

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
October 19, 2006**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, October 19, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the David Douglas School District Administration Building, located at 1500 SE 130, Portland, Oregon 97233.

School Board Members present were:

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

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Courtney Wilton, Director of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk; Sherrie Barger, Director of Curriculum; Susan Summers, Director of Human Resources; Barbara Kienle, Director of Student Services; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

**Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Board Member Reports** – Mike Centoni commended the Gilbert Heights staff for being named Oregon’s National Title I School of Distinction. He noted that Friday night’s football game at Centennial will determine second place in the Mt. Hood Conference. Mr. Centoni introduced Tom Erickson from Citizens for Schools, who reported that volunteers completed phone calling of about 5,000 voters. Staff members were offered buttons to wear at conferences, co-sponsored by DDEA. Lawn signs will also be made available. Frieda Christopher attended a meeting of the Classified Employees Relations Council, saying she was glad to see this opportunity for open communication. Foundation grants will be determined at the November meeting. Annette Mattson attended OSBA’s regional dinner meeting along with Dawn Barberis and the superintendent. She said OSBA has provided a financial impact calculator on its website, for voters to see what passage of Ballot Measures 41 and 48 could mean to their school districts.

**Student Body President’s Report** – Ellyn Ward reported that 375 students enjoyed Sadie Hawkins this year. Seniors have ordered caps and gowns. All David Douglas competitors placed in the Mt. Hood Conference cheerleading competition, and the varsity volleyball team is in third place in the conference. Work continues on the fall play, “Peter Pan”. The high school will host a blood drive on Friday, October 20, and tomorrow is also PTSA bingo night. Student Council assisted with publicity for both events. Homecoming Week begins on Monday, with special activities planned each day. Ellyn thanked Burgerville for donating hamburgers for one of the class competitions.

**Superintendent’s Report** – Barbara Kienle reported that Cheryl Bland and other district staff members presented at the Bridges Conference on after school programming. Sherrie Barger described the criteria for the award of Oregon’s National Title I distinguished school, saying it is a real honor for the Gilbert Heights staff. The school will be awarded \$5,000 and a team from the school will attend the national conference and participate in the parade of state winners. A flyer inviting board members to attend a conference on poverty in East Multnomah County was distributed. Administrators, teachers, and parents will be participating.

Mike Stout reported that the Ron Russell Middle School leadership class has been invited to present to the Portland City Council on November 1 at 9:30am. Twenty four students will attend to support three speakers from the group. CAC met for the first time this year and selected two study topics: increasing family and parent involvement, and giving David Douglas a stronger voice in Portland-area governance. City Commissioner Randy Leonard will attend the group's next meeting to talk about what the David Douglas community can do to increase their voice with the City of Portland. The superintendent shared an article from the Winks Restaurant newsletter featuring Stan Woodfill.

**Facilities Planning Update** – Courtney Wilton presented information about David Douglas property taxes. The district's assessed valuation is \$2.45 billion, up roughly 4%. Our district has low assessed value and we only generate a sixth of our support locally, so rely nearly twice as much on state funding as most school districts. He reported on facilities projects, noting that the high school tennis courts have been completed although they are not yet open for use. Since the courts were poured late in the year, they will require some time to cure, but will be ready when the season opens in February. Work on the high school's new wing has begun. The steel won't arrive until late December but permits are in place and footings are being poured. The wing will be ready for use next September. Planning for the Deardorff property continues. Regulations regarding water runoff at the site will be a challenge. Mr. Wilton described preliminary design work, noting that the project remains contingent on passage of the bond measure. If work goes forward, the target for opening would be September 2008.

**Personnel Recommendations** – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the Personnel Recommendations as presented, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

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

**David Douglas High School Improvement Planning** – Principal Randy Hutchinson introduced a team of high school staff members to review the work accomplished so far on their improvement process and to highlight expectations for the future. He noted that the expertise of facilitator Jim Carlisle was very valuable in assisting with the initial workshop and focusing continued discussion.

Assistant Principal Sharon Webster said the focus of this project was to create a positive future for David Douglas High School, building on the successes of the past, considering emerging views and research about the changing role of high schools, and researching strategies for student success. It also provided an opportunity to consider the power of professional learning communities, and was a team-building opportunity for the entire high school staff.

Teacher Christopher Silva reported that after the June workshop, staff members condensed the gathered information and passed it on to four summer work teams to clarify language and bring into focus the staff goals for the high school. Mr. Silva served on one of those teams, and described the focus of each. After summer work groups met, each group presented their findings to the full staff at the end of August, identifying common themes including the need to stress literacy throughout the curriculum; a need for greater consistency in staff enforcement of the student code of conduct; the need to streamline procedures such as disciplinary referrals, attendance policies and record keeping; maintaining an academically rigorous and diverse curriculum; the need for the staff to rise to a greater level of professional behavior in terms of record keeping, eSIS attendance entry, staff interactions and professional attire; reassessment of current programs to keep them relevant and fresh for students; and the need to have the time and tools necessary for effective professional collaboration.

Assistant Principal John Bier said collaboration and literacy were the focus topics for the first early release day in September. Prior to that session, several staff members went through training with Sherrie Barger in order to expedite group work. Staff members reviewed state assessment strand data, built lesson plans around strands and built literacy into the lessons. The work session received excellent feedback from staff.

Assistant Principal John Murray reported that October's inservice started by breaking teachers into pairs, first within their department, with an agenda of questions designed to understand perspectives and historical aspects of DDHS; followed by interdisciplinary pairings. Topics included behavior and conduct issues; how staff members relate to one another; curriculum issues and student achievement. The closing agenda was to come to consensus about next topics for discussion.

Teacher Jeff Reardon chairs the high school site team, comprised of teachers and parents who work independently of the administration. He said their goal is to get 167 teachers and all support staff to pour their hearts and talents into the goal of improving student achievement. They manage their building's professional growth fund, and are working to plan various activities for staff members. He said one very important issue to the staff for discussion is CIM / CAM.

Collaboration Committee Group 4 (Linda Vancil, Denise Struckmeier, Tracie Reiling, and Kara Kauble) reported on their summer work in reviewing staff recommendations from June and planning activities for early release, late arrival, and workshop days. 60 staff members opened their classrooms for October 'walk-about's', very informal observation times for other staff members to visit their classrooms. Pairings of staff members within departments and interdisciplinary pairings discussed what respectful behavior looks like, and made recommendations regarding consistent expectations within departments. Recommendations will be compiled with the goal of more consistency school-wide. A calendar of future activities was reviewed, with time planned in May for final reflection and planning for 2007-08. A form has been developed to gather staff feedback on each activity. The committee also created a resource notebook for staff members.

Mr. Hutchinson said the collaborative process which is underway will continue beyond this school year. A 'core values' committee has been established, and the staff wants to carry this work forward. Collaborative time has already been valuable both in terms of morale and in establishing a basis of trust. It was requested that the high school present an update on their progress at year's end.

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

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



Donn Gardner, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk