

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
November 4, 2010**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, November 4, 2010, 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:

	Dawn Barberis, Board Chair	
Mike Centoni		Annette Mattson
Frieda Christopher		Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta
Donn Gardner		

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 provided an update on Educational Foundation activities. They recently met with the Portland Schools Foundation to hear about their restructuring plan and to do some brainstorming about how they might work collaboratively. The EPAP economic subcommittee is working on assessment issues and has found that there is big resistance to pushing for zoning changes. They hope to develop a zoning subcommittee to work on that. Annette Mattson attended the Gateway Urban Renewal Area stakeholders meeting, where discussions centered on developing a business plan. Rose Community Development's work on the East Portland Enhancement Plan has been suspended due to lack of funding. Ms. Mattson expressed her appreciation for the concern expressed following her husband's accident. Chair Barberis attended an early childhood forum with Superintendent Grotting, and heard a very inspiring speaker from the New York system. She also participated with the Safe Routes to Schools advisory group, which has applied for a \$1.5million grant to add sidewalks on Ramona and Holgate.

Student Body President's Report – ASB president Katherine Westmoreland reported on a fun and successful Homecoming, where Superintendent Grotting crowned the king and queen, and the Scots won the game. About 700 students attended the Homecoming dance. Volleyball and soccer players have finished their seasons. Cross country competes at the state level this weekend. Water polo is underway. "Night with the Scots" will kick off the winter sports season on November 23. Last week, ASB officers gathered for a Mt. Hood Conference leadership meeting. Superintendent Grotting will speak with the leadership class next week to discuss the various aspects of leadership. Planning is underway for a holiday charity collection, and a group has started planning the Winter Formal. Rehearsals are underway for "Oklahoma!", with performances scheduled for next month. The high school music department is a finalist for a High School Grammy Award. David Douglas High School welcomed a representative from Mayor Adams' office during "Principal for a Day".

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent's Goals for 2010-13 – Superintendent Grotting was pleased to announce that former superintendent Barbara Rommel will receive a "Spirit of Portland" award on November 8. Football player Antoine Baker was named Mt. Hood Conference Offensive Player of the Year, and Dan Wood received Coach of the Year honors. The Scots expect their first playoff game to be held at home. The superintendent said that at this week's "Cradle to Career"

forum, David Douglas demographic data was displayed on the screen, showing our district having the highest poverty rate in Multnomah County. He welcomed Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown and Trailblazers COO Sarah Mensah to his office for “Principal for a Day” activities. They visited a high school Civics class, and joined Earl Boyles students at an assembly. He said in talking with the rest of our principals, they were able to make good contact with legislators and business executives during the “Principal for a Day” event. Our visitors were very impressed by the condition of our buildings and the behavior of our students. It was suggested that participants be added to our key communicators list. Superintendent Grotting said he attended a funders’ conference for the “Wee Initiative”, which is planning a preschool to serve the Earl Boyles community and engage students and families in that catchment area. Research shows what a positive impact we can make by making those connections from birth forward. Swati Adarkar, Executive Director of The Children’s Institute, has worked hard to find local and national funders to make the preschool program happen. He will keep board members informed as that process goes forward. The superintendent met with parents from Marshall High School, who will address the board later during this meeting.

Mr. Grotting formally presented his 2010-13 goals for the board’s approval. The goals are focused on three areas: Student Achievement, Family and Community Engagement; and Organizational Accountability, Efficiency and Sustainability. Mr. Gardner moved to approve the superintendent’s 2010-13 goals as presented, seconded by Ms. Mattson. The document was adopted in a vote of 6-0.

Student Achievement Report – Superintendent Grotting reported that schools have begun the first round of OAKS testing, and the Board received some very early reading results, broken down by grade level and building. Brooke O’Neill reported on the work of Professional Learning Teams, saying they are having really good conversations about standards, what they mean and how they are interpreted, and how they integrate those standards into their lessons. They are looking at data and aligning instruction, and the district is providing ongoing professional develop to make that happen. Training videos reviewing key points are being produced and are being made available for teachers to review at any time. Board members viewed a sample video describing the PLT process.

Derek Edens said the key is using data to guide instruction. The report shared by the superintendent provided a first brushstroke of OAKS data. We are currently in the middle of the fall testing window. The first round of data will be available to teachers after winter break.

Superintendent Grotting said everyone is working very hard, staff and students alike, and we should see ongoing improvement in achievement. As graduation requirements are increased, students will have to work even harder. He said it will also be necessary to look at skills children need before they enter school. We have implemented a K-12 writing plan. The fall writing assessment has been completed, and that data is being graded and analyzed.

A question was asked about the practical impact of having the high school no longer requiring the PSAT. Dr. Osburn will research and respond via email.

Scheduling Discussion – Superintendent Grotting reported that a group is looking at possibilities of changing the daily/weekly schedule configuration at the secondary level in order to improve student achievement and to permit students access to core classes on a consistent basis. Another goal is to improve access to language acquisition for English Language Learners. Assistant Superintendent Osburn has been working with the middle school administrators to review the latest research. Mike Stout is volunteering his time to work with a group from the high school to review schedule models that would best support student achievement. Both groups are trying to find the best strategies,

schedules and supports to improve student learning. They are continuing to evaluate research and have been doing school visits outside the district to study various schedule models.

Business Report – Janice Essenberg reported that the auditors are completing their work here this week. Tomorrow will be their last day in the field, then they will return to their office to complete their report. The report draft should be ready in a couple of weeks. The Deardorff property is being painted, after which the property manager will advertise it for rent.

Ms. Essenberg reviewed the financial report for October. She noted that people are being conservative with supplies so she hopes to see savings in that area at year's end. Ms. Essenberg also presented a template of David Douglas School District budgetary estimates, which included four scenarios for next biennium's funding. The scenario she thinks is most likely, \$5.45 billion in state education funding, would represent a decrease for us of 5% in state revenue below the 2009-11 level. We will lose additional funding from other sources.

Superintendent Grotting said that before roll up costs, with the latest estimates from the state, we will be looking at a decrease in revenue of somewhere between \$7-10million. Right now, Cabinet is looking at exactly what the state says must be offered to students in order to receive funds for public education, then they are prioritizing everything offered beyond that. He said there will be no way to avoid layoffs. Ms. Mattson said there are also ballot measures which just passed which will have a negative impact on state money for schools.

The superintendent said that in December, a \$23million bond will come off the tax rolls. The board might want to discuss going out to voters to continue that bond, which would not increase costs to the taxpayers but would allow us to maintain our facilities. We won't have money in the general fund to make those necessary repairs. Another bond comes off the tax rolls in 2012.

Visiting Marshall Delegation – Chair Barberis introduced Carrie Adams, parent of three Portland Public Schools graduates, who lives in the Marshall High School area, and Nick Christensen, president of the Lents Neighborhood Association.

Mr. Christensen reported that the Lents neighborhood is comprised of 26,000 residents, and runs north to Powell. He said that the neighborhood has had some successes lately and is attracting new younger families because housing is affordable and great incentives are being offered through Portland Development Commission. Mr. Christensen said Lents is one of five potential eco-districts in the city of Portland, and they are turning the corner on business development in that neighborhood. He said the Neighborhood Association is very concerned that without Marshall High School, the neighborhood will take a step back and put urban renewal at risk. He said the loss of Marshall will hurt the viability of outer SE Portland.

Ms. Adams thanked the Board for their hospitality. She gave board members facilities reports for the Marshall cluster from 2008, and databooks from Marshall High School. She said that due to the announced closure of Marshall High School next fall, a group has formed to petition to have schools within the Marshall cluster become part of David Douglas School District. She said they feel their proposal would have a positive impact on David Douglas. She said their group has studied our district, were impressed with our programs, and that our respective demographics are very similar. She said a boundary change would mean an increase of 4,400 students to David Douglas School District, about \$28 million in general funds, and several school buildings, including the newest high school building in Portland Public Schools. Ms. Adams presented a brief overview of student achievement in the Marshall cluster, as well as programs offered on the Marshall campus.

She said their small but committed group has sought the support of the neighborhood association, and are collecting contributions to cover cost of a legal description to begin this process. They are writing a grant proposal to cover part of that cost. They will then file notice with the elections office. She said a boundary change would require 500 signatures from each district to be put on the ballot. Ms. Adams said her group recognizes that this is a long and potentially bumpy process. She asked for the Board's support in their effort, and for help collecting signatures from David Douglas residents. She reviewed the steps in the process, which would ultimately be determined by a vote of residents of both school districts.

Comments from the Board included the remark that this idea would have to be completely driven by community members, as the Board would not work in opposition to a neighboring school district. Questions and comments included asking what happens to school buildings in such a situation; the loss of a large number of Marshall students who are already electing to continue their education in other PPS buildings; the fact that staff would not be part of a boundary change as there are two different associations involved; and the expectation that Portland Public Schools will not support the loss of students, buildings and revenue that this idea represents. It was also remarked that families in the feeder schools in the Marshall catchment might not support the idea. More financial specifics were requested. Due to increasing budget constraints, it was remarked that the David Douglas program offerings the group was impressed with might no longer be in place by the time they work through this process, which would be an uphill battle and could take a couple of years. While there could be some benefits to David Douglas, there are a number of unknowns.

Ms. Adams and Mr. Christensen were commended for the dedication of their group, and it was noted that there is considerable sympathy for the Marshall patrons as they face the loss of their high school. Although there was no consensus among board members regarding support of this proposal, they indicated they were open to having their questions answered and continuing the discussion.

Audience Participation / Break – The Board Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Dick Kemp, American Legion Post 1, extended greetings from Oregon's oldest American Legion Post, which was founded in 1919. On behalf of his organization, he presented a check to support needy students at Lincoln Park, and another to support the high school clothes closet. He said both represent long standing commitments which Post members are continuing this year. Post 1 also provided 2,000 hot dogs at elementary school open houses. With the cooperation of the assistant superintendent, the Post will sponsor a blood drive on November 23. They are also working with Ryan Joy and Mike Fitz to start up Legion baseball again this year. The Post will be coordinating with high school principals to solicit student interest in the oratorical contest and Boys and Girls State.

Inter-District Transfers – Assistant Superintendent Natalie Osburn presented a recap of this fall's inter-district transfer requests and a breakdown of activity over the past several years. She reviewed the criteria she considers when she reviews these requests. Priority has been given to students in transition years, such as a middle schooler finishing eighth grade, or a graduating senior; or to students requesting to continue in a speciality program such as language immersion. We have traditionally been generous in considering child care situations. Reviewing requests on a case by case basis has allowed her to make decisions in hardship situations, keeping the student's best interest at the forefront. For students receiving special education services, directors from both districts discuss the student's situation and needs and determine the most appropriate placement.

In moving forward, Dr. Osburn requested some insight from board members in light of our financial outlook. She asked whether the board would want to make any changes in the criteria or process for next year, noting that a 50 student swing represents \$300,000.

It was the Board's consensus to support the same practice and guidelines as those currently used, watching trends to promote similar numbers in and out of the district over the course of the year, and noting any changes neighboring districts make in their practices. The board will be updated periodically.

Review of Past Board Expectations Regarding Board Conduct and Norms – Following up on discussions from the October 21 Board Workshop, Superintendent Grotting shared a document which included a Board Member Job Description and Member Expectations that the Board developed at a workshop in 2008. It was requested that the superintendent gather some sample board member operating agreements for a future discussion.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Centoni moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

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

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Mr. Gardner requested information on facility needs and costs, as preliminary research related to any future discussion about a possible bond proposal. Superintendent Grotting reminded board members of the meeting for Multnomah County boards with area legislators to be hosted by Mt. Hood Community on November 18, 6:30-8:00pm. Our board meeting that evening has been cancelled in order for our board members to attend. Ms. Mattson remarked that at recent town hall events held by Senator Rod Monroe and Rep. Mike Schaufler, the number one topic among legislators is district consolidation. Chair Barberis announced that the December board meeting originally schedule for December 9 has been moved to December 2.

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



Dawn Barberis, Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent / Clerk