

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
August 19, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, August 19, 2010, 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 – Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta welcomed audience member to the meeting. Ms. Mattson said she attended a meeting of the Chalkboard Project advisory council this morning, where she heard a report on the CLASS project, which emphasizes the tie between highly effective teachers and performance in the classroom.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting announced that the District has reached a tentative agreement with DDEA and the East County Bargaining Council, as well as tentative agreement with OSEA to align benefits with the certificated group. He said Ms. Scarcelli and Maintenance Department leaders joined him in a recent visit to the Deardorff property. There have been some collection issues with the tenants, and it may benefit the district to select a property management team to oversee the property. Director of Administrative Services Janice Essenberg has been in contact with our attorney. If the houses were not rented, there would be no property taxes assessed, although rent for both houses would provide income beyond our tax liability. Ms. Essenberg said that a management firm's typically fee is about 10% of monthly rent, plus a charge of about a month's rent to recruit and select a renter. They would also determine an appropriate rent level. She is also researching considerations related to demolition of the structures, which would cost approximately \$50,000 for both. She will report on the results of her investigation at a future meeting.

Superintendent Grotting said he was very excited to attend one of several summer events at Midland Library which were planned by Mill Park teachers to help students and their families use the library, get a library card, and continue reading during the summer. He commended the teachers and Principal Rolando Florez for donating considerable personal time to this effort. The superintendent met recently with Dan Ryan, Executive Director of the Portland Schools Foundation, to discuss this organization's purpose. Mr. Ryan requested an opportunity to address our board at some point, noting that he is very intent on maintaining equity. Mr. Grotting also met with Ms. Christopher to learn more about the David Douglas Educational Foundation. He and Dr. Osburn met with Sergeant Perkins and our SRO officer, Steve Morinville, to discuss the upcoming year and efforts to assure safety of our students. They complimented the District on its safety procedures, the actions of the staff, and the conduct of our students.

Superintendent Grotting said today's meeting of all administrators was a great day. Their inservice focused on late start Wednesdays and professional learning teams. He said the administrative team is very excited about this effort, and that Cabinet members did an excellent job. In particular he remarked that Brooke O'Neill's presentation was outstanding.

The superintendent shared with the board a sobering letter from Governor Kitzhaber regarding school funding, in which the governor said the August economic forecast is expected to be down by \$200-500 million from earlier projections. He expects the December and February forecasts to also fall. Superintendent Grotting said approximately \$2.2 million in one time federal money should offset making cuts this school year, but it will take all of us working together to get through this crisis. He has contacted both bargaining unit presidents to share this information and noted that there are difficult decisions yet to be made. Ms. Essenberg said that August numbers are estimates at this point. Firmer numbers will be announced in the next few weeks. She was asked whether projections have been announced regarding the PERS assessment. She said the PERS rate will come out in September. The rate could increase by as much as 6% of our payroll (\$3 million).

The superintendent said he will be contacting board members to schedule a board workshop to hear a presentation from OSBA, and to discuss the superintendent's goals and evaluation. Board members were asked to check calendars and let Gail Hunter know of available dates. On Monday, Superintendent Grotting met with Swati Adarkar, Executive Director of the Children's Institute. This organization is very interested in partnering with David Douglas School District and Earl Boyles to develop a possible preschool next door to Earl Boyles. They are interested in raising money and serving our students in this way to give them a boost prior to kindergarten. Chair Barberis and the superintendent will be part of a delegation convening at Harvard University on October 1 to consider grant opportunities for early childhood efforts. Their travel and participation are being made possible through grant funds. Early childhood programs are influencing the rigor of the whole K-12 program. Mr. Grotting will attend the Children's Institute's board meeting in the next few weeks to discuss our district's commitment to Pre-K education.

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

Eric Kaganov, Director of Azbuka Academy Charter High School, thanked the group of parents and students for attending this evening to provide their support. Mr. Kaganov said that over past two years, David Douglas School District has spent countless hours in meetings, legal fees, and visits by the assistant superintendent, in an effort to close their charter school. He said 12 of 14 of the district's allegations have been dismissed by an independent evaluator, and the last two items are questionable. He said state test results from last school year show that Azbuka students are outpacing David Douglas ELL scores in reading English. He asked the Board to grant the school another year in order to provide them time to discuss the full body of their work as well as a contract renewal.

Gennadiy Trus, a student at Azbuka, said he attended David Douglas High School two years ago, but went downhill as he starting skipping school and became involved with drugs. He said when he went to Azbuka he met caring, loving people who helped him in a number of ways, including catching up on his credits.

Natalya Polyakova, Azbuka parent, said her daughter attends Azbuka, and really enjoys the school, the friendly environment, the good teachers, and the director, Olga, who maintains strict rules and good order. Ms. Polyakova said she really likes the structure of having students in school two days per week, and doing their school work online the rest of the week. She has another daughter who hopes to attend Azbuka in the future.

Student Achievement – Review of Final AYP Reports – Superintendent Grotting announced that final AYP reports have been received, and all of our elementary schools made AYP, as well as Alice Ott and Floyd Light Middle Schools. Ron Russell Middle School and David Douglas High School did not meet AYP. Some of the late start Wednesdays are designated to improve student achievement, not only in schools which did not make AYP, but in all of our schools. The superintendent said he will be very focused on student achievement, not just AYP, but also other parts of the curriculum that may not be measured by test scores. The administration will develop assessments to monitor student progress throughout the year, make adjustments in curriculum, and make sure teachers are teaching to content standards. He said district test scores over last four or five years have remained flat. We're not improving significantly for any of our subgroups. Some schools have made significant increases, others have declined. He said the staff will need to focus on the data not in terms of percentages but in terms of individual students.

Mr. Grotting said the administrative team is very excited about direction we're heading, as well as nervous, as this is a new initiative. He said student achievement is what he's all about, and as we have a great group of administrators, teachers, and support staff, he knows we can accomplish great things. He said we need to change our focus; we're going to be about student success in and out of the classroom. At each board meeting, he will provide information on areas of concern and how we are going to make significant change in lives of our children. He noted that there are some great things going on in our schools, and that our scores are hanging right in there in comparison groups, but he wants our scores to compare favorably with schools across the state. We need to start having conversations about what we're doing well and what we're doing poorly. We have one school in improvement status, which means the federal government controls a portion of David Douglas funding. He said he would rather those dollars be available to spend as our board deems appropriate.

Ron Russell has only been a Title I school for three years, so they are in Year 3 of sanctions. Some of the school improvement money is designed to look at the models of those schools which are making significant gains across the state. Ms. O'Neill said two transfer options will be provided for Ron Russell students, to attend either Floyd Light or Alice Ot Middle School. The district has received about 30 applications for middle school transfers to date. Next Thursday, 3-6pm, Ron Russell Middle School will host a vendor fair for outside tutoring opportunities. The district will be paying outside vendors for that assistance for our students. Many districts choose not to have their middle schools designated as Title I schools. Ron Russell reached the threshold of free and reduced lunch percentage required to receive federal funding. Alice Ott and Floyd Light Middle Schools were brought on to provide equity across our middle schools.

Superintendent Grotting said that it is vital to let parents know what is expected in terms of academic achievement, and is particularly critical at pre-K level. Literacy is key. Administrators are reviewing the state literacy framework and its specific requirements. He said this document provides great information and guidance. The superintendent said he believes in NCLB, because until these requirements were in place, we were not intent on closing the achievement gap. Although AYP isn't everything; it is a significant part of what we do. Some testing requirements are measures which label schools as good or bad. He said a lot of good things are going on here, but right now this is how we're being measured.

Update on Bonding Status – Ms. Essenberg provided a summary of our general obligation bond status. We have three issues outstanding, and are about to pay off Series 2001 on December 1. The 2002 issue will be paid off on June 30, 2012, so two bond issues will fall off the tax rolls in the

near future. As those bonds are paid off, it provides the district an opportunity to consider a new bond issue or local option. This year, we are making interest only payments on Series 2005. Payoff date is December 2019.

Back to School Activities – Assistant Superintendent Natalie Osburn presented some of the activities which are planned between now and the start of the school year. Board members are invited to attend the New Teacher Breakfast on Monday, August 30, followed that day by the annual White Glove Tour of district facilities. The entire staff will gather at Palermini Stadium on Thursday, September 2 for their opening session. Ken Richardson said the district will welcome 14 new teachers, along with three temporary teachers who are returning. Staffing has been reduced by 36 FTE district-wide. The schedule of open house events was distributed.

Dr. Osburn said our administrators are very excited about the work they started today. In the past, administrators have had one full inservice day, followed by work in their buildings. This year, in preparation for the work the staff will do on Wednesday mornings during late arrival, four inservice days are planned for administrators. Their work includes focus on student achievement and setting the tone for student learning. Superintendent Grotting said activities for the late Wednesday starts (PLT Wednesdays) will be district-wide events with administrators and cabinet members working as members of those professional learning teams. Dr. Osburn said plans are being made at each level for children who are delivered to school early or for families with child care issues on Wednesdays. The superintendent said an early morning homework club would be one possibility. Ms. O'Neill described the Professional Learning Team model and the cycle they use to develop data-driven strategies for instructional improvement. Principals have discussed accountability and what that looks like. Administrators will focus on specific activities for the first few Wednesdays during their inservice.

Communications Specialist Dan McCue said information about the late Wednesday starts has gone out to families in a number of formats, including a recorded message translated into Russian and Spanish, which will have been sent to our families three times by the start of school. Reminder notices will also be included in back to school mailings, in school newsletters and on the district webpage.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

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

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Ms. Essenberg reported that after soliciting competitive offers for onsite fueling of our bus fleet, a district committee reviewed the three proposals which were received. They evaluated each proposal on a number of criteria: level of experience and capabilities, level of policy and operations, level of staff experience and training, references, and pricing. The committee recommends awarding the bid for mobile onsite fueling to Bretthauer Oil Company, which received the highest score. The offered the best price and service has been excellent. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the bid for onsite fueling to Bretthauer Oil Company, per the committee's recommendation. His motion was seconded by Mr. Price. Mr. Centoni announced to would abstain from voting, as he has a professional relationship with this company and wanted to avoid any potential conflict of interest. Having been moved and seconded, the motion carried in a vote of 6-0, with one abstention (Mr. Centoni).

Ms. Mattson announced that the City of Portland Mayor's Education Summit has been scheduled for the morning of February 7. She also congratulated Derek Edens on his new position, saying he has done great work for the district for many years.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Barberis announced that she would be convening an executive session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining, and (2)(h) Litigation. The regular meeting was adjourned.



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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