

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
September 18, 2008**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 18, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. 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:

Frieda Christopher, Board Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Donn Gardner
Bruce Burton	Annette Mattson
Mike Centoni	Mike Price

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Deputy Superintendent; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Donn Gardner attended the high school assembly Friday afternoon, as well as the field dedication during Friday night's football game. He was pleased to see Tony Palermini and Howard Horner honored at the event. He said the band's performance was outstanding. John Bier confirmed that there will be more than 200 members in the marching unit when ordered uniforms arrive. Bruce Burton commented on the high school's Back to School Night, saying that the program at the PAC was well attended. He was very impressed with the information on the AVID program and the high school's advanced placement courses, all of which are full. Mike Centoni said the whole athletic facility looks great, from the tennis courts all the way down through the baseball fields and the new stadium. He enjoyed visiting with the high school teachers at Monday's back to school event. He said he would be very disappointed if students couldn't participate on the marching band due to lack of uniforms. He attended Gilbert Park's open house on Tuesday night. Dawn Barberis said the field dedication was very exciting. She also attended Back to School Night at the high school as well as the AVID session. Annette Mattson attended the Lents Town Center urban renewal advisory committee meeting. She noted that Portland Public Schools has a seat at the table, but that David Douglas is not represented even though a considerable part of the urban renewal district lie within our boundaries. All housing projects under discussion there were for ownership programs; there was a remark that they are working with the school district to help attract current renters to become owners and stabilized the school population. Superintendent Rommel said the district has had contact from the Portland Land Trust as well as Rose Corp.

Ms. Mattson attended the Chalkboard advisory committee on Tuesday, where Kate Dixon spoke highly of Superintendent Rommel's reputation out in the community. She also participated on the legislative policy committee at last weekend's meeting of the OSBA board of directors. Mike Price said that as a member of the David Douglas High School Class of 1979, he was particularly proud to attend the high school track and field dedication. He also attended the high school's open house and AVID presentation. Board Chair Christopher attended open houses at Floyd Light, the high school, and the award presentation for Tess Miller at Lincoln Park. She noted that former principal Ray Utz also attended the high school stadium dedication. She had lunch with John Sygielski, the new president of Mt. Hood Community College, and said she was impressed with his enthusiasm

and his interest in the entire MHCC service area. Reporting on her ongoing work with Opportunity Gateway, she said that construction on 102nd Avenue should be complete by the end of October. As part of the dedication in early November, banners are being created made of powder-coated aluminum to be erected around the Gateway area. There will be the ability to add peel off advertising of special events. The Educational Foundation will have their first meeting of the school year next Tuesday.

Student Body President's Report – Rena Chayanam, ASB First Vice President, reported that high school students enjoyed the assembly held September 12th to dedicate the new high school stadium. David Douglas High School will host this year's first meeting of ASB officers from the Mt. Hood Conference. They are creating a video to introduce themselves and welcome more than eighty expected participants. The theme for his year's Homecoming is "Out of this World". Homecoming Week culminates on October 9 with the spaghetti dinner, the football game against Hood River, and the homecoming dance. In an effort to get students involved in extra-curricular activities, school clubs will be highlighted at a fair on September 26.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel reported that a Channel 12 feature on the importance of music education featured Gilbert Park and mentioned David Douglas School District's commitment to music. Tess Miller, Lincoln Park kindergarten teacher, was named the American Star of Teaching for the State of Oregon by the US Department of Education. Tess received that recognition from Carolyn Snowbarger at a surprise assembly last week. The superintendent attended a Gateway Area Business Association meeting on September 11 where they joined with many community members in honoring local police and firefighters. Janice Essenberg said four quotes have been received to make repairs on fencing around the softball field. Broken slats are being removed from the fence across from the swimming pool. Some student athletes will be doing that work. Any other necessary repairs will be determined at that time. Mike Stout reviewed current enrollment, noting that numbers are up 277 from the same day of school a year ago. Grades K-5 have six classrooms at 30, and two classes at 31. A year ago there were 32 elementary classrooms with more than 30 students. Moving nine kindergarten classrooms to North Powellhurst have helped with class sizes at the other elementary buildings. Ron Russell Middle School continues to be the hot spot, with sixth grade classrooms at 34 each. Mr. Stout said he would propose a possible solution under Other Business.

