

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
November 15, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. 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:

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

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Gary Haase, Interim 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 – Bruce Burton attended Metro Counselor Liberty’s meeting at Metropolitan Service District. He said the meeting featured discussion of the impact of the 2040 plan on our neighborhoods as Metro develops a transportation plan. Mike Price visited high school conferences tonight, commenting that he really appreciated the staff’s effort in putting that event together. At the OSBA Conference, Dawn Barberis attended a session on staffing and the values and practices new teachers bring to their districts. She will share some materials on mentoring from the conference. Frieda Christopher commended the OSBA board for an excellent menu of conference presentations. She was pleased to announce that Annette Mattson is the new president-elect of the OSBA board. The last representative from David Douglas on that board was Thelma Elliott more than twenty years ago. Ms. Christopher was selected to join the East Portland Action Plan committee. That group will meet on Saturday, December 1, at 10:00am in the south building. Chair Mattson said she is very excited to represent David Douglas in OSBA, and honored to serve on the OSBA board. At the conference, 350 members approved some sweeping governance changes. Her year as president will be the first year under the new governance structure. Ms. Mattson thanked Ms. Christopher for chairing the November 1 meeting, and thanked the board and administration for their condolences on the passing of her mother.

Student Body President’s Report – ASB president Stacy Chao reported that the football team has advanced to the second round of the state playoffs, with the next game against Lincoln. The girls water polo team placed second, and the boys team took fifth place at the state championships. The Tams will host a dance competition on Saturday. “Night with the Scots” will be held next Tuesday. Tickets to the Mother/Son Dinner are on sale. The evening includes a performance of “The Wizard of Oz.” Mr. Centoni commented that the Scots will have their marching band at the football game tomorrow at PGE Park.

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Rommel reported that the resource fair held last Thursday at Fir Ridge was big success, with many community service organizations on hand to share information with patrons. She extended her thanks to the Fir Ridge staff for coordinating that

event. She reported that the District received a letter of thanks from Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler for involvement with the TopOFF exercise. Cast members from "The Wizard of Oz" have been visiting our elementary schools to publicize the play and give students a brief preview of the performance. Former David Douglas High School student Jon Teague was recently named Student Athlete of the Week by the Oregon Ducks football team, where he is a star player. The superintendent noted that it is wonderful to see him keeping up academically as well as athletically.

Approval of District Continuous Improvement Plan – Sherrie Barger reported on the renewal of the District Continuous Improvement Plan for submission to the State Department of Education. She has worked with the District Site Council and principals to identify goals and actions to meet the instructional needs of our students. Teacher training and program implementation to address those needs have been identified. Professional Learning Teams are operating in each school and working toward targeted literacy goals. Positive Behavior Support programs are assisting with addressing behavioral requirements. Each building has improvement goals in place that align with the District efforts. Using state assessment data, the team identified areas of success and selected areas on which to focus, including math, reading, writing and school safety. In the process of writing the district's Continuous Improvement Plan, the group articulated specific goals and developed strategies to meet those goals.

Members of several professional learning teams provided a snapshot of their work. Florence Protopapas presented an activity as a sample team building exercise, used to focus all efforts on the same goal. Bill Berry reported on the development of the mathematics three year plan. Common assessments are being used at the middle schools and department-wide at the high school. Teachers are sharing classroom instruction and materials, and collaboration is increasing. Learning teams will meet again in the spring to analyze and plan, hoping that the result will be an increase in student achievement.

Erica Pyne and Deann Womack reported on the work of the reading team to implement and align the new elementary core reading program across the district. The curriculum was reviewed and aligned with state standards during the summer. District grade level meetings focused on alignment of instruction, planning, collaboration and mutual support. Follow-up meetings and presentations by guest speakers are planned.

Delight Cushman reviewed how learning teams have been organized at Floyd Light Middle School. Learning teams were new to many teachers, so the initial discussions included team building activities and establishing rules, goals, and roles. Teams are reviewing student data from past years to see how to best support each student's success. Sixth grade teachers Amber Browning, Sarah Rasmussen, and Shari McGahey are second-year learning team participants at Floyd Light Middle School. Their group is focusing on writing, across all subject areas. A research project helped them refine their goals. They work to involve their students in the grading process so kids know the basis for scoring, know what good work should look like, and how they can improve. The feedback allows students to track their own growth over time, and has improved their achievement and motivation.

Bobbi Buttler reviewed the work of Cherry Park's PBS team, which focuses on the safe schools goal. After reviewing behavior data, they determine what needs to be done school-wide to respond to identified needs. Information from the learning team is shared with the entire staff, certificated and classified, to keep everyone on the same page. They also work to identify students who need extra daily support. She was pleased to report that Cherry Park has had a 60% decrease in referrals at this point in the year, compared to same time a year ago.

Ms. Barger commended the work of the building learning teams in putting each building's improvement plan into action, and requested that the board approve this year's David Douglas Continuous Improvement Plan. Mr. Gardner so moved, seconded by Ms. Barberis. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Textbook Waiver Proposals – Superintendent Rommel presented applications for textbook waivers in Language Arts and ESL. The waiver would permit use of textbooks selected by the District textbook committee but not currently on the state list. Ms. Christopher made a motion to approve the requests as written, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion received unanimous approval.

Audience Participation / Break – Chair Mattson opened the meeting for public comment. Sharron Balzano, 26 SE 146, said she hoped board members would consider the suggestions she posed in a recent letter regarding the district's increasing enrollment. Board Chair Mattson thanked Ms. Balzano for her letter, confirming that it had been received and that Ms. Balzano would be sent a written response. As there were no other remarks from the audience, the chair declared a brief recess, after which the meeting was reconvened.

District Facilities Plan – Superintendent Rommel presented a report on facilities needs. The first step in considering approval of the Construction Excise Tax is to establish a facilities plan. The main purpose is to identify the needs of the district and present a general plan for addressing them.

The past year's flat enrollment did not prove to be a trend, as enrollment this year is up 3%. The superintendent reviewed the district's current buildings including schools and office facilities and bus storage. Looking back at annual enrollment over the years, the district reached a low point in 1985, then began climbing steadily again to reach this year's historic high of more than 10,000 students. She reviewed projected enrollment figures over the next ten years, based on growth of 2.5% per year. Facility needs which were identified prior to the last bond proposal included a new elementary school, a new middle school or additional classroom wings; covered play structures at elementary schools without them; and professional/technical classrooms and maintenance services shops for the high school. Additional facilities needs include remodeling of David Douglas High School south and east hall classrooms and installing an all-weather surface at the stadium, which needs to accommodate additional use due to the loss of field space to new classrooms. Asphalt needs to be replaced at Floyd Light Middle School and Menlo Park Elementary. Some track surfaces need resurfacing, and the entry at Menlo Park needs redesign for enhanced security. Facility maintenance needs include roofing, HVAC, plumbing, and painting; lighting, electrical and technology; energy efficiency projects; and seismic and safety code upgrades.

Potential funding sources could include a bond proposal in 2008; approval of the construction excise tax; the state construction reimbursement fund (something we have taken advantage of each time we have had construction); grant opportunities; and the general fund, where capital reserves could be designated to fund the most immediate needs. The downside would be if we had an economic downturn, in which case we would not have those reserves available. Commissioner Sten's proposal for use of urban renewal funds for school construction is under discussion under considerable scrutiny. In a best-case scenario, funds would not be available before spring. If construction began immediately thereafter the new school would not be opened until the fall of 2009 at the earliest. New legislation to equalize capital funding across the state won't be considered before the next legislative session.

Elementary enrollment snapshots from 1973, 1998, and 2007 were reviewed. In looking at staffing during those years, numbers show an increase in programs, services and support in each building. The number of home rooms reflect the addition of portable classrooms and additional construction

associated with the 2000 bond. In looking at staffing at the middle school level, enrollment and staffing have increased considerably. Increases reflect the impact of moving sixth grade and the addition of Ron Russell Middle School. David Douglas High School, the largest in the state this year, has experienced the largest percentage increase.

The superintendent presented questions for board's consideration, to open a roundtable discussion: How large should each school be? What are short-term solutions to capacity concerns? What are the most desirable long-term solutions? What is the site availability for new construction? Are there alternatives to consider?

A comment was raised about many of these factors being beyond the board's control, and that for the next few years decisions will be defined by our current resources. It was remarked that the most critical need would be a short-term plan to manage enrollment increases over next couple of years. Options raised for consideration included portable classrooms where feasible, or establishing a kindergarten campus at North Powellhurst to relieve pressure on the most crowded elementary buildings. That building is not equitable for full elementary but could accommodate kindergarteners. Ten classrooms could be opened up by returning to half day kindergarten. It was noted that the board is not proposing a return to a half day program, as the preference of this board is to retain the full day program if at all possible. Health services at Lincoln Park may be discontinued by Multnomah County, in which case the space they currently use would be about the equivalent of two classrooms. It would require resources to reconfigure the space for classroom use.

For further discussion, the board requested additional information and recommendations regarding the following:

- a financial update on the status of the district's reserves
- the cost of an incremental expansion of Floyd Light Middle School
- whether elementary boundary adjustments are needed, and where
- moving kindergarten classes to North Powellhurst in a full time capacity from the most crowded schools
- the feasibility of recovering the portion of the Ron Russell Middle School wing that was scaled back when the school was built
- what impact a year around program would have on overcrowding
- costs and timelines for installation of modular classrooms and a list of buildings where they could be accommodated
- the feasibility of purchasing modular classrooms that are really portable between sites to be used as needed
- scheduling options such as double shifting

Superintendent Rommel said this discussion will continue. She recommended that the facilities plan be approved in concept, as the first step in consideration of the construction excise tax. Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the facilities plan, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Ms. Christopher remarked that she sat in on a presentation about community involvement at OSBA, where a board member mentioned that each of their board members attend two PTA/PTO meetings every year to be visible in their community. It was suggested that our board consider doing something similar. A calendar of our district's parent meeting days and times, and a neighborhood association meeting schedule were requested. Dan McCue will put that information together.

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



Annette Mattson, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk

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