

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
September 7, 2006**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 7, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130, 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** – Carl Clinton said the school open houses he visited had good attendance and lots of positive energy. Frieda Christopher attended West Powellhurst's open house, and joined the superintendent in welcoming Mayor Potter to the high school and Lincoln Park on the first day of school. Dawn Barberis attended the Earl Boyles open house, and reported on contact from a parent interested in donating some useful technology to the district. Bruce Burton distributed information on the David Douglas bond measure to parents at Ventura Park. Mike Centoni said the Menlo Park open house was very well attended. Mr. Centoni introduced Eric Nelson and Tom Erickson, who are co-chairing the David Douglas Citizens for Schools. Mr. Nelson said the group is enthusiastic about the bond campaign, and will be talking with business and community leaders around the area. Mr. Burton noted that DDEA made a significant financial contribution to the bond effort, which was very welcome. Annette Mattson said she enjoyed welcoming new teachers at their luncheon, and enjoyed visiting with parents, staff and students at Mill Park's open house. Board Chair Gardner attended open houses as well, saying the school year is off to a great school year.

**Student Body President's Report** – Board Chair Gardner introduced ASB President Ellyn Ward, who reported that reaction has been positive to the newly instated two-period lunch schedule. Senior class photos will be held on September 12. Leadership classes will do some team building at Camp Collins next week, and ASB officers will attend their first Mt. Hood Conference meeting on September 18. The Scots will host West Linn for the first home football game of the season.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Rommel said she was pleased to welcome Mayor Potter to the high school on Tuesday, where he addressed the freshman class and visited the auto shop. He then walked over to Lincoln Park and joined two second graders and their parents for breakfast. Mike Stout reported that district enrollment as of today is 9,654, two more than the third

day of school last year, and 135 more than last June. Historically we've continued to grow throughout September. In grades 1-5, ten classrooms have more than thirty students. Menlo Park has two kindergarten sections with 38 students each, so plans are being discussed to reduce those sections. Superintendent Rommel met with City Commissioner Erik Sten last week. As one outcome of that meeting, the district was invited to participate in a discussion at City Hall regarding housing and schools. The City may have additional resources to contribute to school programs. Mr. Stout will be inviting Commissioner Sten's assistant to a principals meeting to brainstorm how our district's portion of that funding might best be used. The next City Council meeting on this subject will be held September 21. Susan Summers announced that the district has hired 92 new teachers, with 3.0 FTE remaining. Temporary assistants for classrooms will be hired in the next few weeks. Additional classified positions continue to be posted. Mr. Stout said the formula for a classroom qualifying for temporary assistance was modified this fall, with required enrollment reduced by one in each grade level category. Superintendent Rommel shared a copy of *Metro Parent* magazine which featured comments by Cheryl Bland in an article on after school programs.

**Kindergarten Report** – Superintendent Rommel introduced Ventura Park Reading Coach Shane Bassett. Part of his studies at George Fox University included a research project on the district's full day kindergarten program and student performance. The study included reviews of student performance in literacy skill acquisition in first grade and kindergarten. He looked at skill retention and development for first graders compared to their kindergarten year, comparing students completing the half day and full day programs. For kindergarten, he compared skill growth from the beginning to the end of the year. The analysis focused on our five Reading First Schools since they have fewer instructional variables to affect a comparison. Mr. Bassett described the DIBELS measurement tool, and said the desired outcome is to have students meeting benchmark by year's end. He explained the research showing the connection, kindergarten through grade 12, between meeting reading benchmarks and school success. He also conducted a written survey of parents, teachers, and other school personnel to obtain their rating and comments regarding the full day kindergarten program. He followed up with face to face interviews for more in-depth information. In reviewing data from 2003-04, 04-05, and 05-06, results show that full day students outperform half-day students in every category. Mr. Bassett recommended that the study group be followed through grade 3 to determine long range outcomes.

**Approval of Contingency Fund Transfer** – Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve a resolution shifting funds from the General to the Capital Reserve Fund, to cover unbudgeted costs for land acquisition and costs for high school expansion construction that were higher than previously estimated. Following a second from Mr. Burton, the resolution was approved in a vote of 7-0.

**Boom Property Due Diligence Report** – Terry Rommel reported that the geological survey on the Deardorff property addition has been completed and merged with the previous site survey. He presented a possible design scheme and reviewed issues that could come into play with development. Environmental zones have been identified by the City of Portland Bureau of Planning. The soils engineer has identified four areas on the new property that might have problems in the event of a severe earthquake. The combined site can be developed with a two story school building with adequate field and playground use and parking. The construction committee would like the number of parking places increased; widening the driveway would provide additional parking for evening events. Mr. Wilton said the district is scheduled to close the purchase of the property on September 15. The board's consensus was to proceed with the purchase and development of the site.

**Consent Agenda** – Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Centoni. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- **Resolution to Authorize the Superintendent to be the District-Authorized Representative to Apply for Federal Funds for the 2006-07 School Year**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes**

**Audience Participation** – Board Chair Gardner opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Superintendent Rommel confirmed which board members would attend each of the remaining building open houses. Board Chair Gardner said the focus of the next board meeting will be test scores and achievement. Any requests for information related to those topics should be given to Sherrie Barger or the superintendent. Mr. Gardner announced that Beverly Russell and representatives from the Mt. Hood Community College board will present information on the MHCC bond at the first board meeting in October. Frieda Christopher said the Russell family will host a memorial walk in Ron's honor on September 23 at Wildwood.

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



---

Donn Gardner, Board Chair



---

Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk