

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
April 16, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130<sup>th</sup> 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** – Donn Gardner reported that his granddaughter, Amanda Pred, performed at a number of high school theater and music productions this year. He was proud to announce that she has been invited to sing at the Oregon Bach Festival, as has fellow student Keith Stokoe. She recently was notified that she has been accepted to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. As a David Douglas student from kindergarten through graduation, he said her success is a testament to the importance the district places on the arts. These experiences allow students to explore and to develop their natural gifts. Mr. Gardner also shared his concern about the behavior of middle school students he observed at a local business following Wednesday's early release. He said we need to impress on students that their behavior off campus reflects on the district as a whole.

Mr. Centoni attended the Educator Fair last week, where he helped welcome teacher candidates. He noted that there were long lines in front of the David Douglas booth all day long. He said the administrators represented the district well at the event. Dawn Barberis said she attended the NSBA Conference last week, along with Chair Christopher, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Mattson, and Superintendent Rommel. She said she will share her thoughts on some the presentations she attended at the next board meeting. Chair Christopher said the session she attended on a paperless board meeting system discussed a more affordable process than similar offerings. Mr. Gardner also attended a session on paper-free board meetings, remarking that any additional work load on the board secretary should be considered as we look at these programs. The Board Chair said she forwarded an email to fellow board members from the City regarding SB 907, which would allow design review in East Portland. Senator Haas has scheduled a hearing for tomorrow.

**Student Body President's Report** – ASB President Stephanie Lutz reported that the prom will be held this Saturday at the Zoo. Preparations are also under way for the International Bite, presented by school clubs. This year's Bite will include a DJ. Last week, the student graffiti abatement team painted two fences for residents as part of their neighborhood graffiti cleanup project.

**Superintendent's Report** – The superintendent announced that the week of May 4-8 will be National Teacher Appreciation Week. Board members signed a proclamation honoring our teachers which will be copied and posted in all district buildings. The fifth grade Future Problem Solvers team has qualified for national competition, the first district team to qualify in the last six years. They have

been invited to compete at the national event at Michigan State University. The superintendent announced that district students have had success at a number of other competitions. Floyd Light's "Battle of the Books" team went all the way to the finals in the statewide competition at Chemeketa Community College, finishing second. At the state drama competition, the high school senior play was the state winner, and qualified for nationals. Students placed in several events at the state welders competition and state skills competition. Symphonic strings, symphonic band, symphony, and concert choir all hope to qualify for state contests this spring.

Natalie Osburn announced that the District has been awarded a grant of \$7,650 from the Luis Palau Foundation, the focus of which is to engage students at Fir Ridge and the middle schools. The funds will be used to hire mentors to connect with students having attendance issues. Barbara Kienle was pleased to report that Multnomah County is expanding its dental sealant program to include middle school students. She also noted that 926 district families have taken advantage of the opportunity for free health insurance coverage through the Kaiser Foundation. Superintendent Rommel announced that David Douglas High School has recently entered into a contract with Adventist Medical Center to provide more experiences for health sciences students. Through the efforts to two David Douglas High School graduates who work there, Newport Seafood Grill will be providing complementary food for some high school events, including a meal for AVID classes on May 4. Mr. Silva and the Troubadours will perform at the opening of the legislative session in Salem on April 28. Their participation was requested by Rep. Jefferson Smith.

**School Improvement Report** – Candy Wallace opened her report on the impact of our elementary School Improvement Coordinators by introducing each of them, as well as PBS Coordinator Shawn Fletcher, who supports their efforts via consultation and training. She provided an overview of their roles and responsibilities under the areas of PBS coordination, assessment coordination, and school improvement. School Improvement Coordinators handle student discipline, communicate with parents, and monitor attendance. The check-in, check-out program provides extra contact for students needing additional support, helping them with daily goal setting and rewarding their efforts. School Improvement Coordinators provide PBS training for their building staff, and are a big part of the acknowledgement system, involving assemblies and rewards. They also welcome new students and share their school's behavior expectations. Assessment coordination includes creating an assessment plan and schedule, providing training for administering tests, providing OAKS support in the computer lab, and proctoring individual students and small groups. They also provide information for parents as well as data analysis. General school improvement tasks include small group lessons, academic intervention, and a monthly reading collaboration. School Improvement Coordinators are key members of the building Site Council, the PBS team, and the screening team. They assist with staff meetings and early releases, SIP planning and reporting, make recommendations regarding hiring of support staff, and provide coaching and classroom coverage when needed. A video was presented demonstrating the many roles of these key members of the elementary school staff.

Ms. Wallace reviewed reading data from the 2006-07 school year, the year before School Improvement Coordinators were established, comparing it with 2007-08, the first year of implementation. The reports show gains in every one of our elementary schools in reading. The focus on positive behavior makes a difference in what students learn. Math data also showed increases at every building, as did writing data. Discipline data also shows improvement since PBS was implemented. Ms. Wallace concluded by saying the School Improvement Coordinators have really become behavior specialists and it is very fortunate that our elementary schools have their expertise and support. Positive changes are occurring as a result of their efforts.

**School Funding Update** – Janice Essenberg reported some good news regarding the budget, saying the district will be receiving an additional \$938,000 from the State for 2007-08. As a result, she adjusted the beginning fund balance for 2009-10 by \$700,000. She did not credit the beginning fund balance by the full amount of the state payment because she expects investment earnings to be lower than anticipated. She said that the education funding number most commonly being talked about around the state is \$5.9 billion statewide for K-12; other estimates set that number as low as \$5.4 billion.

In 2008-09, our state school fund formula revenue from all sources was \$82.2 million. A \$5.9 billion scenario would reduce the district's state revenue to \$79 million. Including the roll up costs in personnel (salary and benefits) of approximately \$3.5 million, the district would face a deficit of \$6 million for 2009-10 under this funding scenario.

The superintendent said opinions vary regarding whether federal stimulus money can be used for costs currently charged to the General Fund. An effort to inform our congressional representatives is underway, as the guidance which was issued has many more stringent requirements than we were originally led to believe. The next economic forecast will be presented in mid-May and will provide the most accurate guidance for planning 09-10. In the meantime, Ms. Essenberg will review the current assumptions and their implications, using the \$5.9 billion as we build our budget.

**Resolution to Increase General Fund Transfer to Capital Projects Fund for the Year 2008-09** – Janice Essenberg presented a resolution authorizing a transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. The transfer will ensure that funds are accessible for maintenance and facilities projects. Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 5-0.

**Consent Agenda** – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Price. During discussion, it was requested that the K-8 Math Textbook Adoption be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Gardner withdrew his motion.

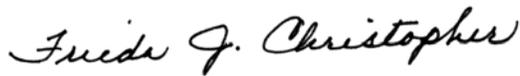
- **K-8 Math Textbook Adoption** – Brooke O'Neill reviewed the proposed textbook adoption, noting that math materials for Grades 9-12 will be considered for adoption next year along with Science. The extra time will allow math textbook selection to be aligned to the new state math standards which are still in development. The allocation for math purchase K-12 is approximately \$870,000, although only a portion of those funds will be used at this time as we purchase K-8 materials. Mr. Gardner moved to approve the adoption of math textbooks as outlined, seconded by Mr. Price. Mr. Centoni said he was not comfortable approving the purchase at this time, and would prefer to defer the adoption until later in the budget process. Superintendent Rommel responded that math is one of our core subjects and current books are seven years old. Teachers have been meeting all year long reviewing and selecting materials, and are ready to begin inservice training during early releases and over the summer. The motion to approve the purchase passed in a vote of 4-1 (In favor: Barberis, Christopher, Gardner, Price; opposed: Centoni).

- **Personnel Recommendations** – Mr. Gardner moved approval, seconded by Mr. Price. Personnel Recommendations were unanimously approved.

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

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – The superintendent received the Board's approval by consensus to allow the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Future Problem Solvers team to travel to Michigan to participate in the National competition, at the district's expense. Chair Christopher said she will research whether there are funds available through the Educational Foundation to offset a portion of travel costs. Mr. Gardner requested a report on the AVID program as a future agenda item. He also suggested that particular care be used in selecting a site for a modular building should Multnomah County move the Lincoln Park health clinic to the high school campus, so as not to impede future options for high school expansion. Mr. Centoni requested more specifics in the form of a formal resolution for future textbook adoptions.

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



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Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



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Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk