

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
May 5, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, May 5, 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 – Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta said she was pleased to see how ably our Rose Festival princess, Cassandra Hamann, represented David Douglas at a recent community event. Frieda Christopher announced that Rep. Jefferson Smith will be having a town hall meeting on May 24, 6:30pm at East Portland Community Center, to have a conversation with residents about how to improve East Portland. The Educational Foundation fundraiser is coming up on May 21 at the Rose Garden Arena. Many corporate sponsors are contributing to this event. It promises to be a special evening with performances by students, The Kingsmen, and Michael Allen Harrison. All proceeds from this event will support the arts in David Douglas. Ticket prices are: VIP \$75 and General Admission \$35.

Vice Chair Mattson announced that Chair Barberis is away at an early childhood conference this evening. On April 26, Ms. Mattson testified on behalf of the board at a meeting of the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning & Sustainability regarding an application for tax abatement. She said due to the tough questions increasingly being asked about equity, a committee has been formed to look at the overall concept of tax exemption, which will include Multnomah County Chair Cogen and City Commissioner Nick Fish. Ms. Mattson was pleased to be asked to serve on the committee. She shared information on a small business forum being held at PSU's SE Center on May 10, which will include information on grant opportunities, micro loans, and an address by a representative of the Portland Development Commission. The forum is being organized by PSU students who are community development majors.

Student Body President's Report – Katherine Westmoreland introduced Tanner Adrian, newly elected ASB president for 2011-12. Ms. Westmoreland reported that the Prom was a big success and had a great turnout. Last week new class officers were elected. The DDHS constitution has been amended to allow more representatives to serve per grade. Student Council came up with special activities and acknowledgements for each day of Teacher Appreciation Week. Spring Sports will have district meets over the next couple of weeks. The Boys Tennis team is currently undefeated. The Scots will host the district meet for Girls Tennis. David Douglas High School's music program has been designated a Grammy Signature Gold Award Winner, one of seven so honored in the nation, and the only school west of the Mississippi River. A concert on May 17th in the PAC will include presentation of the award. Ms. Westmoreland reviewed the full list of spring performances. The last day for Seniors will be June 3. Vice Chair Mattson encouraged folks to support the Skills USA team as they raise funds for their trip to nationals.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting reported that Mayor Sam Adams' budget includes \$100,000 to launch a SUN School program at David Douglas High School. Multnomah County will also contribute to that effort. The superintendent said he enjoyed visiting the TAG Project Fair and hearing from students about their projects. He announced that Dan McCue is working on a \$500,000 grant proposal in which the district could leverage some of our funds to purchase security cameras for our buildings. A Family Engagement night will be held May 25 at Lincoln Woods, with members of the Somali community hosting school district personnel. Long-time volunteer Beverly Fischer was recognized as "Volunteer of the Week" recently by a local radio station. David Douglas wrestler Jeremiah Baker won the state Greco-Roman wrestling championship and will go on to nationals. Mr. Grotting congratulated staff and students participating in the high school's music department, who have won numerous awards this year. He said he is very proud of the very special music program at David Douglas. Students who participated in the district spelling contest on May 2 will be honored at the next board meeting. This is Teacher Appreciation Week, and the superintendent said we have a great staff in David Douglas. He said it has been a difficult year, but even through hardships our teachers have worked to keep our students their number one priority.

Recommendation to Award Copier/Printer Services Contract – Janice Essenberg presented an executive summary from Optimizon. Ten bids were received in response to a two-part RFP. Proposals were analyzed and scored, and the recommendation is to award the RFP in its entirety to CTX – Copytronix. Savings are anticipated to be \$140,000 per year over the next five years. New printer/copier guidelines for staff will encourage less use. Optimizon will manage the contract to be sure all services are to our satisfaction. Copiers will be previewed at district office, and training will be provided. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the bid award as presented, seconded by Mr. Price. The award was approved in a vote of 6-0.

Update on Cradle to Career Initiative – Superintendent Grotting said this initiative is here to stay, and is supported by the City, the County, and Multnomah County school districts. The program is designed to raise student achievement for all students in the county. The focus is on students from birth to post-secondary, and the plan includes economizing resources, setting common standards for all students, and having interventions and benchmarks in place to support achievement. All of Multnomah County's superintendents will be part of the council. This common model will bring in some additional resources to serve all children in Multnomah County. The superintendent said the mobility factor in the county is astounding. Having common practices and goals between districts would help students maintain momentum as they move between schools across the county.

The agency coordinating this effort is the Portland Schools Foundation, soon to be renamed to reflect its new, broader mission. The superintendent said that PSF is getting push back from parents within PPS regarding money allocated to schools outside PPS. CEO Dan Ryan will address our board at the June board meeting.

Round 2 Testing Results – Derek Edens presented a snapshot of the latest round of the OAKS assessment. Math scores are lower than reading scores, as the state has revised math standards, changed the test, and increased passing scores. One more testing period remains, with the window closing on May 23. It has been a challenge to meaningfully compare the data due to the state changes. Improvements have been made in most areas, with the exception of some schools' fifth graders. Superintendent Grotting said that with the exception of high schools, a growth model will be used by the state. Mr. Edens will report on final results after the last round of testing.

Proposal for Credit Recovery Program at North Powellhurst – Superintendent Grotting reported that members of the high school administration, particularly Mark Haner, have been meeting with Dr. Osburn to discuss the mobility of our students, and how to support students who come to us with credit deficiencies, or those within our school who are not making adequate yearly progress, including ELL students needing additional support. John Bier presented a proposal to move some of the high school's current teachers to North Powellhurst, to provide struggling students a learning environment more conducive to their needs. Some of the instruction would be provided online via Novanet. He emphasized that the goal is for every student to have an opportunity to graduate. This would be a way to keep students who might otherwise drop out. He plans to pilot the program next fall, beginning with 50 students placed by referral. Mark Haner said these aren't kids with behavior issues; they are just struggling in their current setting. Courses would continue to be aligned to state standards. The high school administration is looking at other options for electives which would better fit student schedules, which could include credit for work experience or job training. The board's consensus was to proceed with launching the pilot.

Hinton School Proposal – Barbara Kienle described a companion piece to the credit retrieval proposal just presented, for some of our outside placement students. One of our current contracted locations is Oregon Outreach, or Hinton High School, which serves students who are not successful in our high school and need a smaller setting with more flexibility in terms of scheduling. One of the CAC's recommendations last year was to provide our own alternative placement program. Since we have a number of students at Hinton, Ms. Kienle asked whether they would consider coming to us to serve those students. We have classrooms available at North Powellhurst which could serve 50 students, and hosting the program would be a cost savings to us. Advantages would include offering flexible day options (scheduling around a student's employment, for example), as well as a GED program, and a middle school component for middle schoolers needing an alternative setting. Hosting the program would be a win for our students and a financial win for our district, resulting in \$100,000-300,000 in savings. She recommended contracting with Hinton for a year to pilot this in-house program. The Board approved her request by consensus.

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

Ernie Butenschoen, Alice Ott Middle School teacher, thanked the board and district for the opportunities afforded him as a student here and during his career of 31 years with David Douglas. He expressed concern that the content of the well-rounded education he received is being squeezed for our current students due to funding constraints and testing requirements. He challenged the board to find ways to be sure our students receive a full, broad-based education.

Daisy Quiñones, David Douglas High School Senior, said she serves on the Multnomah County Youth Commission advisory board of 42 students, the most diverse commission in the county. Three David Douglas students now serve on the commission, and seven students have applied to serve. She said she hopes to have substantial representation from David Douglas and East Portland on the Youth Commission.

Greg Becker, OSEA Chapter 40 President, said his members do not understand the rationale for the reduction in classified employee hours or positions, which have impacted 200 people. He cited reductions for instructional and bilingual assistants and campus monitors as examples. He said the Classified unit knows about the district's budget problems, and have demonstrated their support and cooperation, but don't understand why these things are taking place.

Kari Deardorff, parent and volunteer, said she stumbled across the Schoolhouse Supplies program PPS provides for students, and thinks David Douglas should develop a similar program. She is volunteering there to learn as much as possible, but said she believes the program would be easy to implement and successful here, and would facilitate donations of supplies for our classrooms by companies. We would need to identify a convenient place for donors to drop off materials and for district staff to access. She referred board members to the Schoolhouse Supplies website for more information.

As there were no further remarks from the audience, the Vice Chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Approval of Board Meeting Calendar for 2011-12 – Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the 2011-12 Board Meeting Calendar as proposed, seconded by Mr. Price. The calendar was approved in a vote of 6-0.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Gardner made a motion to removal Item 11, High School Diploma Credit Requirements, from the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Centoni.

High School Diploma Credit Requirements – Superintendent Grotting referred to previous discussions regarding proficiency requirements in core areas and additional state requirements for high school students. Tonight's proposal would align the number of credits required for graduation to state requirements. The high school administration also recommends establishing the same threshold for awarding credits at all grade levels. We currently do not award credit to Freshmen and Sophomores earning "D's" in core classes. We are having increasing mobility of students entering our system who are credit deficient and others having to retake classes multiple times. Students would still have to maintain a 2.00 GPA to graduate. Freshmen will also be entered into intervention classes if they do not pass OAKS or become credit deficient. Mr. Bier recapped the origin of the requirements for 9th and 10th graders, which were set at the CIM level years ago. He said as the board discusses equity across the city, to consider that more than 600 students have moved into DDHS this year, and a number have left DD for other area high schools. Other high schools in our area give credit for D's on a transcript.

Mr. Gardner expressed opposition. Vice Chair Mattson noted that when credit requirements were set earlier, the board based its decision on supporting data. Following discussion, she tabled the recommendation to change the credit threshold and requested additional information in order for the board to make an informed decision.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve as presented the changes in the number of credits necessary to graduate, which Mr. Bier said remain one credit higher than the state's minimum requirement. Ms. Christopher seconded the motion, which passed in a vote of 5-1 (in favor: Christopher, Gardner, Mattson, Price, Scarcelli Ancheta; opposed – Centoni).

Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve of the remaining Consent Agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

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

Other Business/Future Agenda Items – none

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



Annette Mattson, Board Vice Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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