

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
May 21, 2009**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, May 21, 2009, 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:

Frieda Christopher, Board Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Annette Mattson
Mike Centoni	Mike Price
Donn Gardner	

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 – Chair Christopher introduced newly elected board member Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta, who will be sworn in at the July meeting. Mr. Centoni congratulated Ms. Mattson, Ms. Barberis, and Mr. Gardner for their reelection to the board. He commented on *The Highlander*, saying that some research and proofreading on the part of the advisor is in order regarding op-ed pieces. Annette Mattson spoke at OSBA's Leadership Oregon graduation ceremony on May 8. She was pleased to attend the Community 101 awards in our Board Room on May 11. The program was originated by her employer, PGE. She also attended Gilbert Heights' 50th anniversary celebration, where she was very impressed with the tile mural created to commemorate the event; and participated in the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee conference call regarding the state budget. Mike Price congratulated reelected and newly elected board members. He also thanked members of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the administrators who participated in this year's discussions.

Student Body President's Report – Stephanie Lutz reported that David Douglas is represented at a number of state tournaments this week. The high school band took sixth place in their state contest. Seniors have only five more days of school. Senior events take place next week, Senior Recognition Night will be held on June 1, and graduation takes place on June 3. School wraps up for other students on June 12.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that David Douglas High School teacher Carissa Harris has been awarded a national fellowship by the James Madison Fellowship Foundation of Washington, DC. Cherry Park students were recently featured on local television news as they participated in the City's graffiti abatement project. Cherry Park Principal Barbara Chester has been elected president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. She will serve as President-Elect next school year and take on the leadership role in 2011. High School student Anastasiya Russu was honored this afternoon when Rep. Earl Blumenauer's office selected her self portrait for display in the Congressional Art Show. Her work will be on display in Washington, DC for the next year. A video tour was presented of the David Douglas High School student art show, currently on display in the district office breezeway. The display stands were constructed by a former student through a grant from DDEF. The superintendent was pleased to announce that the district has been awarded a Children's Investment Fund grant to fund after school

programs at Mill Park and Gilbert Heights, in conjunction with Campfire. We also were awarded a 21st Century grant for after school programs at Ron Russell, Floyd Light, and Fir Ridge. Unfortunately, Lewis & Clark's grant application to continue the Kids Club program was not funded. We received a mentor grant to work with first and second year teachers, contingent on state funding.

Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement with OSEA Chapter 40 – Chair Christopher asked for board member comments prior to ratification of the classified employees' contract. Mr. Centoni said that our support staff in all areas is absolutely crucial. He said he was pleased that agreement was reached in such a short time, and said he appreciated the work of district and association bargaining teams. Mr. Gardner echoed those statements, and expressed his appreciation to our classified staff. Ms. Mattson noted that about 80% of our classified employees live within the district, so she is pleased we provide good family wage opportunities here in our community. She thanked the OSEA team for the realistic, optimistic, responsible way they approached bargaining. Chair Christopher expressed her appreciation for the OSEA team, saying they were very focused, they understood the economic problem we are facing together, and were able to complete the process in two meetings.

Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between David Douglas School District and OSEA Chapter 40 from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. The contract was approved in a unanimous vote. OSEA Ch. 40 Bargaining Team Chair Mike Weinberger expressed his appreciation to members of the district team. Members of each team signed the contract document.

Citizens Advisory Committee Reports – Mr. Stout introduced this year's CAC reports, saying that this year the CAC tried a new format for their meetings. Instead of identifying specific topics, they reviewed district programs and operations in six broad areas, learning about the areas and generating questions. Small groups formed to discuss issues raised and make recommendations. Several administrators served as consultants on each of the subcommittees. Brooke O'Neill explained the process the committees used to determine which departments they wanted to study.

The Arts: Mr. Stout said that a representative from the committee studying the Arts was not able to attend tonight, but they recommended we continue the fine arts program we have developed. At their last meeting they were given information on GPA's of students involved in OSAA activities, showing a strong correlation between activities and academic success. Within our music program, all high school performing groups had average of 3.7 GPA or better.

Student Services: Dannette Flanagan presented on behalf of this committee. Barbara Kienle worked with this group during the year. The committee looked at services received by special education students in the regular classroom and within their special program to find correlations between types of services and academic achievement. Most students received both classroom time and specially designed instruction. This model was most successful at the elementary level as measured by the State Assessment. While test scores declined in middle and high school, the data were inconclusive as comparisons were difficult due to the number of variables. The committee also touched on alcohol and drug prevention and mental health services at the high school level. They would like to focus on those areas next year to see whether these interventions are making a positive difference for students. Looking at students who are at risk and what supports and services are available, is another potential area of future focus. Ms. Kienle said it was her privilege to work with this committee, and thanked the group for their efforts.

Curriculum: Kyle Riggs and Rose Werner presented for this committee. Mr. Stout presented Ms. Werner with a plaque in honor of her two years of service on CAC. Mr. Riggs said that within this vast study area, they chose their research questions: How do we choose a curriculum that meets the varying needs of students while allowing for mastery instead of just coverage? Do we expose students to a lot, or are we effectively educating? At the elementary level, what percentage of curriculum and instruction are targeted toward core academics versus life skills? At the secondary level, does our curriculum cover college-bound academics, vocational academics, and life skills? They concluded that the district is generally doing a good job of maintaining an appropriate balance.

The group then moved on to new focus areas, instructional materials selection and parent involvement during the textbook adoption process; and transition programs for middle school students (Jump Start). They developed a goal to increase the number of parents on textbook adoption committees from zero to a minimum of three members. They developed suggestions for involving parents in the process. Such involvement would allow for the opportunity to answer parent questions about the why's and how's of instruction. Exit interviews with participating parents would provide evidence of effectiveness. They proposed surveying next year's fifth graders to determine whether those who participated in the Jump Start transition program show better preparedness for middle school in comparison to students who were referred to the program but did not attend, to help gauge the program's effectiveness. They also recommend surveying teachers to ask what difference they see in students who did or did not participate.

Advanced Placement and Annual Yearly Progress: Maryann Krumm said she asked to review high school graduation requirements and advanced placement opportunities, because she was concerned that the district was channeling inappropriate monetary resources to students not meeting achievement targets. After completing some research she said it became apparent the district is doing a good job providing advanced courses and opportunities for high achievers. She said it appears that students not receiving assistance at high and low achievement levels are receiving the least attention. This is an area where district could make improvements.

Joyce Beedle said in looking at those students in the mid-range, there are some data tools that could be used to inform students and their parents about growth over time. A longitudinal graph showing state test scores from year to year helps identify patterns and changes in proficiency. They recommend that School Improvement Coordinators give the state assessment overview report to students, parents, and CIM teachers twice per year, in graph and narrative form.

John May said the central question is how we know or ensure that the academic needs of each student are being met. He said it is important to focus on each student reaching full potential, not just that each student passes state tests or graduates. AYP goals are no-win goals - the state measurements are easy to obtain and are driving school improvement goals. We measure how proficient a student is, but can't answer how effective a school is. The committee recommends using a growth model, even if we report in a different way to the state. The data is available to evaluate the gain for each student, as no student should be allowed to stagnate under our watch. He recommended assembling a group of stakeholders to determine a simple set of calculations to be used in this different type of accountability measurement. Schools should also be asked to consider utilizing this new type of model when they write school improvement goals.

Members of the CAC were thanked for the hours of effort they volunteered to consider ways we can improve opportunities for our students.

AVID Report – Brooke O'Neill, district director of AVID, introduced this report, saying it has been her privilege to watch this program unfold under the capable leadership of this team. She introduced David Douglas High School teachers Denise Pierson, who serves as site coordinator, and Amy Holman, one of our tutor trainers. She also applauded the efforts of the two AVID elective teachers who really took a risk with this program, Mariah Morrow and Andy Matheny.

Denise Pierson reviewed AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a program which takes those students in the academic middle, placing them in college prep courses with appropriate support to challenge them to greater achievement. The program is designed to increase school-wide learning.

Amy Holman said this is not a remedial course. AVID targets kids in the middle ground with potential and provides structure for first-generation college students. It provides a school-wide approach to curriculum and rigor, with a strong emphasis on reading, writing, inquiry and collaboration. AVID also offers a strong teacher training component.

Ms. Pierson said that although AVID is new to DDHS, it began in 1980 and being used in more than 4,000 schools across the country, serving 320,000 students in grades 4-12. 97% of 2008 AVID graduates nation-wide are in post-secondary programs. At David Douglas, AVID consists of two sections of ninth graders (49 students total), who will stay in their AVID courses with the same instructor over all four years. Two new sections of incoming ninth graders have been selected to begin the program next fall. Middle school counselors target students who fit the criteria and give families information on the program; there were about 80 applications for next year's 50 slots. Counselors look at a series of indicators to determine who would most benefit. A review of achievement and behavior data comparing AVID students with a control group of similar students showed greater gains in both areas for AVID students. The AVID mentor program provides a consistent mentor group of 32 teachers, who meet with their AVID student, review short term goals, and complete a grade check. An important component is teaching students how to advocate for themselves in requesting assistance and tutoring if needed. Students Senaida Mehmedovic, Ana Meza, and Teleia Moore shared their experience in this first year of AVID.

Ms. Holman said the AVID tutorial is part of the foundation of the program, comprising 40% of the program. Students work cooperatively with a college tutor, asking each other higher level questions. Students come prepared to present to the group, truly following an inquiry process and developing problem solving and thinking skills. Carmen Wong, DD grad and current student at University of Portland, is one of fourteen college students who serve as tutors. She said that her role has been challenging and rewarding as she tutors any subject needed. She said her job is to guide rather than answering questions directly. She feels the program provides great preparation for college, helping students to know what to expect and helping build self-confidence.

Ms. Pierson shared comments from AVID Regional Director Jim Donohue, who said he has rarely seen a better implementation. He described the commitment and effort at David Douglas as excellent. The program also involves the families. Two family nights are held per year to discuss how parents can support their student's goal of post-secondary education. Ms. Pierson said that the more our staff learns about it, the more staff members will step up to be AVID mentors. Over time, the program permeates and changes the entire culture of a high school.

Recommendation to Increase Meal Prices – Janice Essenberg and Nutrition Services Manager Jodi Taylor presented a recommendation to increase meal prices, asking for a five cent increase for student lunches, a dime for adult lunch and a nickel for adult breakfast. Prices were not increased

last year, and we currently have less than the federal recommendation of three months operating expenses in reserve.

Ms. Taylor said that the recommended increase would impact the average family by \$9.50 per student over the course of the school year. A five cent increase represents a 2% increase. Food and wage costs have increased more than that percentage. Mr. Centoni said he would not support an increase for students, as our community shouldn't bear this burden at this time. Ms. Taylor said 200 more students have qualified for free or reduced meal assistance since January. As those prices are set by the federal government, the fee increase would only apply to full priced meals. A question was asked about equipment needs. Ms. Essenberg said the nutrition services department is foregoing the purchase of a needed used truck from their budget; Mr. Arzt is reviewing whether it could be purchased with maintenance funds. Ms. Taylor said the district serves meals to about 85% of our student body, a huge proportion. Chair Christopher expressed her support for the recommended increases since we are widely advertising meal assistance for those needing the help. She said she supports regular, modest increases rather than going several years without, necessitating larger increases.

Mr. Price made a motion to approve the adult increases of ten cents for lunch, and five cents for breakfast, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The motion passed in a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Barberis made a motion to approve increasing the price of student lunches by five cents, seconded by Ms. Mattson. The vote was three in favor (Christopher, Barberis, Mattson) and three opposed (Centoni, Gardner, Price). As the motion did not carry, it will be revisited at a future meeting.

Audience Participation / Break – The board chair declared a brief recess. When the meeting was reconvened, she opened the meeting for public comments. There were no remarks from the audience.

School Funding / Budget Implications – Janice Essenberg reviewed the legislature's new budget numbers. On Monday, the announced budget figure for Oregon schools was \$6.0 billion. We based our budget on revenue of \$5.9 billion. A \$6.0 billion allocation represents \$560,000 more than we budgeted. In Year One, K-12 schools would be allocated 49%, and 51% in Year Two. Year Two is the worrisome year, as that is where revenue could slip substantially below projections. The \$6.0 billion number is soft, with \$800 million slated to coming from new taxes. Looking ahead toward 2010-11, Ms. Essenberg recommended staying with our current projection of \$5.9 billion, and hoping for additional funding.

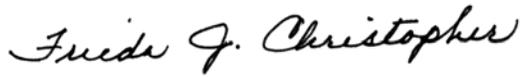
Ms. Mattson noted that the \$6.0 billion figure is the budget co-chairs' proposal, depending on new revenue sources including reform of the corporate minimum as well as adding an additional income tax bracket of 11% for households earning \$250,000 or more. There was also conversation about reforming the kicker, which may be discussed in a special session. She said she supports Ms. Essenberg's recommendation to budget at \$5.9 billion. Mr. Gardner suggested starting the process of identifying budget priorities earlier in the year, possibly setting up a focus group including a couple of board and budget committee members and the superintendent to look ahead toward 2010-11. Superintendent Rommel said we have to pay attention to when we will actually have some information and economic indicators. She suggested using the same process as 2002, bringing members of the public in to get some guidance on priorities. Ms. Essenberg remarked that a district in Colorado had a little exercise on their website for the public in balancing the budget. It was a good way to share the difficult decisions that are part of the budget process.

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

- **Amendment to the Superintendent’s Contract**
- **Personnel Recommendations**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Centoni requested a future report on the high school music program. Ms. Mattson recommended OSBA’s summer board workshops, scheduled for July 18-19 in Wilsonville. Mr. Centoni reported that work continues on board policy revisions. The revised manual should be ready for a first reading in September. Chair Christopher said she received a request to reschedule the Superintendent’s Evaluation. Following discussion, the consensus was to keep the original date of June 16, 6:30pm.

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



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk