

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
November 2, 2006**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, November 2, 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 said it has been a great fall athletic season. He congratulated the varsity football team for their second place standing in the Mt. Hood Conference, as well as the volleyball team, which is in third place. Mr. Centoni commended the coaches for making participation in David Douglas athletics a positive experience for students regardless of the outcomes. Carl Clinton noted the excellent articles in the voters pamphlet provided by the David Douglas Citizens for School, explaining the rationale for the bond. Frieda Christopher announced that the Oregon Clinic at Gateway Station will have its grand opening tomorrow. The clinic is the first catalyst project for Opportunity Gateway. On Tuesday, Ms. Christopher spoke with Lincoln Park parents regarding the bond measure. She said it really was good to be back there and to see a growing and enthusiastic parent group. The Foundation grant committee is reviewing grant applications and will bring recommendations for grant awards to their next meeting. Annette Mattson enjoyed the spaghetti dinner and homecoming festivities. She also appreciated the *Oregonian* article about the hard work of the Gilbert Heights staff which culminated in national recognition as Oregon's National Title I School of Distinction. Board Chair Gardner said that he and Dawn Barberis attended the meeting of the District Site Council.

Student Body President's Report – Elyn Ward reported that Homecoming Week began with a Monday assembly, where candidates for the court were introduced. Among the activities, the themed dress-up day, "Wild, Wild West" was very popular, as were the lunchtime class competitions. "Friday Night Flights" filmed the Spirit Assembly on Friday. The Homecoming dance followed the Scots' win over Hood River Valley. Student Council honored teachers with a treat on an appreciation day in October. November's community service project is a canned food drive which will be held from November 1-16. Additional canned food will be collected at a concert by the California band, "Beverly", later this month.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that *Oregonian* reporter Scott Learn visited Ventura Park today in preparation for a story on all-day kindergarten. The article should appear this weekend. David Douglas High School was the recipient of a \$200 grant from

Intel, as part of their program to support employee volunteerism. Mr. Stout reported that Fir Ridge will host a community resource fair on November 30 from 2-7pm, which will highlight services available in our area. Technology Coordinator Derek Edens has been selected as one of "20 to Watch" educators by the NSBA Technology and Learning Conference. Superintendent Rommel shared a list of eighteen David Douglas High School students selected as All State musicians in instrumental and voice. Last Wednesday, leadership students from Ron Russell Middle School attended the City Council meeting. Board members watched a videotape of presentations from three students, Cameron May, Katherine Westmoreland, and Thu Pham, remarking that they did an excellent job.

Update on Bond Measure 26-85 – In a review of outreach regarding Bond Measure 26-85, Communication Specialist Dan McCue said the district has an obligation to provide information to citizens regarding the state of our school facilities and what projects would be undertaken if the bond measure should pass. Pamphlets in a number of languages have been distributed around the community including at Multnomah County Library; general bond-related articles and reminders to vote have been included in building newsletters; ballot boxes are stationed at all school buildings; and information has been posted on the district website, including a bond question and answer sheet. Board members spoke with parents at school open houses; the superintendent sent out a letters to district families; and informational speaking points were shared with district staff.

Eric Nelson, co-chair of Citizens for Schools, reported on that group's efforts to advocate for the bond measure. In addition to mailings, phone banking, and making lawn signs available, they have done some poll watching. As of October 31, about 22% of district voters had already voted. 38% of voters who were contacted during phone banking have mailed in their ballots. There will be additional reminder calling this weekend. An election night gathering will be held at Pizza Baron on SE 122nd from 6-9pm. Eric said comments from district residents have been reflective of the school district's good reputation among our patrons, but voters are concerned about their general tax burden. He remains optimistic that the bond measure will be approved by our voters.

Data Report: Demographic Information – Assistant Superintendent Mike Stout presented board members with data notebooks which included sections for enrollment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data including individual school reports, district demographic information and Positive Behavior Supports data. Mr. Stout reviewed the changes in student ethnicity from 1991 to 2006, and noted that free and reduced lunch percentages have climbed from 46.9% in 1999 to 70.6% this fall. Enrollment has increased from 7,936 in 1999, to 9,878 as of September 1, 2006. Mr. Stout also reviewed information on student retention rates.

Positive Behavior Supports Implementation Report – Mike Stout and PBS Coach Ericka Guynes presented a report on implementation of the School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports program in our elementary and middle schools. Mr. Stout said this program was implemented in response to the need identified by our staff. Three years ago, 80% of our administrators were in new positions; in discussing their needs, student management on a school-wide basis was at top of their list. The same issue was identified as a priority during bargaining with our teachers. PBS uses research-based methods, has a proven track record and is widely praised by districts using the program as significantly reducing the occurrence of problem behaviors at school.

PBS is an approach to behavior management on a school-wide level, in a specific setting such as the playground, halls, cafeteria, the classroom, or with an individual student. It is designed to be preventative rather than reactionary. Each school has a team of staff members that have met since

last spring to create a system for their school to teach students what is expected of them, to acknowledge students when the expectations are met, and to have all staff be consistent in correcting and acknowledging the expected student behaviors.

Ericka Guynes reported she used an evaluation tool (SET) to determine current expectations at each building and how widely they were known by staff, students and parents. Interviews covered school rules, safety plans, acknowledgement of appropriate behaviors, and the general school climate. Following a training conference, building teams made up of representatives from the entire staff used the results of the School-Wide Evaluation Tool to set up their building action plans. Each school held activities to present expectations, and teachers developed lesson plans to teach those expectations. Information about the school-wide plan was also shared with parents. A strong component of PBS is recognizing positive behavior, so a system of recognition and rewards was also established at each building. Staff members meet monthly to discuss successes and challenges. The district team developed a common incident referral form that is relevant to PBS data collection needs and aligns with eSIS. Collected data drives decision making and goal setting. School teams and special education staff attended a half-day training on working with students needing targeted interventions.

Luan Nguyen, Gilbert Park 4th grade teacher and PBS team leader, reported that his school created a "Patriot Award" for appropriate behavior. Awards become part of a drawing at week's end, then a monthly drawing is held at an assembly where students receive further recognition. Staff members are very pleased with the building-wide consistency of expectations and have seen a decrease in the number of behavior referrals as a result. Two Gilbert Park 5th graders, Madison Adrian and Ryan Warrick, reported that they like having teachers look for the good things they do, that student behavior has improved this year, and they hope the program will continue.

Florence Protopapas, Alice Ott Middle School math teacher and PBS team leader, said staff members determined what the school rules would be, then taught those expectations in the areas of the building where they applied. Videos were developed showing expected behaviors. Bus expectations were also taught to all students. Professional learning teams have been a key piece of the success of this program, and support from the administration and the PBS leadership team are essential as well. Students Stephanie Huang and Haley Sawtelle reported that students have responded positively to PBS, and described the PAWS award program for appropriate behavior. School-wide behavior has improved, and teachers are writing fewer referrals.

Barbara Kienle said the building leadership teams, along with Ms. Guynes, have done outstanding work getting the PBS program started. Targeted group interventions have been developed for at risk students, including work on social skills and conflict management, as well as peer mentor group support. Intensive, assessment-based individual interventions for the 1-5% of the student population needing that support could include wrap around services such as mental health and counseling, focusing on what that student needs to be successful. The behavior assessment could also result in an outside placement. Training will continue for leadership and special education teams on interventions for students in the targeted and intensive groups. The district team will continue to build a systems approach to dealing with behavior and academic interventions for students, with a long range plan for sustainability.

Mr. Stout said PBS will next be introduced at the high school. The building training will include student leadership teams as well as staff members, as the social culture is so important at the high school level. He said he expects to see that as behavior distractions decrease and students are being more engaged in the classroom, achievement will rise as well.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Burton moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Centoni. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Centoni encouraged the board leadership to provide maximum time for discussion during the workshop portions of each second monthly meeting.

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



Donn Gardner, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

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