State Assessment Results Report – Director of Curriculum Brooke O'Neill opened this agenda item, saying that under NCLB, each state issues a yearly progress report to see how improvement efforts are working. Derek Edens reviewed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data for the 2007-08 school year. He began by reviewing the district's changing demographics, which show a dramatic increase of 70.2% in our ELL student population, a 34% increase in our enrollment, and a 20.3% increase in the number of students representing minority groups over the last ten years. As a requirement of NCLB, students in Grades 3-8 and Grade 10 participate in the State Assessment. Tests area administered in Reading and Math, and the report focuses not only on how an individual school performed, but how that school's subgroups performed. If one subgroup doesn't meet defined targets, the whole school fails to meet AYP. AYP targets ratcheted up 10% this year from 2006-07.

As a district, we met the target of 95% of our students talking the statewide assessment in both math and reading. All of our elementary schools met the state targets in math and reading. There were hot spots at the middle and high school levels, neither of which met state targets. Because targets were met at the elementary level, we are no longer in district improvement status.

Ms. O'Neill said that overall, there are some celebrations and some areas of concern. All schools met participation rate target of 95%. Elementary met targets in both reading and math. The challenge remains bringing all subgroups to targets. Targets were not met at the middle and high school levels. Ms. O'Neill said that Ron Russell Middle School has now been on the state list for two years. Ron Russell was the only secondary school in the district receiving Title I funding in 2007-08. Only schools receiving Title I funding are subject to sanctions under NCLB. She met today with the team Charlene Bassine has established, which is dedicated to reviewing the data and going through a thorough improvement planning process. Ms. O'Neill stressed that all of our middle schools will benefit from the information gained through this work.

Nanette Twist teaches 7th and 8th grade math at Alice Ott, and works as the math coach at all three middle schools. She spoke about work on math curriculum alignment K-12 and assessment efforts at the middle school level. While staff has been doing well in providing reading interventions, they need more support in math interventions. Efforts include a sheltered instruction (GLAD) model, staff development, coaching and modeling strategies for teachers. Changes in state graduation requirements specify that all students are required to have three credits of math at Algebra I and above. In January 2008 the state adopted new K-8 math standards, which were very welcome as they permit more in depth focus on fewer goal areas. Our math teachers created and use common assessments for grades 7 and 8, and developed a curriculum map. This year they are continuing to modify the curriculum map, sharing data and resources, and continue their use of common assessment. The new state standards will guide selection of textbooks. Ms. O'Neill said the curriculum team is working to provide a guide so elementary buildings are more alike than different in their instruction and emphasis, and focused on middle school targets.

Amy Holman reviewed the high school's work on a literacy focus across the curriculum (reading and writing within content areas). After the August all-staff kick off, all teachers met in small departmental groups where discussions focused on literacy and PBS. She is working with division chairs in preparation for next week's early release on developing smart goals toward active literacy instruction. Focus on literacy strategies will continue all year long to support teachers in supporting student literacy. Denise Pierson recalled last spring's report to the board on their Smaller Learning Communities grant application. The high school was awarded the grant to support project services, nine of which are already in action this fall; including attendance streamlining and mentoring, and AVID, which supports students in the academic middle to make them more competitive as they pursue education after high school. The Scots Center provides students a tutoring opportunity three days per week; and ninth grade transition courses were offered this summer in areas of language arts, math, and science, as well as information on community resources. Fifty students participated. Project Up, a guided study hall, was strengthened. Mentoring continued for students exiting summer school. Staff members are collaborating on common assessments in math and compiling data to inform instruction. SAT and ACT test prep classes will be offered through NovaNET. The PSU research lab is collecting data in a follow-up with seniors after graduation, and the results will be analyzed to improve our students' readiness for college.

Ms. O'Neill concluded by saying that as we continue our efforts across the district to improve AYP results, the emphasis on data-driven decision making will continue to be our practice.

Facilities Task Force Blueprint – Mike Stout presented a process plan for a Facilities Task Force. At the August meeting, the board directed the administration to form a study committee to look at issue of facilities and increasing enrollment, and report back to the board in Spring 2009. Despite construction of a number of classrooms, we remain at capacity. Mr. Stout described the recommended makeup of the task force, saying he anticipates reaching prospective participants via

email, parent newsletters, and directly approaching non-parent members from our community. The Center for Innovative School Facilities is a non-profit organization which works with school districts to look at ways to deal with major enrollment changes. They could produce a facilities study within a short turn around, which could dovetail with the task force's work. Mr. Stout described a timeline draft, with the first meeting to be held in October, and the group meeting regularly through mid-February in preparation for their report to the board in March.

There were several suggestions regarding makeup of the task force, including adding more representation from classified and certified groups, including the possibility of association reps, in order to gather opinions from all stakeholders. Mr. Stout said that as they break into study groups and subcommittees they will be able to pull additional interested people in. It was emphasized that the people at the table need to represent all constituents. Concern was expressed about soliciting enough community members within the tight timeline, as non-parents represent the majority of taxpayers in the district. Mr. Stout said there will have to be specific outreach to non-parents. Some possible individuals have been suggested, and he would welcome suggestions from board members of others to contact. It was noted that the group has to stay reasonably small to complete this task within the tight timeline. The idea was to survey the facilities we have, and what we can do with what we have. The report in March could include recommendations for broader study in particular areas. It was suggested that a process be developed to keep cycling out to focus groups and gathering input back. Mr. Stout said we will do our best to represent various ethnic groups and constituents. The Innovative Schools group could have a report ready within two to three weeks to present to focus groups to jump start the discussion.

Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the Personnel Recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation / Break – Board Chair Christopher opened the meeting for public comment. Mark White, newly elected chair of Powellhurst/Gilbert Neighborhood Association, requested demographic information about the district. He described two small grants his organization will be applying for, including one that would provide high school students the opportunity to participate as interns with the neighborhood association to learn about grass roots community organizing and find out more about the challenges in their neighborhood. Part of the grant would provide a \$500 scholarship for each participant. The second grant would involve focus groups to communicate with new immigrants who do not speak English, engaging the first generation by bridging the gap with students who speak both languages. He requested a letter of support from the district for the association's grant proposals, which the superintendent said she would provide.

As there were no other remarks from the audience, the board chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Workshop Topic: Student Achievement – Meeting the Needs of All Students – Board Chair Christopher asked for questions and comments regarding the report on state assessment results, and student achievement in general. Ms. Mattson asked Derek Edens whether there is a report available that would show growth over time for each of our schools, by grade level, which could be compared with other schools across the state. He said he believes he can use available reporting options to compile data in that way. Mr. Centoni asked whether integrating sixth graders into the standard middle school format, rather than the model of autonomous classrooms, might improve their progress toward high school readiness. Ms. Bassine said students are already experiencing a modified version of that schedule with different teachers for language arts, math and science.

Ms. Barberis remarked on the discrepancy between the district's student and teacher demographics. She wondered if teachers are discussing specific ideas that might work with particular subgroups. Ms. Bassine said her staff spent this summer addressing cultural factors in teaching with a book group discussion. They read and discussed the book, *White Teacher, Diverse Classroom*. Board Chair Christopher requested clarification on the tests special education students are required to take. Ms. Kienle confirmed that all students in a grade level take an identical assessment. An extended assessment is available for students who are a minimum of three years below grade level (primarily our self-contained students). Ms. O'Neill noted that the math and science assessments are available in Spanish and Russian, but the reading test is only available in English.

Ms. Christopher remarked that students at Lincoln Park did very well this year across the board. She wondered whether the staff has been able to identify specifically why they had such good results. Ms. O'Neill said their school improvement coordinator is a GLAD trainer as well, so has been able to share those strategies with classroom teachers. Lincoln Park has also benefited from being a Reading First school. She said they are looking closely to see what successful strategies can be replicated elsewhere.

Ms. Mattson expressed concern that students who have stayed in our schools over time historically have done well on the assessment, but scores this year for that group have declined. She wondered what we can do differently. Ms. O'Neill reflected on work done at Menlo Park last year when she was principal, saying staff participated in a monthly data analysis, reviewed instruction, and looked at the test structure. They reviewed their operational piece to ask whether they were maximizing instruction. She felt the staff was continually analyzing and using data to improve their instruction. Superintendent Rommel noted that we are not seeing reduction in performance across the board. We are also getting better at looking at and analyzing data. Board Chair Christopher congratulated the high school staff on their efforts to integrate literacy across the curriculum. She said those efforts will be reflected by improvement in future reading and writing scores.

Mr. Centoni said efforts to align math instruction and other initiatives will pay off as we move forward. He remarked that despite all the honors the high school has received, and all of the students graduating with good grades, according to the NCLB report, the school is failing. Mr. Stout noted that Ron Russell Middle School students made good growth this year, in fact had the best growth of our middle schools. To have the school labeled as failing despite all their efforts is demoralizing to the staff and students. Ms. Mattson remarked that new rules for modified diplomas are more strict as part of new state graduation standards and that fewer students might qualify. Ms. Kienle said she is still reviewing data in order to realign those standards.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Ms. Mattson shared OSBA's position statements on several ballot measures related to education. Measure 60 addresses merit pay for teachers. OSBA opposes the measure as it is written, as a statewide mandate would undermine local control and local decision-making. She reviewed OSBA's response to a number of measures, noting that the strike of OEA support staff might hamper their efforts to oppose some of these measures.

Natalie Osburn updated board members regarding the start up of the Azbuka Charter School. Since school started it has been brought to her attention that they have enrolled 11th and 12th graders, despite the fact that the charter agreement specifies that the school may only enroll 9th and 10th graders. She requested a list of enrolled students and their grade levels. When she received it, all students were listed as grades 9 and 10, even though some were 11th and 12th graders. They are not currently meeting the terms of their contract with the district. It was the Board's consensus not to amend the contract. The Azbuka directors will be told to withdraw 11th and 12th graders and not to

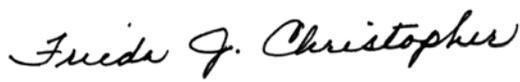
enroll any students not in grades 9 or 10. Every effort will be made to assist students transitioning back to their home high schools.

Mr. Stout reported that concerns were earlier expressed about overcrowded sixth grade classrooms at Ron Russell Middle School. Natalie Osburn and Charlene Bassine looked extensively at schedules and course assignments, and found there is no existing space available to add a class. Mr. Stout has spoken with the Bremik Construction supervisor about the possibility of parking a temporary trailer at the school during construction of the new classroom wing. A brand new modular unit on wheels, which includes two classrooms, is currently available from Design Space Modular Buildings. The City has indicated there would be no need for a conditional use permit. They would agree to a temporary stipulation with us that it would be removed upon completion of the classrooms. Siting would be on the outdoor basketball court adjacent to the northwest corner of the building. It could be set up in about a week, but PGE will have to come out to set up electrical service. The costs for delivery, setting it up to include a handicapped access ramp, and removal of the unit would be \$20,395. The monthly lease rate is \$1,100. Mr. Stout received the board's consensus to proceed with arrangements to have the unit in place as soon as possible. Mr. Stout requested approval to hire a 1.0 FTE sixth grade teacher for Ron Russell Middle School. Mr. Gardner so moved, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Stout said that if we should ever build a classroom wing at Alice Ott, the use of the temporary trailer at Ron Russell would serve as a pilot for dealing with construction in the future.

As a future agenda item, Mr. Burton requested review of the high school's AP program, including preparation requirements for teachers. He also suggested looking at options for expanding the program, such as extending the AP science classes into the summertime in order for interested students to work year around.

Mr. Centoni suggested that the board consider using OSBA as the primary resource in revamping our school board policy. Board Chair Christopher said the board policy subcommittee needs to meet and develop recommendations to bring to the full board on how best to proceed. Mr. Centoni requested that a future agenda include information on the plusses and minuses of making defibrillators available in our buildings. Janice Essenberg said that school business managers from Multnomah County have been discussing this topic, looking into grants that are available and gathering recommendations regarding equipment features. She will report back on that group's findings. Board Chair Christopher said the Educational Foundation has also discussed making grants available for purchase of this equipment.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Christopher announced that the board would reconvene in Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk