

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
May 17, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, May 17, 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	Frieda Christopher
Bruce Burton	Carl Clinton
Mike Centoni	Annette Mattson

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 – Board Chair Gardner introduced newly elected board member Mike Price, who will assume Carl Clinton’s position at the conclusion of his term. He noted that the board will miss Carl, who has served for eight years. Mr. Gardner remarked that both candidates for this opening, Mr. Price and Deborah Baker, were excellent and would have represented the board well. Mike Centoni said he looks forward to having Mr. Price join the board in July. He expressed his appreciation to the staff for an excellent presentation during the Budget Meeting on Monday. Frieda Christopher attended the high school’s PTSA meeting, where a committee is discussing plans for a reader board on campus. She was pleased to attend ODE’s “Celebrating Student Success” banquet on May 11, honoring Gilbert Heights and Cherry Park, and was glad to see many enthusiastic supporters helping those staffs celebrate. Ms. Christopher announced that the Educational Foundation will be awarding four scholarships this year, three to David Douglas High School students, and one to a student from Fir Ridge Campus. Annette Mattson thanked the high school PTSA for offering the beautiful fundraiser baskets benefiting the Senior All Night Party. She said 700 people attended the ODE banquet from across the state. She remarked that it was wonderful to see outstanding efforts being honored in that way. Beaverton and David Douglas were the only districts with more than one school selected by ODE. She congratulated high school artists on a successful opening night for the student art show, saying she was impressed as always by their talent. This weekend, Ms. Mattson will participate in OSBA’s legislative policy committee meeting, where the major focus will be on the school funding number.

Student Body President’s Report – Ellyn Ward announced that Seniors have received their caps and gowns and are counting the days until graduation on June 6. Ryan Moats and Athena Patterson have been selected as Masters of Ceremonies for Senior Recognition Night on June 4. Tickets are being sold for the Seniors’ Oaks Park trip. Even though the school year is winding down, a number of activities remain on the schedule, including a dance recital, and choir, band, and orchestra concerts. Choir, band and orchestra members will be going to Disneyland for competition next week.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel introduced high school teacher Sandra Mueller, coordinator of the high school's Academic All-Star effort. David Douglas High School had the honor of having thirteen students recognized this spring by MESD's Academic All-Star program, more than any year in the program's history, and more than any other school in the county. Ms. Mueller said this competition is a highlight of her year, and she very much appreciates working with such dedicated, positive and involved students. Together they were awarded more than \$8,000 in scholarships. Board Chair Gardner congratulated them on their achievement and presented each with an A+ certificate and lapel pin. Students selected as Multnomah County Academic All-Stars were Nicole Skau, First Place, Performing Arts; and Ngoc Pham, Third Place, Science. All-Star finalists included Stella Chiu, Science; Rachel Cummings, Mathematics; Edwin Lam, Science; Stephen Lam, Performing Arts; Lindsay Short, Language Arts; Sabrina Skau, All Around; Jue Song, Social Science; Caiyan Su, Visual Arts; Hannah Swan, Visual Arts; and Arthur Ungureanu, Computer & Technology. Brenda Olmos received Special Mention, All Around.

Superintendent Rommel reported that choir students from Floyd Light Middle School recently performed for their neighbors at the Cherrywood Retirement Center. Following the performance, one of the residents walked over to the school and contributed a check for \$1,000. The high school girls' softball team will host a playoff game tomorrow at East Campus. Senator Rod Monroe will make a presentation of a check for \$3,500 to the students of Fir Ridge Campus on Friday at 2pm. He won the prize contributed by Legacy Health Systems in a physical fitness competition among legislators at the State Capitol. Sherrie Barger announced that the Cherry Park staff has been awarded a grant from the US Department of Education. Coordinated by the Northwest Regional Education Lab, fifth grade teachers will receive three days of paid training during the summer, additional training during the school year, and \$2,500 to support teachers in implementing their project. The superintendent was pleased to announce that the Mt. Hood Reading Council has honored Laurene McClintock with the Outstanding Literacy Educator Award, and Deb Wheelbarger has been named the Oregon Elementary Librarian of the Year by the Oregon Association for School Librarians.

CAC Report: Finding Our David Douglas Community Voice – Eric Nelsen said it was his pleasure to serve as CAC chair this year. He introduced the chairs of two subcommittee study groups, Mike Ewald and John May, to present this year's study topic reports.

Mike Ewald presented recommendations from his subcommittee. He said the group was established to look into the perceived gap between governmental services and the needs of the District and community. Their recommendation is to establish a standing CAC committee to help coordinate communications with and among the various groups and governmental agencies impacting the school district. They proposed communicating with school parent groups and the neighborhood associations to see whether their joint efforts might be better heard by the City when discussing community issues of concern, such as sidewalks, safety signage, and school zones.

CAC Report: Parent / Family Involvement and Community Engagement – Mr. Stout introduced several members of the CAC who were in attendance at tonight's meeting, thanking them for their efforts this year. John May presented the second study group report. This topic was selected because the committee felt that the school district may not be as effective as it could be in connecting with parents and the community at large. The committee felt intuitively that parent involvement drops considerably beyond the elementary school level, and that community engagement may be eroding as our community evolves. Every federal grant has a parent involvement component; as do related state regulatory requirements. Regulatory requirements aside, the primary reason to engage in meaningful and robust parent involvement and community

engagement activities is that they raise student achievement and foster support for the schools within the whole community. Committee members reviewed several publications to determine both what was required and what was recommended, then conducted a limited self-assessment survey at the building level to identify areas of strength and weakness.

Strengths identified include the committed and dedicated staff, who clearly care about what is best for kids. The District has also done a remarkable job of keeping programs and services intact despite funding challenges. Areas of concern include the lack of an effective way to measure what is currently being done in the areas of parent involvement and community engagement, to better focus our efforts and determine whether they are effective. Individual school efforts occur in isolation. Staff development in this area is also lacking.

The subcommittee made the following recommendations:

Consider implementation of more creative and more effective methods of meaningful two-way home-school communication, particularly at the high school level. One example noted would be a more efficient automated telephone notification system. Another would be to add an interactive component to our website to facilitate two-way communication. Activities supporting parenting skills would serve as a way to invite our parents into our schools, and provide opportunities for greater involvement. Fir Ridge has had great success in this area, as they asked parents what programs and services they would like to see, then provided those opportunities. It was recommended that staff development for both teachers and administrators on effective family and parent engagement be made available. Ongoing staff development in the area of cultural competency should also be considered.

It was suggested that all school efforts be coordinated through a single person at the district level, who would work closely with the Communications Specialist. Parent, community, and student volunteer hours and service learning hours should be tracked and reported at all levels. School improvement plans should incorporate goals for increased parent/family involvement, and schools should be encouraged to find ways to get more parents and community members involved in the schools, and students involved in the community.

Following board comments on the presentation, Board Chair Gardner thanked the group for an excellent report, saying this will spark additional discussion.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Revision of Policy #7600.1 Policy Assuring Compatibility of Materials and Supplies**
- **Administrators Agreement**
- **Roofing Bids**
- **Personnel Recommendations**

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

Jennifer Prince, Ventura Park Kindergarten Teacher, read prepared remarks expressing her concern that kindergarten classrooms are overcrowded, and in support of classroom assistants for kindergarten. She also proposed a fall screening and placement process during the first week of school to facilitate more balanced kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Stout confirmed that full time assistants are assigned to each kindergarten classroom, regardless of enrollment. Ms. Prince's written statement will be distributed to board members.

Bob Gray, DDEA President, congratulated Sherrie Barger on her impending retirement. He expressed his appreciation to members of the CAC for their work on parent involvement. He shared concerns expressed to him by two colleagues, in light of plans to transport some kindergarten students from Gilbert Park and Gilbert Heights to Cherry Park next school year, and asked how the Board plans to address overcrowding in the future, particularly at the south end of the district. He shared a request that specialist services be increased as enrollment increases. Mr. Gray also noted comments made to him by a teacher who is resigning after ten years of service, frustrated by the job and lack of space at Alice Ott. He said he is confident that the board is listening to teachers' concerns.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none

Adjournment – There being no other business, the board chair declared the meeting adjourned.



Donn Gardner, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

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