

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
April 7, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 7, 2011, 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:

Annette Mattson, Board Vice Chair	
Mike Centoni	Mike Price
Frieda Christopher	Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta
Donn Gardner	

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

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Vice Chair Mattson announced that Chair Barberis is away attending a Head Start conference. Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta extended her compliments to the administration and staff for maintaining their positive attitudes in difficult times. She also welcomed members of the audience. Frieda Christopher recapped East Portland Action Plan discussions about tax exempt property, remarking that the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability will be taking testimony on April 26 regarding a development planned for SE119th & Pine, which is applying for a 60-year tax exemption. She attended a recent Town Hall meeting held by Rep. Jefferson Smith. Another is scheduled for May 24, 6:30pm at East Portland Community Center. On Saturday, she'll attend a meeting at Mt. Hood Community College regarding redistricting, as a result of the most recent Census. Ms. Christopher reminded folks to mark their calendars for the May 21 Educational Foundation fundraiser at the Rose Garden, which is being planned in partnership with the Portland Business Alliance Leadership Class to support the Arts in David Douglas. Mike Price attended Fir Ridge's basketball game on Friday and watched them beat Centennial, saying he was really impressed with the crowd and our Fir Ridge students. Annette Mattson recently attended the East Portland Chamber of Commerce government affairs forum, which focused on economic development in Multnomah County. She also met with Charles McGee, one of the founders of the Black Parent Initiative, and recently met with Judy Leach, President of East Portland Chamber of Commerce, who works for Portland Adventist and was seeking ways to become more supportive and involved with our schools. Ms. Mattson has been selected to represent PGE on the economic development subcommittee of the East Portland Action Plan.

Student Body President's Report – ASB President Katherine Westmoreland reported that the ASB election of officers was held last week. Tanner Adrian will serve as next year's ASB President. The campaign for class representatives is now underway. Seniors received graduation information at an assembly earlier this week. "Under the City Lights" is the theme for the Prom, which will be held at the Oregon Zoo on April 16. Students are participating in spring sports, the Skills USA competition, and the One Act Plays. The high school has been awarded a gold medal in the High School Grammy Awards. Band, Orchestra and Choir students are headed into league competitions next week. Many student leaders are headed to Outdoor School with our sixth graders. Superintendent Grotting said that Ms. Westmoreland has been a superb ASB president this year.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting welcomed members of the audience. He said that he and Barbara Kienle testified before the City Council yesterday on the value of the SUN program and to advocate for the City's continued support. There is a line item in the mayor's proposed budget to have David Douglas High School become a SUN school. Mr. Grotting reported that thanks to the efforts of the District Office Social Committee and Natalie Osburn, he has been "volunteered" to sit in the dunk tank if the staff reaches a fund raising goal for the construction of art display cases for the District Office breezeway. Dr. Osburn said this year her team wanted to do some community building to raise \$1,500, with a culminating activity at the end of the fundraiser. If that goal is reached, other dunk tank participants will include DDHS Principal John Bier, and Transportation Manager Bob Jacobson, invited in order to encourage participation by high school and transportation staff. Mr. Grotting reported that our initial family engagement nights are now completed and the sessions went very well. He said has learned a lot about our community and heard many ideas from parents about what we are doing well and where we can improve. The next step will be to convene some larger groups. Ideas and suggestions will be shared with the board.

Recommendation to Revise Election Date for Bond Proposal – Superintendent Grotting spoke today with Liz Kaufman, renowned for her expertise in school bond election planning. She expressed her opinion that it would be advantageous to postpone putting a bond proposal before our voters until May 2012, rather than November 2011 as earlier approved by the board. Waiting until then would allow us to engage with our community in depth regarding the details and to gather their input about the most critical items to fund. It was also noted that with signs already popping up in our area regarding the PPS proposal, patrons may confuse their request with ours if both are on the November ballot. Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve changing the bond election date from November 2011 to May 2012, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0. Mr. Grotting said that the Children's Institute may fund a community survey.

SUN Services and Providers Report – Barbara Kienle introduced a report from our SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) partners. SUN is a collaborative effort between Multnomah County, various nonprofits, the City of Portland, and our school district. SUN programs are in operation at five of our elementary schools, all three middle schools, and Fir Ridge hosts a quasi-SUN school. We hope to expand that program.

Allison Dunfee reported from El Programa Hispano, part of Catholic Charities. El Programa Hispano is the lead agency at Ron Russell, Floyd Light, and Fir Ridge. The program is in its second year and Ms. Dunfee said they very much appreciate the partnership they have with our district. SUN video production students from Ron Russell Middle School produced a video reviewing some of their activities, and sharing information on how SUN is helping students academically, which was played for the board.

IRCO (Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization) sponsors the SUN program at Gilbert Park. Mandy Hurley, Gilbert Park's coordinator, thanked Superintendent Grotting for advocating for SUN at a recent City Council meeting, saying it is really important that the City support this program, as SUN can supplement programs that school districts lose to budget cuts. Offerings are developed to support the school improvement plan. Classes are available to students who need additional support to meet academic benchmarks. A Slavic academic club focuses on homework completion and includes an extra hour of literacy. Mandy said they are particularly proud of this class, which gives the school a chance to reach out to the Slavic community. SUN provides personal tutors and homework help, as well as other enrichment programs including such drama, an art history class which includes a visit to the art museum, and a sportsmanship class. A soccer class was funded by

a grant from NIKE, which allowed the program to buy equipment, provide a coach, and to provide healthy snacks. An Environmental science class was offered this fall through another grant. Students planted a natural garden in front of the school. Many parents assisted during the plantings, and they hope for more parent involvement with a planned vegetable garden.

Fritz Hirsch, manager of IRCO's youth academic programs, said programs are focused on serving families with preparation for school, success while in school, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities for education and work. Gilbert Park's SUN program is one of six which IRCO runs in Multnomah County. In addition to SUN, IRCO provides African and Asian-focus social and academic support programs, and small group after school tutoring at Ron Russell MS and David Douglas High School. They also conduct the federally funded Upward Bound program at our high school, supporting students who would be the first in their families to go to college, with support for success through high school and beyond, the summer Youth Connect program, and early childhood programs for ages 0-5.

Brooke Timmons is program manager for Metropolitan Family Services, which functions as the lead agency for the SUN service system. She presented an overview of MFS school-based services in David Douglas, which began in 2002. Since then, MFS has brought more than \$1.1million in services as well as many hours of volunteer time. In 2009-10, 26 volunteers served 198 hours in David Douglas schools. At all of our middle schools, David Douglas High School and Fir Ridge Campus, MFS provides intensive case management for students at high risk of dropping out, or who have dropped out, with one on one and regular group sessions, as well as emergency support and referral services for families. MFS also runs the Experience Corps project at Gilbert Heights, which they hope to expand. At Earl Boyles, SUN offerings include academic and enrichment classes and recreational activities which are aligned to the school curriculum and school improvement plan, as well as adult classes which include a 13 week parenting class, as well as opportunities for parent involvement such as a gardening club. The Spanish Café, facilitated by a bilingual Americorps worker, allows Hispanic parents to come together to make informal connections, and provides leadership opportunities as those parents are planning an upcoming school-wide event. SUN also serves as a hub for social service referrals. An emergency food pantry has been instituted at Earl Boyles, where 20 families are provided 12-15 pounds of food every week to meet a strong need. Hot meals for the Earl Boyles community will be provided during the summer. Ms. Timmons said the strong partnership between MFS and David Douglas is vital to bring these needed services to our students and families.

Kenan Ginsberg, Campfire's School Based Area Director, said that Campfire has evolved into a modern co-ed social service agency, which runs SUN programs at Menlo Park, Mill Park, and Gilbert Heights. Menlo is in its first year of SUN partnership, which was funded by the Portland Children's Levy. 619 youth and 56 adults have participated in enrolled programming, with many more in non-enrolled programs such as back to school nights, special activities, basketball and literacy nights. They provide academic support and are sharing data with the district to ensure best practices for students to lead to best outcomes, using a range of assessments. A boys and girls life skills group is being run by Masters students in Counseling from Lewis & Clark. Other partnerships provide Chess for Success and Lego Robotics. Mr. Ginsberg said Campfire is very focused as a youth development agency on service to a core group of students across the whole school year, providing life skills and character building programming to help them be as successful as possible. More families in schools are finding a connection through SUN to access social services support. Research indicates SUN is serving a population more at risk than the general school population, and that due to the additional support SUN provides, they are academically outperforming the general school population.

Ms. Kienle reported that another SUN partner is Portland Parks, which runs the program at Alice Ott Middle School. Two homework clubs are being offered this year, including Recovery Homework, which is supporting 80 students on a daily basis. AOMS SUN has offered more than 20 different after school classes for a range of interests, including adult offerings and a GED class for Spanish-speaking adults. Evening events are also drawing a large number of our families. Ms. Kienle closed by saying that wonderful things are happening for our students as a result of our partnership with these agencies, the City and County. They will be providing summer opportunities that we otherwise could not offer. Summer lunches will be offered at our three middle school sites all summer long. We are working with Parks on community gardens as well. Floyd Light Principal Mark Gaulke reported that the SUN Showcase is the one event held at his school which brings in the variety of parents that truly reflect the diversity of our community.

Special Education Report Card – Barbara Kienle presented highlights of the 2009-10 Special Education Report Card. Publishing this report is an annual requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, and looks at indicators we are required to measure for our students with disabilities. She said that overall, our special education students are showing good success. Students with IEPs graduating with regular diplomas from David Douglas have increased to 77.8%, exceeding the state target. Drop out rates for students with IEPs have decreased to 2%, also better than the state target. The report covers many measures of where and how we serve our students with disabilities. Although measures of academic performance show improvement, our students with disabilities have not met AYP. Ms. Kienle will be reviewing the report with our special education staff, then copies will be sent home with students. The report will also be posted on the district website.

Budget Update – Superintendent Grotting reported that the legislature matched our district's target of \$5.7 billion in state education funding, although the state budget is not yet final. He said that Janice Essenberg and her staff have been working very hard on the proposed budget, which will be hand delivered to board and budget committee members next Tuesday in preparation for the budget meeting on April 18. One concern is that while district enrollment has been on the increase for a number of years, we have seen a slight decline since January. While we will be presenting a balanced budget, we will still spend \$3 million more than we are taking in, due to the one time infusion of reserves approved by the board. We will also be negotiating both Certified and Classified contracts. 35-40 more teaching positions could be impacted next year. In the next biennium, PERS rates will increase another 3 percentage points, at least \$1.5 million for our district. Superintendent Grotting said that through the RIF process both unions have been great to work with, and impacted teachers and classified staff have shown great professionalism in this difficult situation. He thanked the board for having the foresight to build a contingency fund to help offset this enormous loss of revenue.

Ms. Essenberg said she will send an email out to board and budget committee members tomorrow, offering the resources of the business office staff as needed, as they review the budget document. This is a time when the state school fund is being adjusted nearly daily. A bit of a positive adjustment for 2009-10, was offset by a very small loss for 2010-11. The budget proposal and the superintendent's budget message will go out on Tuesday, and the budget meeting will be held a week from Monday, on April 18, 7:00pm.

Mr. Centoni commented on the consent agenda item to increase lunch prices, asking what financial impact the PERS increase will have on our food service program. Ms. Essenberg said that it will cost the district about \$60,000 more for nutrition services because of the PERS increase. The

district receives a subsidy for free/reduced lunch. We will be required to increase lunch prices by federal law. Superintendent Grotting said it is important to note that most of our students receive free lunch, but those paying for lunch will be impacted by this increase, which is out of our control.

Human Resources Update – Superintendent Grotting said that HR Director Ken Richardson and his staff have done a phenomenal job in handling the difficult reduction in force with integrity and empathy. Mr. Richardson said this is a great district with first class employees, who even faced with very difficult, life changing facts, are still taking care of our students every day.

Mr. Richardson reviewed the process by which more than 330 notices went out to staff prior to spring break, each hand delivered. More than 230 Classified Employees were impacted, with six positions eliminated, resulting in two true RIFs, and reductions in hours. Among the Certificated Group, the targeted reduction of 80 FTE was reached through retirements, leaves of absence, resignations, and 38 RIFs. More than 50 of our teachers received change of placement notices as well. Mr. Richardson thanked board members for providing an early retirement incentive, saying that 23 of our staff took advantage of that offer. He also thanked our administrators for the time and sensitivity they took in notifying their staff.

Mr. Centoni requested research on the standing of the district's Teachers of the Future Program, saying we may want to bring that forward again. Vice Chair Mattson thanked the officers from our employee unions for their leadership in working through this difficult process.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

- **Recommendation to Increase Lunch Prices**
- **Approval of 2010-11 School Calendar Revision**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes**

Audience Participation – Vice Chair Mattson opened the meeting for public comment.

Mike Ewald – district patron, gave board members the challenge to persuade him to vote for a bond measure, saying he doesn't think the district has been frugal enough in past years. He said this issue has been very frustrating from a tax payer's perspective.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items – Dr. Osburn announced that April 17-22 is designated as Volunteer Appreciation Week. She presented a proclamation honoring our volunteers for board members to sign. Copies will be sent to our buildings for posting.

Dr. Osburn reported that two drafts of the 2011-12 school calendar were sent out to staff for input. Of 375 votes received, Draft A received 262, and Draft B received 113. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Draft A of the 2011-12 school calendar, as preferred by our staff. His motion was seconded by Ms. Christopher, and approved in a vote of 6-0.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Vice Chair Mattson declared the meeting adjourned.



Annette Mattson, Board Vice Chair
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Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk