

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
December 6, 2007**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, December 6, 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:

Frieda Christopher, Board Vice Chair	
Dawn Barberis	Donn Gardner
Mike Centoni	Mike Price

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; Mike Stout, Assistant Superintendent; Sherrie Barger, Director of Curriculum; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Vice Chair Christopher reported that Chair Mattson is away at the Pacific Regional meeting of NSBA, in her capacity as OSBA president-elect. Mike Centoni said he was disappointed by the strike at MESD and hopes for a speedy resolution. He expressed appreciation for the work of the transportation department in rerouting as needed during Monday's storm. He also announced that DDHS student Kelsey Mattsen scored 39 points in a girls basketball game last week, breaking the school record. Mike Price spent last Thursday at Alice Ott Middle School, saying he was impressed by how well the building runs with so many students, and by the student body's recycling efforts. He also attended the monolin concert at Menlo Park. Frieda Christopher announced that donations are being accepted for the Educational Foundation's annual dinner and auction to be held April 19. She attended the outer southeast action committee meeting last Saturday, which was held in our board room. A powerhouse of political leaders attended, including Jeff Merkley, Tom Potter, Ted Wheeler, Erik Sten, and Robert Liberty. Ms. Christopher was pleased to see that there was an interesting mix on the committee, which drew in some people who have not served on community action teams in the past. The next meeting will be held on January 10, 6-8pm. Ms. Christopher said she was pleased to see former David Douglas board member Bob Reese in tonight's audience.

Student Body President's Report – Stacy Chao reported that the high school will host a wrestling tournament tomorrow. Jazz ensemble, choir, band and orchestra concerts are all coming up this month. "The Wizard of Oz" will conclude its run on December 8.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that Mill Park Elementary is a finalist for the Oregon Reading Association "Schools of Distinction" award, in recognition of that staff's work to improve student performance in literacy. Mill Park is participating in the "Adopt a Class" program to pair area businesses with classrooms. Students correspond with employees and share several activities. Business partners will take part in this month's reading of The Polar Express with students. Superintendent Rommel announced that one of our students has been named Serendipity Student of the Year, a nice honor for that young lady. Mike Stout announced that David Douglas will host a high school Positive Behavior Support training session for more than 100 metro area attendees on December 10. Board members were invited to take a look at the district's latest website improvements. Sherrie Barger presented information on a charter school application

the district has received. The group's application is complete, and the next step will be a public hearing on January 17. Ms. Barger reviewed the application timeline, noting that the board is required to take action on the application within thirty days of the hearing.

Superintendent Rommel introduced DDEA president Bob Gray, who presented recommendations of the DDEA executive board regarding district facilities needs, which he said were compiled during a workshop in November. He reviewed the recommendations at elementary, middle and high school levels.

Costa Rica Sister School Proposal – High school teacher Joe Little and retired Mill Park teacher Janet Matson presented a proposal for a sister school partnership through Partners of the Americas. The partnership's purpose is promote friendship, cooperation, understanding and economic and social development throughout the western hemisphere. This organization has been an important force in promoting good will. Oregon and Costa Rica have been partners since the organization was founded in 1964. The program offers a teacher exchange experience.

Ms. Matson said she hosted a teacher in 2000 who lived with her family for a month, and observed and helped teach in the elementary classroom. Ms. Matson then visited Costa Rica during the summer and worked at her host's school. Mr. Little said he has been involved for years in the high school student exchange component of the program. A year ago he was approached to discuss a sister school exchange program, which can involve part or all of a school. Two elementary sister school projects are established in Oregon, one in Bend and one in southwest Portland, and there is now an opportunity for a high school partnership in Oregon. Mr. Little said our students have been involved in summer exchange opportunities since 1980, with two to four students participating each year for a two month visit. He would like to expand this opportunity to more students.

The proposal includes pairing David Douglas with a bilingual school of 716 students coming from limited resources and focused on high academic standards. Students would get to know each other via internet and email. The program could involve Spanish classes, the HTR cam, the natural resources CAM, school newspapers and/or other interested groups. Students and teachers could arrange short exchange visits at their own expense. The agreement does not obligate the district to any direct liability. The district's only cost would be the chapter membership fee of \$35. Mr. Little and Ms. Matson would serve as program coordinators. Mr. Little requested the board's approval to participate in a sister school agreement with Partners of the Americas, Costa Rica. Mr. Centoni moved approval of the program as presented, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resource Conservation Management Report – Paul Arzt introduced Holly Wolfe, AmeriCorps volunteer, whom he said has really been instrumental in getting this program up and running. The district's program is based on the guidelines for schools from the Oregon Department of Energy. These efforts save money and allow schools to be better stewards of their resources. Utility Manager Pro software was purchased for data collection. Ms. Wolfe has compiled three years of utility usage data in order to establish a base consumption year for each building, and to compare our usage over time to see what changes are effective. Historical usage data was distributed to each building's administrator. Mr. Arzt reviewed operational upgrades, noting that reductions in electrical use at elementary buildings reflect the installation of energy efficient lighting. A multi-year implementation plan is being developed as well as plans for future sustainability when Holly's assignment concludes. The district received a retroactive storm water credit of \$76,657 and

expects an ongoing average credit of \$13,500 per year, thanks to the long-time efforts of Dr. Howard Horner and members of our community.

Holly Wolfe said she was pleased to get out to the schools to meet staff and students in her work to build staff awareness and school involvement. She created a tool kit for teachers with ideas for curriculum, assemblies, field trips, and information on their classroom's energy use and costs. She spoke at several staff meetings to offer her services as a resource. She also worked with representatives of Metro to tour the district and determine how Metro could further support recycling efforts. Metro assisted students in performing waste audits, and provided recycling bins. Recycling is a free service to the district, so there is a cost savings incentive in reducing solid waste. Holly also created a conservation booth for district office and has provided a recycling tip of the week for staff via email. She reviewed student projects around the district, including Oregon Green Schools projects, composting, rain gardens, and a watt watcher program to build awareness. She noted that district custodians have also been very supportive of these efforts.

Mr. Arzt said that Salem-Keizer School District has a very aggressive watt watcher program, and that they shared information on their efforts, which has resulted in a 5% reduction in cost of their electricity. SB1149 established a public purpose funds portion of utility bills, sending a percentage to local ESD's for distribution to school districts. Uses and distribution of those funds were described. Ongoing and future projects include deduct metering for irrigation and installation of real time electric meters to allow monitoring 24 hrs per day. Schools will receive quarterly reports to see results of their efforts. He would also like to develop an incentive plan to reward schools for conservation. One of our employees will be completing the Certified Energy Manager training program.

Audience Participation / Break – Vice Chair Christopher opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience. A brief recess was declared, after which the meeting was reconvened.

Facilities Recommendations – Superintendent Rommel reviewed a series of recommendations that arose from the needs identified on the previous bond request, and the board's discussion at previous meetings. The recommendations focus on the most immediate needs, not routine maintenance items. Recommendations include supporting efforts of PDC and the City to fund construction of a new elementary school; and making 8-9 classrooms available for kindergarteners at North Powellhurst for Fall 2008. That would necessitate moving SEC and CTP programs to South Powellhurst, with the Multnomah County lease concluding in June 2008. Elementary school boundaries could also be reviewed to see whether adjustments are necessary.

The superintendent recommended using reserve funds to construct a six classroom wing at Floyd Light Middle School, to be completed in October 2008; and an eight classroom wing at Ron Russell Middle School with completion targeted for January 2009. Alice Ott Middle School is not recommended for expansion due to space restraints. If the board approves these expansion projects, the superintendent will bring resolutions to the next meeting to declare an emergency and expedite the process, due to the need to have these classrooms ready for use at the earliest opportunity. At the high school level, she recommended installing an all-weather surface at Palermi Stadium and replacing and enlarging the track. Construction of the high school's new wing has reduced available field space for student use. Other projects from the bond proposal are not on this list of immediate needs but should remain on the long term needs list. The superintendent recommended deferring proposing a bond to voters in 2008, in order to see how the City proposal develops, and to see how implementation of the construction excise tax benefits the district.

Terry Rommel presented some options for middle school expansion, and information on the permit process and possible timeline. Superintendent Rommel said she may recommend boundary adjustments to ease overcrowding at Alice Ott when new classrooms at the other schools are ready for use.

Following discussion, Mr. Centoni moved approval of the facilities recommendations presented by Superintendent Rommel, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The recommendations were approved in a vote of 5-0.

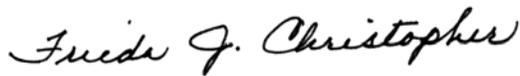
Construction Excise Tax Intergovernmental Agreement Draft Review – Superintendent Rommel said the next step in moving toward consideration of the Construction Excise Tax is for the City to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement. The business managers from all of the City school districts participated in drafting a common document. The superintendent presented a draft of the agreement for the board's information. The City Council will consider it during two council sessions in December. If the agreement is approved by the City, she will present it for action at the January 3 board meeting.

Consent Agenda – Ms. Barberis moved approval of the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Gardner. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- **Approval of Closure of Non-Schooled Youth Program**
- **Approval of November Board Meeting Minutes**

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – Vice Chair Christopher said it might be worth looking into E-3 as our middle schools grow. She wondered whether they would consider middle schools for the 'small schools within schools' grant program already in place for high schools.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Vice Chair Christopher declared the meeting adjourned.



Frieda Christopher, Board Vice Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk