

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
April 2, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 2, 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	Donn Gardner
Mike Centoni	Mike Price

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Deputy Superintendent; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Board Chair Christopher reported that the East Portland Action Plan has been approved by the City Council. A committee will be formed to oversee implementation. Chair Christopher said she received an email from a parent who attended the community forum on superintendent selection criteria and facilities recommendations. The parent suggested that the Board consider offering parents the option of half day or full day kindergarten.

Student Body President's Report – Tyler Short, ASB Recording Secretary, reported on behalf of the David Douglas student body. The DDHS Student Council just wrapped up a successful and informative exchange visit with the Heppner High School Student Council, who visited David Douglas yesterday, following a visit to their high school earlier in the year by our students. The election of ASB officers for 2009-10 was held yesterday. Officers for next school year are Nick Anderson, President; Joey Peacock, First Vice President; Daniel Tew, Second Vice President; Nikki De Leon, Third Vice President; Selena Zou, Recording Secretary; and Aaron Weidman, Corresponding Secretary.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel reported that the District is using the *School Messenger* system to get the word out about kindergarten registration. The automated telephoning system is broadcasting a recorded message to every David Douglas family. David Douglas School District will be well represented to greet teacher candidates at the Educator Fair on April 7. Approximately 1,700 candidates have preregistered, although a number of districts have chosen not to attend this year. Candy Wallace reported on two new community partnerships that will benefit Lincoln Park students and families. As part of "National Teach Children to Save Day" on April 21, fifteen employees from US Bank will be presenting lessons to all grade levels about money, and setting goals for savings. Olive Garden has also taken Lincoln Park under their wing by providing lunch for teachers at a recent early release. They will also provide dinners for family nights. Mill Park is participating in the Adopt a Class program, which connects businesses with schools. Participating businesses contribute one employee volunteer for every student in the adopted classroom. Ten Mill Park classrooms are benefitting from the program this year.

Barbara Kienle presented the Special Education report card for 2007-08, and reviewed some highlights. The number of our students with IEPs graduating with regular diplomas increased from 2006-07, and the drop-out rate decreased. 98.3% of our IEP students participated in the statewide assessment, exceeding the state target of 95%. The percentage of our IEP graduates who were

pursuing post-secondary programs, which could include our Community Transition Program, or were gainfully employed within one year of leaving high school, also exceeded the state target. Mike Stout said that at Tuesday night's Board Workshop, he mentioned considering a minor boundary adjustment between Alice Ott and Ron Russell Middle Schools. He recommended putting that idea on hold at this time, following continued discussion about the impacts on enrollment at the middle schools. A more in-depth assessment during the next school year will better determine possible solutions for middle school enrollment pressures.

Graduation Requirements Proposal – David Douglas High School Principal John Bier introduced a proposal for changes in the Career Pathway program and related changes in graduation requirements, saying he has been working with his staff and PSU consultants this year to review the career program and identify strategies to strengthen it. The Career Pathway program has been an important part of the high school program since the early 1990's. Over the years, some of the original intent has faded due to teacher turnover and the lack of a consistent review process. Mr. Bier said the changes being proposed will re-infuse rigor and give the program renewed energy.

Counseling Chair Linda Vancil reported that counselors surveyed 2008 graduates to find out what they are doing now, and to ask for suggestions that would strengthen our program. She said reconnecting with her former students was a very positive experience. Most are doing what they reported in May as being their post-graduation plan. Suggestions from former students on ways to improve high school instruction included increasing rigor; holding students more accountable, as is the case in a college setting; and more personal finance information on planning, budgeting/savings, and credit, including real-life experiences such as tax preparation. Additional focus on study skills and more realistic course experiences were suggested. Counselors are also looking at how they can better support students to help them be successful and prepared for life after high school.

Assistant Principal Sharon Webster reviewed changes proposed for PACE. Changes for Grade 9 curriculum include redeveloping content standards, emphasizing note taking and research skills, exploring strengths and weaknesses for self-reflection, and personal and educational goal setting. PACE I students will also create an electronic portfolio which will track student progress and experiences throughout their high school career. Content standards are also being redeveloped for PACE II. Tenth graders will take the strengths and interests they identified in PACE I and apply them to potential careers as they do additional research.

Assistant Principal Mark Haner said that he, Mr. Bier, and Ms. Webster put their hearts and souls into Career Pathways when they were teachers, which is why they are so motivated to raise the program to a new level. They want to refocus CP on common curriculum including verbal, written and reading skills, problem solving techniques, safety and health practices, and environmental issues, as well as project and internship guidelines that teachers develop and will use across the program. PACE teachers will work more closely with Career Pathway teachers to align curriculum and assessment expectations from 9th through 12th grades, using the Oregon Skill Sets as curriculum guides. They will also work to reestablish business partnerships to review curriculum and ensure that work-based standards are embedded. Mr. Haner noted the effort, resources and equipment that Mr. Centoni provided during the construction of the DDXpress. Each Career Pathway will also develop an in-school enterprise or project.

David Douglas High School will pilot the Career Readiness Assessment, which measures skills employers believe are critical to job success. It is already being used on the east coast, and may be used in the future by ODE. This assessment grants a special diploma with list of areas where students met or exceeded the skill requirements, which will be useful in job searches after high

school. The staff will also seek resources via professional organizations, such as Oregon Skills USA, which focuses on leadership and job skills. They offer curriculum support, a third party assessment and competition in more than 40 areas at the regional, state and national levels.

Mr. Bier summarized, saying the focus of PACE will be to look inward for ninth graders - their interests, strengths and weaknesses, and initial career research, to lay the groundwork for tenth graders to shift their focus outward on what career they might want to pursue. They will work on cover letter, resume, and interview skills, and their preparation in PACE will connect directly with the Career Pathway, which culminates in a Senior Venture project and fair. An assessment and exit interview are part of that process.

Mr. Bier proposed some changes in graduation requirements:

- eliminating the .5 keyboarding credit for Grade 9, and rolling computer skills into PACE
- moving Personal Finance out of PACE II and creating a required .5 Personal Finance course for seniors
- requiring Career Pathway I and II classes for graduation. Courses are currently required but are not part of graduation requirements. The change would increase total credits from 25 to 27, effective in 2010-11.

A question was asked about how our middle school curriculum will support goals at the high school. Mr. Bier said teams of language arts, math and science teachers already meet to align curriculum; he has great communication with middle school principals and the middle schools are very willing to work with the high school. Superintendent Rommel said that as we continue work to revamp board policy, the proposed graduation requirement changes can be addressed and brought to the Board for consideration as part of that process.

Criteria for Superintendent Selection – Superintendent Rommel reported on steps taken to develop criteria for the selection of the next superintendent. At the last board meeting, responses from the community forum and web survey were reviewed. Superintendent Rommel said she took the items receiving the highest ratings and wove them into criteria statements for the Board's consideration. She also presented a proposed timeline for the process, which would target the selection of the new superintendent for March 2010.

Among the criteria: a strong leader with unquestioned personal integrity and trustworthiness; and an exceptional communicator and listener with a strong commitment to students and staff, focused on doing what is best for students and inspiring successful achievement for all. Cultural competency will be stressed, with the ability to work effectively with an urban, diverse, multicultural community, as well as an understanding of Oregon school finance and demonstrated ability to manage district funds responsibly. The candidate should demonstrate understanding and respect for the history and culture of the David Douglas School District and community. Both internal and external candidates will be considered. Expectations include a commitment to residing within district boundaries, and documented successful experience in educational leadership and management, with prior experience as a superintendent preferred. A future discussion will consider compensation and whether to contract for a candidate search.

Mr. Gardner moved to accept the Superintendent Selection Criteria as presented, seconded by Mr. Centoni. The motion was approved in a unanimous vote.

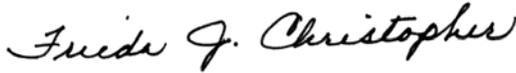
Audience Participation – Board Chair Christopher opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

Consent Agenda – Board Chair Christopher removed the Russellville contract modification from the agenda. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

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

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Christopher announced that the Board would reconvene in Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining, and (2)(h) Litigation, and (2)(e) Property. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk