

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
March 20, 2008**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 20, 2008, 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:

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

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Gary Haase, Interim Director of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk; 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 – Frieda Christopher thanked the board and administration for the flowers and support she received following her recent surgery. She participated in contract negotiation sessions as well as attending Tuesday’s meeting of the Educational Foundation, which is preparing for the annual dinner/auction on April 19. Board Chair Mattson said she attended the March 12 meeting of the Portland City Council along with Superintendent Rommel. They testified in favor of including a David Douglas elementary school among the projects financed with River District urban renewal funds. State Senator and former DDSD board member Rod Monroe also testified in support of establishing non-contiguous urban renewal district status for the new school project on Deardorff Road. Chair Mattson thanked Superintendent Rommel for her hard work on this effort, praising her for the excellent relationship she has developed with elected officials. Chair Mattson said she was pleased to attend an awards ceremony at Gresham-Barlow’s Deep Creek Elementary School on March 14, where that district received a national Energy Star award, the only district in the country to receive the award for two years running.

Student Body President’s Report – Stacy Chao reported on activities at the high school, which included auditions for the One Act Plays, nominations for prom court, and the selection of Brenda Olmos as the 2008 Rose Festival princess from David Douglas High School.

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that Business Network International (BNI), the world’s largest business referral organization, awarded a \$500 mini-grant to the Child Development Center’s teen parent program, to be used to buy books and promote parents reading aloud to their children. The superintendent introduced Robin Schuckmann, Executive Director, and Lori Chance, Communications Coordinator. Ms. Schuckmann said she was very excited to award the first local grant from their foundation, which awarded more than \$140,000 in grants around the world last year to support children in education. This is the first grant awarded by this organization in Oregon.

On a sad note, the superintendent reported that one of our middle school students was struck by a district school bus as she crossed 122nd Avenue this morning. Her injuries are thankfully not life threatening. Gilbert Park Elementary has been named one of six schools in Oregon designated “Celebrating Student Success” award winners by Oregon Department of Education. The award includes a \$3,000 prize. The staff will be honored for their work to improve student achievement at a banquet on May 9. Earl Boyles fourth grader Jez Harper sang the National Anthem for First Lady

Laura Bush when she visited Portland recently. Sabrina Skau, 2007 graduate of David Douglas High School, was featured in a New York Times article. The outstanding student and musician decided to take a year off before pursuing her degree. Zach Abbott, an outstanding wheelchair athlete, was named Athlete of the Quarter by Oregon Disability Sports in their spring newsletter. The superintendent was pleased to congratulate ASB president Stacy Chao, who has been awarded a Comcast Leaders and Achievers scholarship.

David Douglas High School Report – Randy Hutchinson introduced an update on the high school staff's visioning work and the progress they have made toward the objectives targeted last year. Areas of focus were identified during the staff's two day visioning workshop in the summer of 2006. They include infusing literacy across the curriculum and hiring a literacy coach to support those efforts; implementing the Read 180 program; curriculum alignment; and establishing a Positive Behavior Supports program, called "Scots Pride".

John Bier reported that the primary mechanism for implementing these improvements was the establishment of professional learning communities (PLC), which work to solve problems through shared leadership. Administrators, Division Chairs, TOSAs, and professional/technical certified teachers were trained last school year, and an additional 23 teachers were trained this year. PLC training will be ongoing.

Mathematics Division Chair Joe Talley described the math department's collaborative efforts. Organized into several PLCs, staff teams worked to develop a three year plan to prepare for new state requirements. They have aligned curriculum to state standards and are teaching common curriculum in core classes. They are also using common assessments, having developed common exams and grading practices. They have integrated literacy strategies which were selected for focus across the curriculum, including essential questions, vocabulary, and note taking strategies.

School Improvement Coordinator Denise Struckmeier reported on staff development. Early release activities focused on literacy, development of SMART goals, and implementation strategies. Collaborative time was key. Parents received a letter, email or phone call home in the fall, and in March, 850 postcard were sent home to acknowledge the good work and positive efforts of students. October and February 'Walk-Abouts' were scheduled for teachers to visit classrooms during instruction. The staff was surveyed following each early release session to determine which events were of most value. Teachers are very excited about their monthly division meetings this year. Ms. Struckmeier said she has been very grateful for the opportunity to make early release opportunities more relevant to teachers.

