

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
October 7, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, October 7, 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	
Frieda Christopher		Mike Price
Donn Gardner		Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta
Annette Mattson		

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** – Frieda Christopher announced that the David Douglas Educational Foundation will meet with the Portland Schools Foundation at their October meeting. Members of the EPAP economic development committee hope to bring zoning issues to the forefront with the City before the Portland Plan is finalized. The Portland Housing Bureau advisory committee is seeking citizens to serve with that group. They hope the committee will represent a variety of points of view regarding affordable housing. The group will review the strategic plan and consider how best to spend federal funds for affordable housing. Vice Chair Mattson shared information from the last OSBA board of directors meeting, which was dedicated to professional development of school board members. She also shared information from a presentation on equity issues. Ms. Mattson attended the Lents Urban Renewal advisory committee meeting, and the REAP dinner. Along with the superintendent, Chair Barberis, and Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta, she attended the OSBA regional dinner meeting, which included a presentation on legislative issues. She also had the opportunity to do a 'ride along' with an East Precinct officer, finding that she got a different snapshot of our community through that experience. She attended the district's equity workshop today, and will join the group again tomorrow. She said that an article from PSU's website features comments from a DDHS graduate, who talked about his experience thriving in DDSD as a new student who didn't speak English. Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta said she enjoyed the OSBA fall regional meeting and the presentation. She reminded patrons to be sure to vote this November. Chair Barberis reported that she, Superintendent Grotting, and Earl Boyles Principal Ericka Guynes just returned from four long days at the Harvard Pre-K institute, which focused on aligning a support model from birth – grade 3. Participants included representatives from the Children's Institute, who are participating in the WEE initiative planning process to develop a community-based universal preschool in the Earl Boyles catchment.

**Student Body President's Report** – ASB Second Vice President Thu Pham reported that the Club Fair on September 24<sup>th</sup> was very successful, resulting in more than 700 new club memberships. Next week is Homecoming Week. The theme is "Welcome to the Jungle." The annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held prior to the game. Parent conferences will be held October 28-29. Students are enjoying checking out the Weather Bug weather station installed last spring by Mr. Gilbert.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Grotting shared a photo of students who participated in the national Skills USA competition, including David Douglas High School Junior Chloe Timmins, who took first place honors. This morning he met with leadership of the high school's parent groups, who are interested in growing their membership and in having the school administration identify specifically how they can support the building's mission. Equity training is going on, with the fall session to conclude tomorrow. Another session will be presented in February. The superintendent said the Harvard Institute presented some exciting information regarding trying to prevent the achievement gap from starting by giving families the foundation for student success from preschool forward. He said frontloading our resources is a better investment than throwing money at problems after they develop. He believes there will be a statewide and national focus on early childhood to include the K-12 system.

Superintendent Grotting and Ms. Mattson met with Metro Councilors Robert Liberty and Rod Park this week. The councilors' topics included housing, community improvement, and issues related to the closure of Marshall High School, as they sought information about discussions between DDSD and PPS. Mr. Grotting expects there will be a push from some parents to encourage PPS to enter into discussion regarding school boundaries, if Marshall closes. He said it is important that we take care of David Douglas School District as we look at some serious financial issues of our own. To commit resources to PPS at this time is not feasible, but he said we will keep those relationships open to future discussions of mutual benefit. Superintendent Grotting said Cabinet members have been visiting buildings on PLT Wednesdays. He said staff members are working extremely hard, and so are students. He said he thinks we'll see some significant increases in student achievement, which is the major focus at every school.

**Financial/PERS Increase Update for the 2011/2012 School Year** – Janice Essenberg presented copies of the adopted and revised budgets, which includes July's reductions. She also presented an update on all funds, showing revenue and expenditures through September 30, as well as fiscal year expenditures and encumbrances. Encumbrances are calculated by reviewing all of our contracts and how much we've spent in the past, then encumbering those funds for the year. Encumbrances do not yet include salaries, but they will be included in October's report. Grant funds are being finalized as grant awards arrive. The superintendent said we have received some of our allocations, the largest of which is Title I. All of our schools receive Title I funds except the high school.

Ms. Essenberg reviewed 2011-12 budget considerations, including the estimate on the 2011-13 PERS rate increase. We are paying \$5.9 million this year, and anticipate costs of \$10.27 million next year. It is expected that PERS costs will continue to increase. She also reviewed expected loss of federal funds (ARRA) and other fed stimulus funds, totaling \$5.35 million. The budget impact of the PERS increase plus the loss of federal funds could result in a loss of \$9.6million.

Superintendent Grotting said we have already begun the budget process for next year. If there is no relief on the expected PERS increase or additional federal stimulus funds, we will be looking conservatively at a reduction of between \$8-10million. Mr. Grotting said we will try to leverage those Title dollars to retain as much staffing as we possibly can. Budget discussion will involve cabinet and both bargaining units. We are also looking at revisions in scheduling that could impact funding. The superintendent said we will keep board members up to date along the way, so that when the board is ready to make those hard decisions they will be informed decisions. He said we will strive to be transparent as we go through this process.

During the discussion, Mr. Gardner remarked that there have been districts which have made significant cuts in days this year. He asked whether we are we having any of those discussions with our bargaining units, saying we don't want to shut that door if we can save funds by reducing some days. Superintendent Grotting said that topic would need to be discussed with union leadership. We will be bargaining with all staff groups this year. Vice Chair Mattson said OSBA is working with the state to see if we can be released from some of their mandates.

**October 21 Board Workshop** – Superintendent Grotting reminded board members of a board workshop to be held October 21, 6:00pm in the Board Room. A speaker from OSBA will come in to discuss the board's role, the superintendent role, and that relationship. Mr. Grotting will be preparing a draft of goals for the board's review and input. He asked board members to forward any suggestions they may have in the meantime.

**Professional Learning Teams Update** – Brooke O'Neill provided an update on the work of our Professional Learning Teams. Specialist groups are working on their core content. Norms have been established by teams across the district, content area and standards identified for each team based on data, and discussions are taking place about how teachers take ownership of that data. Schools are doing pre-assessments and are making decisions about what to do next. Supports for PLT implementation include ongoing administrator workshops, and training for building teams. Middle and high school science teachers will receive in-depth training regarding concepts and strategies. Science was chosen because there are new standards which need to be addressed. The standards are the curriculum; the textbooks are the supports. A high school algebra and geometry consultant is working with high school teams to support data analysis to drive their instruction. We are also using technology to develop online video professional development. Online tools and protocols are already available for teams to access. Ms. O'Neill said really good conversations are happening district-wide.

A question was asked about how teachers of electives are engaged in the effort. Ms. O'Neill said PLTs have been formed by subject areas. They are given their own content standards as well as reading and math standards to work into their instruction. Dr. Osburn met with middle school art teachers on Wednesday. They are having a conversation about how what their students learn, and the lessons they teach, are related to standards.

Derek Edens reviewed proposed changes in math cut scores. New state math content standards were adopted for grades K-8 in 2007 and high school in 2009. This is first year using those standards. The state board will vote on proposed changes in cut scores in mid-October. The increased requirements will become effective immediately. The first round of OAKS testing will be completed by the end of November. The elementary target is moving from 59% to 70% to make AYP. Mr. Edens noted that Oregon's math standards have been among the lower in the country. ODE will be communicating with the public about the increased requirements. We will also need to inform our parents about the facts as they review what our students achieve.

**Enrollment Report / Staffing Request** – Assistant Superintendent Natalie Osburn reviewed highlights of the October 1 enrollment summary. As of October 1, enrollment is up 138 students over last year at this time, with the biggest increase at the high school level. Total enrollment is 10,658. The student ethnicity report reflects changes in federal reporting requirements. Class sizes

at the elementary level are up as enrollment has increased and we have reduced staffing. In order to keep kindergarten enrollment numbers manageable, Dr. Osburn requested that the board approve an additional 1.0 FTE kindergarten teacher to be funded from contingency, as was recommended at the last board meeting. That class of 30 has been added at Ventura Park. Ms. Christopher so moved, seconded by Mr. Price. The staffing increase was approved in a vote of 6-0.

Inter-district transfers as of October 1 were also reviewed. As of October 1, we have released 50 more students than we have received, but traditionally those numbers have equalized over the course of the year. Superintendent Grotting said he will be talking with MESD and other districts to examine non-resident status. He said the board will need to discuss their philosophy regarding release of students to other districts. We have no choice over charter schools or homeless students. He said his philosophy would be to have open enrollment, which would force everybody to improve their programs. He believes where a student enrolls should be a parent and student choice. Dr. Osburn said some requests for release are for students in immersion programs; when we consider requests we look at individual circumstances, natural grade level breaks and review all requests for special education students to determine where their needs are best met. She said many requests are about extended family members providing child care.

**Staffing Report** – Ken Richardson reviewed the fall staffing report. The written report included graphs of staff demographics and education levels, as well as other patterns we track such as experience charts and maturity groupings. Total permanent FTE is down by 20 from this point last year, and would show a further reduction if temporary positions were included. What were more than 120 in temporary assistant hours are now down to 30. There are no classified staff members left on the recall list. All have been called back or resigned. Of the Certificated staff, there is only one left, and that person is working with reduced hours. One person has been reclassified from Supervisor to Confidential. While the classified staff numbers show an increase, since we now assign classroom assistant differently we are no longer measuring apples to apples. There have been new hires among licensed staff but most are temporary positions. One FTE has been restored from last year's cuts, when the board approved the additional kindergarten class this evening, but licensed staffing remains down from last year.

Administrative staffing is also down from last year despite the addition of the Technology & Assessment Coordinator. 139 members of our staff are David Douglas High School graduates. Mr. Richardson said he is very proud that we have a great staff. All district office administrators and cabinet members have been visiting PLT sessions, where very serious discussions are happening. Ms. Christopher said she saw the want ads for volunteers on the district website, which she said is a great idea. She thanked Dan McCue for making those needs visible. She also suggested asking teachers to think about what can be posted that a volunteer could do for them from home. Ms. Scarcelli Ancheta suggested that we track those volunteer hours, including evening hours.

**Consent Agenda** – Mr. Price moved approval of the following Consent Agenda items, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

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

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

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none**

**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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