school setting. Serious conversations are occurring at the state level, looking not only at kids who graduate but at what happens after they graduate to determine whether students are leaving high school ready for college or career. As the board goes through the budget process, the administration will inform the board of which recommendations we can support.

Request for Approval to Increase Drivers Education Fees – Ms. Komar presented a summary of revenue and expenses from last year's Drivers Education program, saying that revenues are not covering expenses. The state reimburses the district for a portion of the cost for those who pass the program. Following a comparison with other programs around our area, she presented a recommendation to increase the course fee for students under 18 to \$200 effective April 2014. The state provides a credit for students under 18 on free/reduced lunch, so they would pay \$125. Students over 18 or those who already have a license would be charged \$400 since there is no reimbursement for them. Superintendent Grotting said we are trying to keep fees as low as possible for our students, and even with this increase our fees will be lower than other districts. Ms. Komar said there are some additional demands for Drivers Ed through the DMV. Students can pass their driver's tests through the Drivers Ed program as long as we have pre-approved routes through DMV. She is still analyzing the changes to determine final costs. It was requested that she come back to the board with her recommendations regarding fees for out of district students, after considering the budget impact on our program. Mr. Riggs made a motion to approve the recommendations as outline tonight by Ms. Komar, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Approval of School Calendar for 2014-15 – Mr. Richardson reported that we presented two calendar drafts to the staff for their input. He said both drafts feature two extra move/work days at the beginning of the school year, which would also provide some time for professional development. At the end of the year, extra days have been built in to prepare for summer construction. Draft A has the teachers' last day on a Friday; Draft B wraps around to Monday by making the day before Thanksgiving a non-school day. We received 496 votes, representing about a third of our staff. Draft B won with 260 votes (52%), to 236 (48%) for Draft A. Despite the vote, Cabinet is recommending Draft A. One consideration voters were not aware of is that conferences are scheduled the week of Thanksgiving, so with two 12-hour days on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday would be a day off for teachers and students. Concluding the year on a Friday would cause less impact on our construction schedule. Mr. Richardson said that Draft A meets both preferences for staff. Ms. Christopher made a motion to approve Draft A of the school calendar for 2014-15, seconded by Ms. Raybold. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Board Position on Ballot Measure 26-156 – Ms. Christopher said she was asked by East Portland Action Plan to bring this item to our board for consideration. She said the way the ballot measure is written, zones for the water district board will be drawn to align with PPS board member zones. There

are concerns that East Portland will not be represented. Following discussion, the board's consensus was not to take a position.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Anderson requested more information on the Smarter Balance Assessment as it relates to the common core. Following a brief description from Mr. Edens, the Chair requested that this be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Board Member Reports – Mr. Riggs attended a meeting the High School PTSA put on regarding high school graduation requirements. He said only 18 families attended but that it was a great meeting. He said he took the Smarter Balanced Assessment for grades three, eight and eleven and was concerned to see that some of the junior year test content included senior year coursework. He said parents were very interested in this new requirement for graduation. Mr. Riggs also put in a plug for the college night event that Earl Boyles will host on March 19, 5pm. Ms. Raybold visited Earl Boyles last week and took a tour to see the specialized programs there. She said she got to visit the preschool, the life skills class, the parent group, and general ed classrooms. She appreciated the feeling of community throughout the school. Ms. Raybold also visited Arthur Academy last week, where the principal spent considerable time answering her questions. She said it was very interesting seeing kids in action, as she was trained in direct instruction when she was in school. She and the principal also discussed their enrollment, how many David Douglas student were enrolled, and equity issues. She also attended the Everybody Reads "Cat in the Hat" event at Gilbert Park, and the All Hands Raised Roast. Mr. Anderson said he read the Highlander and saw that the high school will be opening a coffee stand soon. Mr. Grotting said their idea is to open it like a real business, including preparing a loan application for start up funding from the district. Ms. Larson reported that she, Chair Scarcelli Ancheta and Ms. Raybold attended the All Hands Raised Roast and were the only district who cheered when they were introduced. She asked whether the Classified Employees Relations Council meetings can be rescheduled as she has a conflicting work commitment during their meeting time. Otherwise another board member could be assigned. Mr. Richardson said that once bargaining begins, those meetings will end, but he would discuss possibly adjusting the meeting schedule when the group gets together on Tuesday. Ms. Christopher remarked on a flyer insert in the newspaper from the City's Bureau of Transportation. They are taking comments from Midway area residents on their plan for street/connectivity improvements. She said it was her privilege to present a report to the Human Rights Commission as they consider displacement in housing and equity issues. She was invited because of her work with EPAP's housing subcommittee. There was only one member from the far east side, and the group appreciated hearing all the data to give them a better idea of what we're dealing with. EPAP is starting their work on parent involvement. The Foundation's Earl Boyles matching campaign raised \$5,950. She said she was pleased to attend a presentation by Justice Sonia Sotomayor at Fir Ridge, along with the Chair Scarcelli Ancheta, Superintendent Grotting and Assistant Superintendent Richardson. She found her very warm and down to earth and said she was an amazing speaker. Superintendent Grotting said the kids were wonderful, quiet, respectful and completely engaged, and that he couldn't have been prouder of them. Ms. Vancil took a group of students downtown to her presentation, where Justice Sotomayor called them onstage for a photo with her. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta said that our students had exceptional questions, and she could see that the presentation was very meaningful to them. She said she joined Mr. Acosta for the MESD budget meeting, and said she was with honored to be part of that discussion. The Chair announced that the presentation by Holocaust survivor Alter Weiner has been posted on the district website. She noted that the gentleman

doesn't charge for his presentations, and thanked him for coming to David Douglas.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Chair Scarcelli Ancheta declared the meeting adjourned.



Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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