Sharon Webster said that enthusiasm for professional learning teams has been contagious. In a grassroots effort, division chairs took on the role of book club discussion leaders in order to share their own enthusiasm about the Heidi Hayes Jacobs training they had received. As more teachers became interested the book for ordered for all teachers. Two strategies, vocabulary and note taking, were selected as a school-wide focus for this year. A key component of the high school's improvement efforts was the hiring of a literacy coach.

Amy Holman, the high school's Literacy Coach, reported on active literacy activities, saying she is working to help the staff keep the literacy goal at the forefront at all times. IES teacher Greg Carradine commented via video on how the IES staff has infused literacy into their curriculum. Ms. Holman said she has been pleased with feedback regarding the bi-weekly literacy tips she sends staff via email. Each division has set SMART goals to infuse literacy into their curriculum. Early release sessions have focused on literacy training, and special activities and staff resources such as "Tip & Treat" have helped maintain momentum between inservices. Teacher Michele Powelson

commented on instructional strategies she has found successful in a video clip. Ms. Holman reviewed staff feedback to literacy training sessions, and reviewed reading test data, comparing final 2006-07 scores with the first round from 2007-08.

Elise Guest described the Read 180 program, designed to help students who are reading below grade level by providing researched-based curriculum to support their success. She reviewed the program's structure and introduced a video clip featuring teacher Kate Maloney. Ms. Maloney said it is exciting to see students take the skills they have learned to access curriculum which has been beyond them previously.

Mark Haner reviewed the Scots Pride program which is putting Positive Behavior Supports strategies into action at the high school. A team was established with representation from the entire staff including classified employees. They developed a common language and common, consistent expectations for behavior as well as consistent responses to misbehavior. Interesting and memorable presentations to students emphasize school-wide behavior expectations. A clip of one presentation for students featured sign language teacher Lori Ann Kordalis. Behavior data is being compiled this year to serve as the baseline for comparison in the future. The Scots Pride team has made PBS presentations at conferences in Redmond and Portland and presented at the statewide conference earlier this month. The high school's Evening Academy encompasses two programs. One serves the needs of students who move to David Douglas late in a semester or those who need a different option to best meet course requirements. A second strand of the program provides an opportunity for credit retrieval. Evening Academy has proven popular and successful.

John Murray introduced a recorded clip by math coach Bill Berry, comparing data from February testing of algebra and geometry students with 2006-07 year-end state averages. Mr. Berry said students are making great gains and are on track to meet state averages by the end of the school year. Mr. Murray complimented Mr. Talley for his work as division chair, saying he is doing an excellent job with the math department. He said he has been pleased with the very spirited conversations taking place during math division meetings and said Professional Learning Communities are an approach that will positively impact every student.

As improvement efforts go forward, Denise Struckmeier said that the staff will continue to work on curriculum alignment and maintaining a coherent sequence from course to course, as well as common assessment, with the math department leading that effort. It is hoped that professional learning team training will expand to additional staff. The team is looking at additional interventions for students who are struggling and identifying areas where support is needed. The high school has applied for a Smaller Learning Communities grant to support implementation of these plans. They want to provide enrichment opportunities as well. The 21st Century grant has supported the Scots Center, an after school tutoring center in the library, which includes a component in the weight room to provide PE makeup. They would like to offer the Scots Center before, during, and after school, and possibly add a peer tutoring program. Ms. Struckmeier reviewed the other areas a new 21st Century grant could support. One goal is to streamline and centralize the attendance process, so that the coordinator would be more available for mentoring and contacting parents. AVID kicks off next fall. An STAT/ACT prep course using Novanet is also being planned. 21st Century grant award winners will be announced in June.

Mr. Hutchinson reported that David Douglas High School has been identified as having a high percentage of graduates continuing their college enrollment beyond their freshman year. Statistics also reflect excellent academic preparation and first-year college performance. While there was a decline in these ratings for DDHS 2004 graduates, scores have rebounded with 90% of 2006 graduates who elected to attend college still enrolled following their freshman year. Mr. Hutchinson

thanked the board for their support of the high school staff's efforts and for providing access to experts in school improvement. He said momentum is building in the right direction and that one thing that will take students to the next level will be continued academic intervention. He said intervention strategies are among the continuing improvements which would be supported by the 21st Century grant if their application is approved for funding. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of the high school administrators, TOSAs and division chairs who have implemented the professional learning community model.

Second Readings – Board Policy

- **#5125 Homeless Students**
- **#5500 Special Education Program**
- **Revision of #7100.1 Parent Involvement in Chapter I Program Design and Implementation**

Following a motion and second from Mr. Centoni and Mr. Burton, the above new and revised policies were approved in a vote of 7-0.

Construction Update – Gary Haase reported on preparations taking place for the Floyd Light Middle School expansion. Next week, the construction shack will be installed as well as fencing around the construction zone. A temporary road will be set up to bring materials and equipment to the job site. He presented minutes of construction meetings, noting that he emphasizes the project deadline at every meeting and that we expect completion on time. Spec work is beginning for the Ron Russell project. The construction committee is working with Atlas to cost out the track and field project. Bids should be in soon to determine the total cost. The biggest factor in completing this project on time will be the weather.

Mr. Haase thanked Chair Mattson for bringing the new legislative requirement designating 1.5% of construction costs for public capital projects to solar energy to the board's attention. The new requirements will definitely affect new construction projects such as the school on Deardorff. It may not impact the two middle school classroom additions, since that work will not exceed minimum cost or insurable value requirements specified in the legislation. It was noted that grants from the City of Portland are available for energy efficiency improvements. Mr. Haase said that planning is underway for the third phase of energy efficient lighting upgrades around the district. Improvement in the quality of light as well as the cost savings have been remarkable where these upgrades have been completed.

New Audit Requirements – Gary Haase reported that the district's auditor has notified us that new requirements will entail a more extensive audit and corresponding additional charges this year. Once the new parameters are in place, he expects charges to decline for future years. The auditors were here today doing preliminary work and things are off to a good start.

Personnel Recommendations – The retirement of David Douglas High School Principal Randy Hutchinson effective June 30, 2008, was noted among the personnel recommendations. Mr. Centoni moved approval of the personnel recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

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

Discussion of High School Priorities – Superintendent Rommel introduced a discussion of the high school program, requesting input from board members regarding emphasis and future priorities.

During the discussion, the top priority was identified as the superintendent's selection of the new principal, to continue the positive momentum and implement next steps in the staff's improvement efforts following Mr. Hutchinson retirement on June 30. Familiarity with AVID and PBS would be plusses. The superintendent said the opening will be posted for inside and outside applicants. A timeline for hiring decisions for the various administrative vacancies was requested for a board meeting in the near future.

More information was requested on the use of substitute teachers at the high school and across the district. It was also asked whether some of the initiatives implemented at the high school would be useful at the middle school level.

The pressure on high school facilities remains a concern as enrollment continues to increase. It was recommended that the IES department be a priority in terms of modernization. While facilities are older and probably cannot be addressed without a bond, it was recommended that tools and equipment be upgraded as we are able. It was noted that our program may have competition from the new eastside charter school with a construction/technology focus. Business partnerships remain very important to our program development. School safety also should be at the forefront, including student behavior issues and disaster planning, evacuation and emergency drills. Mr. Stout remarked that the district is working with Portland Police on lock in / lock out drills across the district, and a drill was just completed at the high school. It was suggested that we look at the impact increased science requirements will have on our current facilities. As we plan for growth, a decision will need to be made about when to put a bond measure before the voters, and what projects to include.

Mr. Hutchinson was asked what could be done to improve the behavior of the audience at the graduation ceremony. He said that the School Resource Officers would be present along with the high school's security staff. A new ticket system has been developed to deter forgery. Police officers will prevent anyone visibly intoxicated from entering the gate.

Clarification was requested regarding security patrols during non-school hours. Mr. Haase said David Douglas has joined with Parkrose and Centennial to share nightly patrol services, with good success so far. Improved security cameras are also being installed where needed.

Board Chair Mattson announced that State Superintendent Susan Castillo, along with some area superintendents and members of the community, will participate in a roundtable discussion of education issues at Fir Ridge Campus on Saturday, April 26 at 3:00pm. She will be asked to comment on new graduation standards. The board chair thanked Mr. Hutchinson for his staff's presentation on high school efforts. It was noted that the high school is the centerpiece of David Douglas, and that the good things happening there reflect positively across the district.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Chair Mattson noted the request for a future report on middle school initiatives. She further requested a report from Mr. McCue on communications and the expansion of the key communicators list. She noted that she and Superintendent Rommel will address the Rotary Club on April 24.

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)(d) Collective Bargaining. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk