

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
April 19, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 19, 2007, 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:

Donn Gardner, Board Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Carl Clinton
Bruce Burton	Annette Mattson
Mike Centoni	

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Courtney Wilton, Director of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk; Sherrie Barger, Director of Curriculum; 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 – Dawn Barberis said this year’s NSBA Conference was very worthwhile. She expressed regret that not all of the board members were able to attend this year. Annette Mattson congratulated Mr. Centoni on the birth of his granddaughter. She noted that student achievement and childhood health and obesity were reoccurring themes at this year’s conference. Board Chair Gardner said he attended a number of very informative sessions at the conference. He also remarked on the focus on childhood obesity, saying that a number of other issues are factors besides the impact of meals served at school.

Student Body President’s Report – Ellyn Ward announced that while the symphonic string orchestra didn’t beat Reynolds in the conference competition, they will be sending a performance tape for review in hopes of being included in the state competition. The Model United Nations team took the first three places at the state convention. A successful prom was held last weekend. Last week’s clothing sale to benefit the Clothes Closet will allow the National Honor Society to purchase additional shoes. Students from grades 9-11 are preparing a video about school culture and rules to share with new students. Next week’s Diversity Week activities will include special theme days, a presentation from a motivational speaker, and the International Bite.

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that Channel 8 News covered last Tuesday’s presentation on the subject of alcohol awareness by Oregon’s First Lady, Mary Oberst, to Kim Graham’s fifth grade class at Earl Boyles. Fir Ridge teacher Bobi Blue was recently selected as Teacher of the Week by K103 Radio. A student wrote a letter nominating her for the honor. The annual meeting of the David Douglas Historical Society will be held April 28 in the high school’s south cafeteria. Board Chair Gardner will represent the Board at that event. High school teachers Tara Hridel and Scott Dossa have been invited to speak at the National Science Teacher Association conference. They will present information on the “Nucleus Conspiracy” program. Board members are invited to attend Fir Ridge Campus’s third annual art show on April 26, 4-6pm. Proceeds will benefit their prom. The high school’s fashion design class will host a fashion show the same evening at 6:30pm. The TAG Project Fair will also be held April 26, from 7-8pm at the Children’s Services Center. The Foundation dinner/auction will take place this Saturday.

David Douglas High School Student Achievement Plan – Principal Randy Hutchinson and his administrative team presented information on the high school's Student Achievement Plan. Mr. Hutchinson reviewed the school's demographics and trends in state assessment results, noting that scores have not declined even as our poverty rate has increased. But scores are not where the faculty want them to be. He reviewed the process by which the staff visioning project began, and steps since, which included development of a school wide focus on a short list of priorities, and identifying a list of core values. He thanked the Board for their support in approving additional staffing for the high school as their enrollment has grown.

Science Chair Denise Struckmeier provided an update on continuing efforts. She recapped collaborative events and the positive feedback which has been received following each session. Since the last report to the Board, staff members have met by core content areas, sharing instructional strategies and collaborating on lesson planning; had the opportunity to observe one another in the classroom; and sent good news postcards to parents. Teachers of common content areas will meet again in May to reflect on the spring semester.

Mr. Hutchinson said one school goal for the next two years will be to increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed benchmark in the 10th grade reading assessment to 70%. Elise Guest said the staff will take a multilayered approach, which will include adding a reading intervention course, *Read 180*, for ninth graders with lower reading/writing skills. Sharon Webster said active literacy – reading, writing, speaking, and listening – will be emphasized at all levels and across all subject areas. As students move through the grades, they will all be getting the same skill support, with the alignment effort seen as crucial. A literacy coach will work with division chairs and individual teachers to be sure research-based strategies are being used, and will utilize assessment data to develop best-practice strategies. Mr. Hutchinson said a reading intervention class is being planned which would be required of all seniors who do not score at 236 level in reading or writing, and would replace their early release option. Students will be able to test out at any given time during the course.

Mark Haner reported that the secondary focus for the next two years will be behavioral support. With the help of Mike Stout and Ericka Guynes, the staff has been introduced to Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). A leadership team including representatives from each division as well as counselors and a classified staff member attended the state PBS conference, which focused on high schools. Rob Horner presented at a district workshop, where the high school staff heard about what the elementary and middle schools have been doing. John Murray reported that a consultant was hired to work on math program assessment, and is working with the middle and high school math departments to assist with curriculum alignment. Randy Hutchinson concluded by saying that staff members have participated in training to develop professional learning teams. The Student Achievement Plan will be presented in detail to the full staff in June.

Fir Ridge Campus Highlights – Board Chair Gardner introduced Fir Ridge Campus Director Ron Knight and three members of his staff to present an update on activities there. Mr. Knight said the Fir Ridge staff participated in the two day visioning and planning meeting with the rest of the high school staff, which was a valuable exercise. One of the outcomes of that first planning session was the development of a list of five core values by the entire Fir Ridge staff. They help reinforce the importance of developing relationships with students, families, and community. The core values are: 1) Students and staff will foster connections between families, schools, and community; 2) Students and staff will be held accountable for doing their jobs; 3) Students and staff will have high academic expectations; 4) Students and staff will approach each other in respectful manner; and 5) Students

and staff will accept change and evolve.

Teacher Bobi Blue said there has been an incredible response to newly instituted family nights. Sessions have been held on employment skills and life after Fir Ridge. Community resources such as community colleges and the military have been part of the programs. Future events will include a presentation on gang awareness and an African American family night. Other activities have included production of a Fir Ridge magazine featuring student writing, poetry and artwork, and hosting a session by the Multnomah County Circuit Court. All 9th and 10th graders complete the *Read 180* program, which has been a huge success.

Instructional Assistant LaShawanta Spears said Mr. Knight has done an outstanding job with new student interviews, where he reviews expectations and gets to know incoming students. At Fir Ridge, special emphasis has been placed on conflict resolution, anger management, and weekly friendship support groups. Ms. Spears said she has enjoyed coaching the Fir Ridge hip hop dance team, which has performed at a Blazer game and at the State Capitol. Dance team members have formed 'big brother/big sister' relationships with elementary school students.

Counselor Catherine Nyhan said that Fir Ridge has hosted a number of student teachers and counseling interns who bring fresh ideas and perspectives. Visitors are very impressed with the support students receive from partnerships with direct service agencies. The annual East County Resource Fair includes more than 40 agencies which set up booths and share information. It has become such a popular event that the East Portland Neighborhood Office has provided a \$2,000 grant to support this project. Students can connect to resources through a career fair which includes opportunities for mock interviews and help with building resumés. The "Community 101" project gives students the experience of determining which social service agency projects to fund with a grant budget of \$5,000. Other planned projects include landscape work and tapping into grant funding for an outdoor exercise course, and getting the library up and running with assistance from high school librarian, Martha Decherd.

Audience Participation / Break – Board Chair Gardner opened the meeting for public comment. There being no remarks from the audience, a brief recess was declared. The meeting was reconvened.

Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the Personnel Recommendations as presented, with a second from Ms. Barberis. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

Secondary Level Considerations – Superintendent Rommel opened an informal discussion on the secondary program.

A priority identified in the short term was implementation of PBS at the high school. Mike Stout said the high school staff will need to be able to articulate building-wide expectations to those students coming up from middle schools. Students are familiar with the middle school expectations. Randy Hutchinson said the goal will be to keep those successes going and not alter them too much. Mr. Stout said he envisions a high school student sitting down with a newcomer to discuss expectations, as student-to-student interaction would be most effective at the high school level. Mr. Hutchinson said the plan will be to use student leaders in a similar way to Link Crew. An effective peer mediation program is also in place. The high school team which participated at the state conference and the district workshop are very enthusiastic about the program. Ron Knight and some of his staff members will be visiting an alternative school in North Clackamas that has successfully implemented PBS. A report was requested on PBS implementation at the middle school level.

One of the concerns mentioned earlier at the high school level was the academic preparation of middle schoolers. The work on math alignment will address those concerns directly. Sherrie Barger said a similar effort is underway in reading/language arts. A middle/high school literacy committee will begin their work next year. Mr. Stout said that the improved assessment scores in science are a reflection of the earlier middle and high school science collaboration.

As state requirements change regarding CIM and CAM, Superintendent Rommel said this will be a good time to reflect and review our program, to determine what we want to continue, modify or eliminate. Students have reported that our CAM programs have provided some of their most valuable high school experiences. A conversation regarding portfolios and work samples would be useful.

The new wing of high school classroom was discussed. Mark Haner, John Murray, and Courtney Wilton have been meeting to determine which staff members and programs will move to that building.

It was noted that at the recent NSBA conference, a high school's fine arts and performing arts program was honored. They were not doing any more than we are, except they are traveling more and promoting their program to their whole community. It was suggested that we share more information about our world-class arts program with the wider community.

It was suggested that we review where the IES program needs to be in the future, and what facility enhancements and technology are needed to keep the program current and relevant. Randy Hutchinson said that each year, the high school holds a business partner breakfast where staff shares what is begin taught and asks whether we are meeting employer expectations. The PACE class is the foundation of the career pathways program. Chris Butler is setting up those connections with business that really benefit students.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Ms. Mattson noted that the high school spring hanging basket sale is in progress, with a deadline of April 25 for orders. The sale benefits the senior all night party. Chair Gardner introduced Deborah Baker, who is running for Carl Clinton's seat on the board along with Mike Price.

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



Donn Gardner, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk