

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
September 16, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97233.

School Board Members present were:

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

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** – Mr. Centoni said he is excited to begin the year. He said he enjoyed the football game with the stands full and the band performing, and is excited to welcome the new soccer coach. He attended the special event at Ron Russell Middle School, where Fidelity Investments donated \$25,000 worth of new musical instruments to music students. The District will own the instruments, but they were presented to students who will use them this year, and he said it was great to see the reactions of the students, who were really overwhelmed. Mr. Centoni noted that from 2002-2007, the board allocated \$250,000 to spend over five years for instrument replacement, but they were unable to continue the past few years. He said the future will bring some challenges, but our values will remain, and the board has historically valued our music program.

Ms Christopher reported that the David Douglas Educational Foundation will meet with the Portland Schools Foundation in October to see how the two groups might support one another. Opportunity Gateway is developing its action plan. The Gateway Urban Renewal District has been named a new “eco district” by PSU’s institute of sustainability, to encourage green technology and efforts to make buildings energy efficient. Along with Superintendent Grotting and Janice Essenberg, Ms. Christopher attended today’s Gateway Education subcommittee discussion to hear about what options would be considered viable by the Portland Development Commission.

Mr. Price visited open houses at West Powellhurst, Cherry Park, and Ron Russell, which he said were very well attended. He also enjoyed the “white glove” tour, and thanked David Callaway and his team for all of their efforts to keep the buildings and grounds looking great. Mr. Gardner also participated in the building inspection, and attended the Earl Boyles open house, where attendance was excellent and the American Legion served hot dogs to families. He said the presentation of instruments to Ron Russell students was an outstanding opportunity to see how much those students value their music experience. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta said she was very proud of the excellent condition of the schools, and commented that we are very fortunate that the maintenance and custodial staff take such pride in our buildings and grounds. She said the custodians greeted visiting board members with pride.

**Student Body President’s Report** – ASB President Katherine Westmoreland reported on the start of the school year at David Douglas High School. Fall sports are underway. A welcome back assembly will be held at the end of the day tomorrow to rally student spirit, and a dance will follow

tomorrow night's football game. She reported that Mr. Wadsworth is the high school's new activities director. A Club Fair will be held next Friday. The high school has more than 40 clubs with 15 or more members each. High school band, orchestra and choir students have been giving recruiting demonstrations and performances for elementary students around the district. A group of DDHS students will participate in the Cascades AIDS Walk in October. ASB officers are launching a voter registration drive with the help of US Government teachers, in an effort to get all eligible seniors registered to vote. The leadership students are competing with other area high schools in this effort. Planning is underway for Homecoming on October 15. This year's theme remains a secret.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Grotting commended Cherie-Anne May and Tanya Garcia for writing the proposal which brought the new musical instruments to Ron Russell Middle School students. On September 9, he attended the Gateway Business Association's Citizen of the Year award ceremony, which honored the Hazelwood Neighborhood Association. He had the pleasure of meeting members of the David Douglas Historical Society at South Powellhurst, and looked at their display of artifacts. He has also met with a number of representatives from area colleges and universities, some of whom place their student teachers with us.

Superintendent Grotting recently addressed the Children's Institute board, which is in the first phase of adopting a nationwide model for a preschool program to be located adjacent to Earl Boyles Elementary. Although discussions are preliminary and there are many issues to be worked out, this partnership would provide some very exciting support for children prior to entry into kindergarten. Research shows that the earlier we can provide children the necessary skills, the greater the impact on their K-12 success. Their board is very committed to the project and the Earl Boyles staff is excited about this opportunity. He said the program would be designed to have rigor, and would not be just a day care center. It would also provide parents training opportunities and would be developed as a one stop center for parent and family resources.

Mr. Grotting met with the executive director of Metropolitan Family Services, one of our SUN sponsors, which provide after school opportunities for educational and recreational support. David Douglas High School could become one of the first high schools with a SUN program. We will hear the response to that grant application later in September. He directed the board's attention to a display of calligraphy at the back of the board room. Maria Galati's high school calligraphy students were award winners at the Oregon State Fair.

**Enrollment Update** – Assistant Superintendent Natalie Osburn reviewed enrollment in these early days of the school year. District enrollment is up by 97 students over Day #8 last school year. Comparing Day #8 over the past five years, elementary enrollment is up 6.3%, 9.8% at the middle schools, and 8.4% at the high school. Kindergarten classes continue to grow. It will be necessary to add one kindergarten teacher, with 1.0 FTE coming from contingency. Building secretaries and principals are doing a great job of assisting our families.

Elementary class sizes are at 28-29 across the board. Enrollment of over 30 students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Earl Boyles and 5<sup>th</sup> grade at West Powellhurst has resulted in bussing students between those schools to classrooms with space. We are working hard to accommodate our enrollment with our existing staffing. Superintendent Grotting said we budgeted very tight for staffing, and he knows it is tough to have 28 or 29 kindergarten students with reduced support from classroom assistants. He said in talking with other area superintendents, he's hearing that other districts have taken a tougher stance on inter-district transfers. He said we may need to discuss revising our standards as well. He also received a report from MESD showing about 200 David Douglas residents registered as home schooled students. While that number is low compared with other area districts, those students do representing a loss of funding. The superintendent wants to look at every avenue for funding sources. Dr. Osburn will present a comprehensive enrollment report in October.

**Report on the District's Conservation Efforts** – Holly Wolfe reported on the third year of the district's conservation program. She began by reviewing equipment upgrades which are providing savings. A metering program of our field irrigation has been in effect for two summers now. The program over one summer alone saved \$24,987 at two sites. Checking building systems drawing energy over the weekend has identified necessary upgrades. At Floyd Light Middle School, a supply fans upgrade resulted in savings of \$965 per month. Installing \$50 timers has been a great investment. An HVAC upgrade at GP has saved about \$5,000 in the first four month of operation. That system's cost was completely reimbursed by SB1149 funds. The next school scheduled for an HVAC upgrade is Menlo Park. Recycling in the buildings has facilitated reduced dumpster sizes and number of pickups per month. Ms. Wolfe also routinely reviews utility bills to check for errors. Utility usage and cost trends were reviewed. Natural gas use across the district has been on the decline since 2007-08. Rates for natural gas have also declined. Although district use of electricity has declined 10% since 2007-08, we are spending more due to electric rate increases.

Ms. Wolfe has been doing classroom presentations on conservation. She said staff awareness and support have been great and custodians are working hard to champion conservation efforts. Seven of our schools are certified green schools. Ms. Wolfe does waste audits with students to heighten awareness. She has shared energy best practices hand outs with principals for distribution to staff. This year's family calendar features the district's resource conservation efforts.

As she looks to the future, Ms. Wolfe said she would like to see more specifics to back up the district's board policy on sustainability and encouragement to staff to conserve. She would like to establish a district-wide advisory committee, and an annual energy challenge between buildings with specific requirements. Ms. Wolfe suggested reviewing the cost of our pool in terms of energy use, which costs about \$50,000 per year to heat. If the district were to decrease electricity use by only 5%, we could save \$36,860 over the course of a year. She solicited board support for more coordinated efforts.

Mr. Centoni said that OSBA will be having a one day workshop at the end of October regarding cost savings though energy conservation. Superintendent Grotting said he enjoyed meeting with Holly, and said it is exciting to have someone with so much passion and ability working on this project, noting that the cost savings more than pay for her salary. Ms. Christopher requested information on the full count of small refrigerators and coffeepots in classrooms, which have increased over time and could result in some energy savings if they were removed. Ms. Essenberg said that David Callaway has offered our principals the opportunity to receive a new energy-saving refrigerator for their staff room in exchange for removing the small refrigerators from classrooms. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta asked whether Ms. Wolfe had done any research into possible cost savings of wind turbines. Ms. Wolfe said those projects are not being reimbursed by the state, so would need grant funding. Among other aspects to consider are maintenance requirements of those systems.

**Ratification of Memorandum of Understanding between David Douglas School District and East County Bargaining Council** – Ken Richardson presented a one year agreement based on negotiations with DDEA and East County Bargaining Council, for the Board's discussion and a vote on ratification. Mr. Centoni said he would support the agreement, saying that while neither party ever gets everything they want, the Association and the District have come to an amicable agreement. He said the new transparency established with our associations will benefit us all in the future, helping us start on solid footing when we revisit the contract next spring. Ms. Christopher said she will not support this agreement, as while she is very supportive of our staff, she is philosophically opposed to some of the language included in this MOU. Mr. Gardner said that much of what we settle on as we go forward is going to be financially driven. He said the Board has wisely invested some reserves for capital improvements as well as benefits and salary for our employees.

He said that the culmination of this bargaining reinforces to him that it continues to be an advantage to approach issues in a collaborative way. Mr. Gardner said those kinds of discussions result in what's best for all concerned. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta said this is a very serious vote, and that much great work and collaboration has gone into the agreement. She said she will vote in support, but wanted to state strongly that one article related to insurance must change or she will not support the agreement next year. She said the Board should select insurance options for district employees. She challenged all employees to think about their own health to save dollars in their claims experience.

Mr. Centoni moved to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between David Douglas School District and East County Bargaining Council, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 5-1 (in favor: Barberis, Centoni, Gardner, Price, Scarcelli Ancheta; opposed: Christopher).

**Professional Learning Teams Update** – Brooke O'Neill and Derek Edens reported to the board on "Professional Learning Team Wednesday" activities. During an August inservice with administrators, she reviewed what a professional learning team is: collaboration around PLT cycle, using data to make decisions about instruction; conversations with peers about best practice and student learning; alignment of standards, instruction, and assessment; and analyzing for effectiveness and gathering and assessing evidence of student learning. She also reviewed what it is not: time to do lessons plans or to discuss operational issues; additional prep time; or a substitute for already required meetings. Ms. O'Neill reviewed the PLT process: looking at data to identify an issue; determining the standard; setting the learning target (SMART goal); planning the lesson/activity or instructional strategy; determining a common assessment; teaching the lesson; and reviewing collaboratively for effectiveness. An important component will be celebration when we see growth. A cultural shift occurs in a professional learning community, from a focus on teaching to a focus on learning, and a shift from remediation to intervention. PLTs align their goals with the district's continuous improvement plans. Professional learning teams have been established in every school, team leaders have been identified, and a PLT notebook has been created for every team. State of Oregon content standards have been printed for every teacher along with a PLT handbook. Principals have developed a 60 day plan for every building, and teachers are completing targeted work for September.

Derek Edens reported on the data analysis training for administrators, focused on using data to improve student achievement. The first goal is to get everybody on the bus, and get all the buses going in the same direction, beginning with a discussion about what's working and what's not, at each school. It was also necessary to provide an easy data analysis tool for principals and staff. A data notebook was created for every principal. Mr. Edens provided lots of data, including school comparisons, cohort and subgroup data, and district level trends. The group did a treasure hunt from the Oregon Data Project, in which small groups reviewed reading, math, writing, and science, looking for successes and challenges. By the end of the workshop, principals left with a process for analyzing student achievement data, a plan for sharing and implementing data with their staff, and a process for moving data analysis into action. Building PLT teams got together and analyzed individual student data, and are using data to inform instruction to meet the needs of each of their students. Superintendent Grotting said that Ms. O'Neill and Mr. Edens have done a fabulous job getting this up and running. He said we should see significant increases in student achievement as a result of this effort.

**Resolution Authorizing Updated Construction Excise Tax Limits** – Janice Essenberg reported that Senate Bill 1036 allowed school districts to impose a construction excise tax (CET) on new construction. The revenues are required to be used for capital improvements. The bill established tax rate limits of \$1 per square foot for residential use and \$0.50 for nonresidential use, along with a

\$25,000 tax limit on nonresidential properties. From the bill's onset to the present, the district has collected about \$200,000.

Beginning in 2009, tax rates were indexed to inflation using the Engineering News-Record Construction Cost Index. School districts recently received notice that the tax rate limits have been updated for fiscal 2010-11 by the Oregon Department of Revenue to \$1.05 per square foot for residential use and \$0.53 for nonresidential use with a \$26,400 maximum. In order to take effect, the board must approve the new rates. Following discussion, the Board Chair tabled this resolution to revisit this topic at a future meeting.

**Citizens Advisory Council Study Topics for 2010-11** – Dr. Osburn announced that the first meeting of the year for the Citizens Advisory Committee will be held on October 13. Meetings will be held the second Tuesday of month. She asked board members for suggestions of possible study topics for this year. Mr. Gardner wondered if there would be interest in developing their own set of core priorities related to our programs, in anticipation of future budget reduction discussions. Ms. Christopher suggested researching ways to get parents really involved in our schools, reaching out to our diverse population, and looking at volunteerism differently, as our schools lack strong parent groups. Chair Barberis suggested that if this topic is selected, the group review the great work done on a report presented two years ago on that topic, and then take that to the next level. Mr. Centoni suggested building on the work undertaken by building level management and administration to improve conservation efforts across the district.

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

- **Board Approval of Alternative Education Programs**
- **Personnel Recommendations**
- **Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Mike Ewald, district patron, said he serves on the East Portland Action Plan grants committee, which expects to receive \$50,000-100,000 from the City of Portland. The committee is developing rules for the grant application process. He said he hopes the district can take advantage of this opportunity for funding.

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items** – Mr. Centoni asked Mr. Richardson how many administrative retirees are receiving benefits. Mr. Richardson will research and email board members that information.

Superintendent Grotting reported that when he met with the board leadership last week, it was suggested that the second meeting in October be a board workshop, with a presentation from OSBA and discussion of the superintendent's goals for 2010-11. Ms. Mattson suggested cancelling the second board meeting in November (11/18) in order for our board to join other Multnomah County board members in meeting with our elected representatives at Mt. Hood Community College. Superintendent Grotting revisited his suggestion to have one board meeting per month, unless there is specific need for an additional meeting. This would free Cabinet members to be out in the buildings as much as possible. He received the Board's consensus to make that change in the board meeting calendar. Mr. McCue will communicate that change to the public. The

superintendent will present a revised board meeting calendar for approval at the next meeting. Chair Barberis asked that board members keep the Thursdays previously scheduled open, should we need to schedule additional meetings.

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



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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