

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
October 17, 2013**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, October 17, 2013, 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:

Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta, Board Chair	
Frieda Christopher	Shannon Raybold
Christine Larsen	Kyle Riggs

Also present were Don Grotting, Superintendent/Clerk; Ken Richardson, 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 Kylan Carlson was unable to attend. Mr. Riggs reported that tickets are now on sale for “Suessical – the Musical”, the high school drama department's November production. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta thanked the high school staff for their long day of work providing coverage for Homecoming events.

Visiting Delegations / Audience Input

- Craig Hawkins, Executive Director of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, and Bob Stewart, President of Oregon Association of School Executives, were pleased to announce that Mr. Don Grotting has been selected as the OASE Oregon Superintendent of the Year, having been nominated by his administrative team. They shared glowing comments by several of the superintendents on the selection committee. Mr. Grotting will be Oregon's nominee for National Superintendent of the Year. A number of David Douglas administrators were in attendance and congratulated the superintendent. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta expressed her congratulations, saying the board is very proud of their superintendent, who is an exceptional leader. Mr. Grotting thanked COSA and OASE for this honor, remarking that David Douglas has an exceptional board, and that he couldn't have a better staff. He said it's all about the people on the ground. Mr. Gardner listened to the presentation by telephone, saying he was delighted to be part of this recognition. He congratulated Mr. Grotting and commented that a great group is always better with a great leader. Ms. Larsen extended her congratulations. Ms. Christopher said Mr. Grotting is a wonderful superintendent who works hard to involve the whole community. Ms. Raybold remarked that as a newer board member she has been really impressed that Mr. Grotting leads by example and understands the true meaning of teamwork. Mr. Riggs said Mr. Grotting's leadership is exemplary, and the term for him is “a multiplier”, a person who takes everything that is positive and expands on it. He said that for Mr. Grotting, it's about what's best for kids, first. Mr. Gardner excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.
- **Bond Oversight Committee / Construction Manager's Report** – Mike Ewald reported that the construction manager will present a complete financial report on the bond projects at the November board meeting. He said he was invited to speak about the bond at open house events at Menlo Park and Ventura Park. He said students were excited to hear about the new pool. Mr. Rainone congratulated Mr. Grotting for being named Superintendent of the Year. He said the team is pressing to close out 2012 projects, which are being completed in

good financial standing. They are in the process of pushing the 2014 projects through the design phase and agreeing on the scope of the work. An RFP went out for CMGC firms and proposals were due today. The Aquatics Center is now above ground. The pool will be dug after the structure is enclosed. The weather has been incredible for construction. 83 local contractors were represented at the information meeting on the early childhood project, and many participated in the bid process.

- Providence Health Plan Food Drive Campaign – Sister Maggie Pastro, Mission Integration Director, reported that after hearing a presentation by Chair Scarcelli Ancheta and David Douglas High School SUN representative CJ Mead, their Mission and Diversity Committee chose to support the David Douglas High School food pantry as a service project. Providence employees participated in a friendly competition where 6,212 food items were collected for a total of 4,429 pounds. There was focus on requested items which were either pantry- or culturally-specific. As a result, the pantry was able to open its doors every week in September, serving more than 600 people. Committee member Jessica Brzuskiwicz said that Providence employees like to serve the community, did a great job drumming up participation, and enjoyed the experience. Committee member Whitney Duran Rey reported that per capita participation was tracked in order for smaller suites to feel they were competitive with larger ones. The winning suite was treated to an ice cream social. Ms. Christopher thanked Providence for their commitment to serve the community in this way. Ms. Raybold said the high school food pantry is just getting up and running so their effort was well-timed in getting the word out. She said she particularly appreciated their effort to be culturally sensitive. The presenters were thanked for their report and for their efforts.
- Mike and Paula Ewald – Mr. Ewald introduced his wife, Paula, and his former third grade teacher, Betty Pogue. In Ms. Pogue's honor, the Ewalds donated \$500 to Menlo Park's third grade classrooms. They chose Menlo Park because their son attended that school. Ms. Pogue said the Ewald family has been dear to her for fifty years, and that her specialty during her career was creative writing. She suggested that third graders write about their hopes and dreams, an exercise which would promote ownership of how you feel and how you relate to the world. At the end of their effort, she suggested that students discuss and select a charity which would benefit most from the donation. She pledged an additional \$200 to be added to the Ewalds' gift. Mr. and Mrs. Ewald and Ms. Pogue were thanked for their gifts and for their support.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Grotting reported that the district hosted a luncheon for faith-based leaders as community outreach. He said it was a productive meeting where our guests learned about David Douglas School District and we learned a lot about their community. Participants expressed appreciation for this contact and wanted to know how they could support the district. The parent survey regarding the services of the School-Based Health Clinic was conducted. It should have gone to middle and high school parents but actually went out to all parents K-12. The results, which will be presented at the next board meeting, will therefore reflect a wider spectrum of our community.

By the end of this school year, the State requires districts to produce report cards that list proficiency as related to state standards. Mr. Grotting reported that this report card is already in place at the elementary level, but not yet at the middle or high school levels. We are working on how best to make it readable for parents and manageable for teachers, on a tight turnaround. The report card will feature measurement of that child's ability to master the specific standard, aside from other factors such as attendance and behavior, and must go to parents before the end of the school year.

On display in the board room this evening are calligraphy projects by Maria Galati's high school students. These artworks were entered into competition at the Oregon State Fair. Alice Ott Middle School is being considered for a national school award. An interview team came to meet with administrators, teachers, students and parents. Mr. Grotting said amazing work is going on in all the buildings. He also announced that there are vacancies on the district's budget committee. Mr. McCue will post a request for letters of interest on the district website when the board determines the process for applying. The district has been awarded a \$1.17 million collaboration grant from ODE. Mr. Grotting said Ken Richardson and several others were instrumental in writing the grant. Mr. Richardson said this is a continuation of last year's CLASS grant, which will allow us to continue that work. DDHS Campus Security Monitor Wayne Snoderly has been honored with a lifetime service award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Kelly Devlin has been appointed to a state task force to consider the way the state funds ESL services. Mr. Grotting has been selected to serve on the Governor's task force to look at school facilities in Oregon. Legislators, business people and school folks will meet to consider funding options for maintenance, upgrades, and new construction. MESD is looking for a budget committee member to represent the David Douglas board.

Financial Report – Ms. Komar reported on a summary from last year, saying the draft audit has been submitted to the auditors for review. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be presented to the board at the December 12 board meeting.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Riggs made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items, seconded by Ms. Larsen. The motion carried in a vote of 5-0.

- Approval of September Board Meeting Minutes
- Personnel Recommendations
- Mutual Aid Omnibus Agreement – Emergency Assistance
- Approval of Final GMP for Construction of the David Douglas Aquatics Center
- Approval of First Phase of Bids for Construction of the Earl Boyles Early Childhood Center
- Resolution Authorizing Amendment No. 2 to the 2013-14 DDSD Budget

Annual Enrollment and Staffing Report – Ken Richardson presented official October 1 enrollment numbers. A total of 10,735 students were enrolled, a 1.9% increase of 197 students over last year at this time. Most of the growth took place at the elementary level. Since this report, high school numbers have dropped slightly. Mr. Richardson reviewed charts showing enrollment growth over the past five years, as well as class size averages. There are more large classes at the elementary level this fall, with a district average of 28.8 students per class. Capacity issues at elementary will be a future topic for board discussion. Middle school section averages are slightly up at Alice Ott and Ron Russell, and slightly down at Floyd Light. The increase of 62 students at the high school kept section size increases basically flat, but many were already large. Superintendent Grotting remarked that this fall's class size increases, with some elementary classrooms at 34-35 students including second language and students with special needs, affect student achievement and make teaching a tough job.

In reviewing the district's staffing, Mr. Richardson reported a staff total of 1,185 FTE, which includes our new EI/EISE employees. 113 of our staff members are DDHS graduates. Mr. Richardson closed his report with a review of inter-district transfer and open enrollment numbers. The combined impact shows the district with more incoming than outgoing students at this point in the year. Due to changes in the law around these processes which will take effect next fall, there will need to be future discussion.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Board members discussed the process by which they will appoint members to fill vacancies on the district’s budget committee. A request for applications will be posted on the district website along with a timeline. An interview committee will make recommendations to the full board.

Ms. Komar presented a request for an architect award increase for David Douglas High School Phase One. The PAC project required acoustical engineering work, and the construction team wants to purchase drawings for our files as a record of what was done. Mr. Riggs moved approval of the increase as presented, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion carried in a vote of 5-0.

As a future agenda item, Mr. Riggs requested that the administration decide soon whether to adjust the year-end calendar to allow staff to pack and move out of classrooms where construction will be undertaken next summer. He said those staff members should be encouraged to start going through materials over the course of this year rather than waiting until June, based on last year’s experience.

Board Member Reports – Mr. Riggs reported that he attended a science night to showcase new curriculum for parents. He said there were positive comments as well as some concerns raised, but it was a really good event. He said it was good for parents to see first hand how they can be involved and aware of what kids are doing. He said he checked in with principals Elise Guest and Doug Pease about how the year is going, and both had great things to say. Elise reviewed Menlo’s academic success, and Doug told him his transition at Floyd Light has been great. He’s had good support and was made to feel welcome. Mr. Riggs attended the open house at Fir Ridge, which he said was “epic”. He said the district has a fantastic building, program staff and an outstanding leader in Linda Vancil. During the event, he talked with families and shared their open house experience. He commented on a published list of top high schools from the newspaper, saying he would challenge anyone to compare our progress despite our population and poverty with any other high school in the country. He said what we do with what we have far outshines what the average school does with what they have. Ms. Raybold represents David Douglas on an equity task force facilitated by All Hands Raised and the Coalition of Communities of Color, which includes representatives from Portland metro-area school districts and their boards. She said the purpose is to discuss equity issues in our region and how to eliminate disparities.

Ms. Christopher reported that a parent approached her about the district’s advertising and marketing policy. She spoke about the parent’s concerns with Mr. Bier, and may work with Mr. Grotting to bring possible policy changes to the board for future consideration. The Educational Foundation is kicking off the community campaign for Earl Boyles, led by Krista Dennis. They will be selling tiles to frame a commissioned mural. The Foundation’s website includes a link for making donations. Ms. Christopher said the Earl Boyles Capital Campaign committee met with Meyer Memorial Trust and requested \$400,000. A request has also been made to the Lents URAC. Groundbreaking on the Earl Boyles Early Works project will take place on December 5 at 10am. A Town Hall meeting on the subject of housing will be held November 2, to include local Representatives and the director of the Housing Bureau. East Portland Action Plan is soliciting applications for their community and civic engagement grants. Ms. Larsen participated in her first meeting with the Classified Employees Relations Council, saying it was an interesting discussion. Chair Scarcelli Ancheta again congratulated Superintendent Grotting on his award. Mr. Riggs reminded board members that on October 29, a meeting is scheduled with middle school administrators and the curriculum department to discuss the sixth grade health curriculum.

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



Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk

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