

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
September 8, 2011**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 8, 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:

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

Student Body President's Report / Recognitions – ASB President Tanner Adrian reported that the high school's largest freshman class ever was welcomed on Freshman Orientation Day. The Senior Class is working on homecoming, to be held October 7. Underclassmen are working on themes for future events. The second football game of the year is tomorrow night. The Scots are currently 1-0.

Visiting Delegations / Audience Input – Mike Ewald, district patron, presented another \$100 in gift cards for Mill Park students in honor of his daughter-in-law. He said he and his wife would like to work with someone at the high school to sponsor a student for winter formal or prom. The Ewalds were thanked for their support.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting said that the gift cards the Ewalds donated earlier have been delivered to principals, and were very much appreciated as there are many students who need assistance. Cabinet members visited all of our buildings during opening week. Mr. Grotting remarked that Tanner and his fellow leadership students did a great job presenting to ninth graders to encourage them to become involved at David Douglas High School. District enrollment is down a bit this fall, which will affect our funding. The superintendent thanked Dan McCue and Derek Edens and their team for their work transitioning the copiers and printers across the district. Superintendent Grotting recently met with representatives from Friends of the Children, who are providing paid mentors for some of our most at-risk children from Mill Park and Lincoln Park from kindergarten through Grade 12. Following up on their CAC report, John May and Kyle Riggs met with the superintendent to discuss how best to continue their work. Superintendent Grotting said he envisions forming a leadership team involving staff, community members, representatives of our various ethnic groups, businesses and nonprofits to discuss what we want David Douglas to look like as a learning institution. Board members expressed support for this effort.

Financial Update – Superintendent Grotting reported that as we move into this year and look ahead at the next budget session, we expect to have a deficit of about \$4 million. We have had a reduction of about \$400,000 in our Title funds, and still must negotiate two contracts. In a bit of good news, the superintendent said that through reduced use of supplies and by negotiating lower costs for purchased services, our ending fund balance will be coming in at about \$7.5 million rather than the \$6.5 million we anticipated. The economy is not turning around as quickly as predicted, and the

legislature could still reduce our funding this year. Patt Komar prepared a general fund snapshot for the board. More detail is available if needed. A question was asked about the reduction in federal funding for free/reduced lunch at a time when our numbers have only increased. Ms. Komar said that through ODE, we're asking that question of the federal government.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Gardner moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Price. Superintendent Grotting introduced Spencer Morgenthau from McKinstry Industries. The superintendent said the resolution to participate in the Small-Scale Energy Loan Program does not obligate the district, but makes this option available to us. He said the construction committee met and are reviewing some projects which could qualify for the program. The resulting energy savings would pay for the projects, and if the costs aren't completely covered, McKinstry would pay the difference. The Consent Agenda was approved in a vote of 7-0.

- Resolution to Authorize the District to Obtain Financing from the Small-Scale Energy Loan Program (SELP)
- Resolution to Purchase One 24+3 Wheelchair Special Needs Bus
- Personnel Recommendations
- Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes

Revision of Board Policy EFA Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health – Second Reading
Dawn Barberis moved approval of Revised Policy EFA, seconded by Frieda Christopher. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Enrollment Status Report – Natalie Osburn presented a snapshot of district enrollment as of today, which is down about 1.3% from the same day last year. The enrollment decline is greatest at the middle school level. Kindergarten classes are larger than expected. Principals have been very diligent in reporting numbers and helping place students where space is available, but seven of our schools have 30 or more students in each kindergarten classroom. Two schools have 28-29 students, but six are waiting to be placed.

Dr. Osburn said it would be in the students' best interest to open an additional kindergarten class, using an empty classroom at Gilbert Park. This would allow 14 Gilbert Park kindergarteners attending other district schools to return, along with 6-8 students from Gilbert Heights and the six on the waiting list. Rather than hiring a new teacher, she proposed staffing the new classroom temporarily with a substitute teacher, to allow the district to shift staffing over the next couple of weeks. There is a possibility that a first grade classroom with lower enrollment will be redistributed, and that teacher moved to kindergarten.

Superintendent Grotting said that some high school elective classes are also very large, but core classes were protected to provide students the most direct support. He said teachers are doing a great job, as are the principals. Ms. Christopher noted that many more people are competing for rental housing. She said the competition in our area has driven up pricing and fees, becoming unaffordable for some families. Dr. Osburn acknowledged the work of the Earl Boyles staff and the SUN coordinator in partnering with the Oregon Food Bank to offer a food pantry every other Friday. They had been serving approximately 16 families, but had more than 35 families come last week. She said staff members are going above and beyond to accommodate families. Employees from Holiday Inn at the Airport are partnering with Earl Boyles, hosting food and school supply drives, as well as volunteering on an ongoing basis at the food bank.

Bond Update – Superintendent Grotting shared information from DHM, a polling institution selected to survey our patrons. The Children’s Institute will contribute half of the cost of the survey. If the polling results are positive, The Children’s Institute is also interested in participating with Citizens for Schools on the campaign. If there is a change in the economy, DHM recommends undertaking a second poll to confirm our patrons’ support of a bond measure. They will present a draft survey for the board’s input. The superintendent said that some maintenance items will need to be addressed regardless of passage of a bond, with those dollars impacting other areas of the budget. He said it is a critical time to do our best for our patrons.

Future Workshop Dates – Superintendent Grotting suggested that the next board workshop be a preliminary strategic planning session. The consensus was to hold the board workshop on Thursday, October 20, 6:00pm at one of our schools. The superintendent will find a host school.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Chair Mattson asked for information on summer school and Ninth Grade Counts participation numbers. Ms. Christopher asked for a future report on the impact of the Wednesday late start/Professional Learning Teams effort. A report on academic achievement is scheduled for October.

Board Member Reports – Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta reported that she participated in the annual “white glove” tour, and said that even though some of our buildings need capital improvements, every building looked well-maintained and ready for the start of year. She thanked the custodians and maintenance staff responsible. Frieda Christopher announced that the Educational Foundation is seeking proposals to determine the beneficiary of this year’s fundraising efforts. She also said that Rose Development will offer to work with families on parenting skills. They are hoping to identify families in Leander Court who would want to participate. Chair Mattson reported that as an outcome of the 122nd Avenue Pilot Study undertaken last year by the City of Portland, which highlighted the impact of high density multi-family zoning in our area, a rezoning committee has been formed. Ms. Mattson has been asked to serve on that committee. She said that due to the City’s zoning policy, David Douglas has the lowest assessed value per student of any Multnomah County school district.

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



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk