

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
June 2, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, June 2, 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:

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

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 – Mike Centoni made his final board member report, welcoming new board member Shemia Fagan and saying that new ideas and a fresh vision are good things for the district. He said he has very much enjoyed his 24 years as a David Douglas board member, and that K-12 education is a great profession. He expressed his great respect for our classroom teachers, noting that their interaction with students every day impacts students the most. He thanked his colleagues and district staff members for the cards, emails and calls he received, saying they were very much appreciated. In particular he noted the friendship which has developed with fellow board member Donn Gardner, who at one point ran against him for a board seat and won, and a month later nominated him to return to the board when a vacancy occurred. He said high points during his tenure were the selection of his son for the Teachers of the Future program, and later selection as a teacher at David Douglas High School. Other important milestones he noted were the dedication of Palermini Stadium in 1995 and completing the upgrades which will benefit students and our community for many years to come, and the naming of our newest middle school for Dr. Ron Russell. He said he was also pleased to have been part of bringing Mr. Grotting to David Douglas School District and that this has been a remarkable first year under his leadership. Chair Barberis presented Mr. Centoni with a plaque in honor of his 24 years of outstanding service to the David Douglas School District.

Frieda Christopher said she attended the high school art show, and that as usual the work was outstanding. The Educational Foundation event last month was a fun and successful benefit for the music department. She said the team from the Portland leadership class was wowed by the student performances. She updated the board on Opportunity Gateway discussions, and announced that the East Portland Action Plan civic engagement group has awarded seven grants totaling \$64,000 for culturally and language specific grants to bolster civic engagement, some of which include an education component. Ms. Christopher said she will be co-chairing a subcommittee for East Portland Action Plan on housing, along with Jeanne McMasters from Human Solutions. Mike Price attended the Cherry Park carnival, where he helped cook hot dogs. He said the event was fun and well-organized, and that the PTA did a nice job. Annette Mattson said she was asked by the housing bureau to represent David Douglas on a limited tax exemption committee to study the impacts of tax exemptions on county services. She presented "DD 101" at the meeting, reviewing our district's demographics, housing, and budget situation. Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta thanked Mr. Centoni for his many years of service to David Douglas School District and said she hopes to see him at future sporting events.

Student Body President's Report – ASB President Katherine Westmoreland made her final report of the school year. She reported that juniors and seniors heard a presentation from an inspirational speaker which was very well received. More than 400 students were honored at this year's recognition assembly. State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo attended that event to congratulate the student body on the school's improvement in academic performance. Ms. Westmoreland reviewed a list of athletes who qualified for state competition. Due to their efforts on academics, 37 seniors were recognized as student athletes this year. The Orchestra placed second in the state for highest average GPAs. Band placed second and orchestra took sixth place in state performance competitions. Tomorrow will be the last day for Seniors, with graduation on Wednesday, June 8. Eighth graders will visit the high school on June 10, and the last day for all students will be June 16. Superintendent Grotting presented Ms. Westmoreland with a plaque honoring her for her service this year.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting congratulated Ms. Christopher and the entire Educational Foundation board for their very successful fundraising event. He said watching our students perform and participate was a highlight. Along with Vice Chair Mattson, he attended a school facilities seminar regarding the impact of facilities on instruction and learning. He said the information will be useful as the board prepares for a possible bond measure. Mr. Grotting announced that the district will enter partnership with NW Laboratories and Portland State University on the "Family Matters" project, which will provide resources to engage families in a more productive way. He recently attended the Somali family night at Lincoln Woods, where he was pleased to present some of those students with awards for academic achievement. He was also pleased to participate in mock interviews at the high school, where he said he met some amazing kids from a range of backgrounds really being prepared for the future world of work. At the Gateway Business Association's Fun-O-Rama celebration, Mr. Grotting accepted a \$3,500 check from GABA to benefit our music program, from their sale of CDs featuring music by our high school students. Mr. Grotting announced that Janice Essenberg, our business manager for the past three years, will be moving on to a new position outside the district. He thanked her for her service, particularly during this financially challenging year. He wished her the best, and said she'll be missed.

Mr. Grotting expressed his thanks to Mr. Centoni for his service and his friendship, saying it speaks to his character that Mr. Centoni was one of first to congratulate Shemia Fagan on her election to the board. Mr. Grotting said he looks forward to welcoming Ms. Fagan to the board and to working with her. He reported that the district has been notified that Title funds from the federal government will be reduced by another \$500,000, so the cabinet is working frantically to make reductions in those programs. He introduced Katie Beckett, District Title I and Language Arts Coordinator, who presented building winners of the district spelling competition. Each received a certificate in honor of their achievement. The Division I winner was Peter Camacho; Division II winner was Jennifer Phipps; and Division III winner was Edwin Garcia.

Portland Schools Foundation Cradle to Career Initiative – CEO Dan Ryan reported that since the Portland Schools Foundation's (PSF) inception as a support vehicle for Portland Public Schools, PSF has been evolving its mission to focus on equity for all of the city's children. Mr. Ryan said the foundation reached out to districts east of PPS and held planning retreats to develop a shared vision. Barbara Rommel was part of that effort, and Mr. Grotting has since been brought into the loop. The PSF shared service model began in 2008 with the "Principal for a Day" program to bring influential folks from the community into the schools. David Douglas will be involved again next fall. Mr. Ryan encouraged board members to use that opportunity to visit other school districts. Ninth Grade Counts is another shared initiative. PSF has other investments that come in besides money which is directed to PPS, and are doing their best to make those investments inclusive to the whole county.

The Cradle to Career Initiative developed from the combining of two efforts. Mr. Ryan said two outstanding groups were meeting with similar agendas regarding education issues. The Mayor's Education Cabinet was focusing on improving graduation rates. Leaders Roundtable, which had been meeting for 30 years, was looking at a cradle to career model. Consensus was to have a non-profit combine the efforts of both groups as the convenor. PSF was selected to take on this role with an expanded mission to serve all children in Multnomah County.

Through the Cradle to Career initiative, educators, social workers, non-profits, government entities and business leaders are all talking about how to put systems in place to support children from birth to adult employment. Bringing together a cross sector alignment, the council list includes 42 people who are heads of their organizations. They are discussing common indicators at various stages of a child's development in order to implement proactive strategies rather than remediation, believing that investments need to be targeted for biggest results. Although radical change will not be easy, Mr. Ryan said he is thrilled that the combined effort is up and running, and said that in terms of engagement, he has seen a very positive response. He said the census numbers woke people up regarding the needs of East Portland. Poverty has shifted east, but the resources have not. He said more attention and focus on the whole county will be a natural outcome of this initiative. He said he sees his job as bringing folks together, asking the right questions, and providing data to support the group's decisions.

Nate Waas Shull, PSF Director of Community Engagement, was introduced. He said David Douglas has been a great partner over the last two to three years. In particular he thanked Natalie Osburn and her team for helping him helping navigate this district which was new to him. He has also worked with Amy McQueen and the staff at the high school, with Barbara Kienle and the SUN coordinating council, and Brooke O'Neill and her fellow curriculum directors to discuss what it means to have consistent milestones across the K-12 system and beyond as a county, and how to drive investments and support through the Cradle to Career infrastructure by using these common milestones. He said it was also a privilege to work with Katherine Westmoreland and the Multnomah Youth Commission when he worked for the Mayor's office, saying she is one of the group's strongest and most articulate leaders. Ninth Grade Counts is an initiative which focuses on one transition point: the move from eighth grade to high school. A study in 2004 pinpointed early indicators that a student would eventually drop out, using local student data. Falling short on credit in 9th grade makes a student five times more likely to drop out. That statistic has driven this partnership. He worked with John May to look at data and identify students in need of this support, and PSF is bringing resources here to help support what David Douglas is doing to support high risk 8th graders through the summer bridge to high school. With the support of PSF, David Douglas plans to more than double the number of students served in Ninth Grade Counts this summer. PSF wants to leverage additional support for districts across the county. The program has been a great example of what PSF wants to do cradle to career as it takes on that broader assignment.

Superintendent Grotting said that the Portland Schools Foundation really cares about our individual communities and respects our autonomy. He said Mr. Ryan wants to understand the challenges of David Douglas as well as the other districts within Multnomah County. Mr. Grotting said we are also learning about the benefits of partnering with PSF to provide the best possible outcomes for kids. Mr. Ryan said the PSF name no longer makes sense in terms of its new broader mission. A renaming process is underway. He said PSF is moving away from being a political organization and a funder which makes subjective decisions. The county-wide model is ideal because social services are distributed through the county.

Citizens Advisory Committee Reports – Dr. Osburn announced that this item will be tabled until the July board meeting, at the request of CAC members.

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

Matt Urban, DDHS 2007 graduate, said it was recently brought to his attention that middle school evening music performances were cut. He said that after all of the accolades and awards the music department has received, it is not logical to cut support to young musicians who will move up to the award winning high school groups. Parents have difficulty attending performances during the day.

Zach Spangler, DDHS student, spoke in support of Outdoor School, one of the items being cut from next year's budget. He said this program made such an impact on his life and on thousands of students. He said he was proud that we kept the full week of outdoor school for 40 years. He said PPS recently cut their program to three days, but David Douglas has cut the program entirely. He said that as a large district, David Douglas has great influence. He requested permission to raise funds to support ODS.

Katherine Westmoreland, DDHS student, spoke in support of Outdoor School, saying she has participated as a student leader, and attended as a 6th grader. She said it is very sad that the program won't be here for our students next year, as it is a really transformative, hands-on learning experience which also bolsters social skills. She said she would support any fundraising efforts which could support some kind of ODS program.

Chloe Timmins, DDHS student, said she participated six weeks as an Outdoor School student counselor and a week as a 6th grader. She shared an essay defining what outdoor school means to her, describing the hands-on learning opportunities in four natural science areas. She said for kids labeled as problem students, ODS provides an opportunity for them to reinvent themselves in the freedom of the outdoors. She requested the opportunity to raise funds to support continuation of the program.

Thanh Nguyen, Parkrose HS student, expressed his support for Outdoor School and urged the board to allow the community to raise funds to support the program, even a modified version. He said he has been a student leader nine times time in addition to his sixth grade experience. His last session was short, but he said students still got the chance to make friends and develop skills to help them later in life.

The superintendent thanked the students for their remarks, saying all were very well spoken and passionate, and will all be the leaders of the future. As there were further remarks from the audience, the board chair declared a brief recess, after which Janice Essenberg opened a public hearing on the David Douglas School District 2011-12 budget. At the conclusion of the hearing, the board meeting was reconvened.

Introduction of New Principals – Superintendent Grotting was pleased to introduce newly assigned principals who will begin their duties on July 1. He said staff and students will miss the folks who are retiring, as well as those administrators who will be moving to different buildings. A rigorous interview process was used to select their replacements.

Rebecca Chase, Lincoln Park, is coming from Evergreen School District where she spent this year as an administrative intern. She has also been a Professional Development Specialist and Instructional Coach as well as a teacher at the elementary level.

Jakob Curtis, Ventura Park, currently works as an ESD Specialist at Sacramento Elementary in Parkrose. Jakob also served this year as a long-term substitute principal at Prescott Elementary. He has taught at the elementary level and is bilingual in Spanish. He lives in the attendance area where he'll be serving.

Elise Guest, Menlo Park, is currently an Assistant Principal at David Douglas High School. In addition to her work in administration, she has taught Special Education here and abroad. She will receive her Doctorate in Education from University of Oregon this month.

Cherie-Anne May, Gilbert Heights, is currently Coordinator of Music and Coordinator of Talented and Gifted Programs. A David Douglas resident and parent of a DDHS student, she has worked for David Douglas for 17 years, teaching general and instrumental music at all levels as well as serving as the grant writing coordinator for one year.

Stacie Moncrief, currently principal at North Powellhurst, will become principal of Gilbert Park Elementary in July. The North Powellhurst kindergarten program will close at the end of this year.

At the secondary level, Charlene Bassine, who opened Ron Russell Middle School as principal, will be joining the high school's leadership team as Assistant Principal. Andy Long will leave Menlo Park to become Ron Russell Middle School's principal.

Resolution Adopting Budget, Making Appropriations and Levying Taxes for Fiscal Year 2011-12 – Vice Chair Mattson thanked members of the budget committee, the administration and staff, noting that never before have we had layoffs and such painful budget decisions. She thanked members of the community who have emailed and testified, saying their comments did not fall on deaf ears or hearts, and said she hopes to see us someday rebuild what we are losing. Ms. Mattson made a motion to adopt the 2011-12 budget, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- **Resolution Establishing Policies for Fund Balance**
- **Resolution to Revise General Fund Budget Appropriations for the Year 2010-11**
- **Resolution to Transfer from Technology Fund Contingency for the Year 2010-11**
- **Resolution to Transfer from Insurance Fund Contingency for the Year 2010-11**
- **Resolution Selecting Pauly, Rogers & Co., PC as Independent Auditor for Fiscal Year 2011-12**
- **Resolution Appointing Clerk and Designating Depositories for School Funds for Fiscal Year 2011-12**
- **Resolution to Temporarily Borrow from General Fund Reserves for Grant Purposes for Fiscal Year 2011-12**
- **Resolution for Facsimile Signatures for US Bank for Fiscal Year 2011-12**
- **Resolution to Participate in the Local Government Investment Pool with Amounts Up to the Limit Allowed by the Oregon State Treasury for Fiscal Year 2011-12**
- **Resolution Setting Tuition for School Year 2011-12**
- **Resolution to Select a Student Accident Insurance Carrier for K-12 Students for the 2011-12 School Year**

Consent Agenda (cont.)

- **Resolution to Authorize the Superintendent to be the Authorized Representative to Apply for Federal Funds for 2011-12 School Year**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of May Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Chair Barberis suggested that a board workshop be scheduled in July. Consensus was to add a meeting on July 21st to the board meeting calendar.

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



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk