

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
December 7, 2006**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, December 7, 2006, at 6:30 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; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Carl Clinton enjoyed the high school choir's performance at the Grotto on Tuesday night. Frieda Christopher announced that nearly \$15,000 in grants have been approved by the Educational Foundation grant committee. The next due date for applications will be moved up to April in order for grants to be made available mid-summer for fall planning. Donations are being solicited for April's dinner/auction. Mike Centoni said the parent of a visiting basketball team player commented to him on how clean and well maintained our facilities are, during a recent basketball tournament hosted by the high school. Annette Mattson remarked that the choreography for the production of "Peter Pan" was outstanding. She joined Board Chair Gardner and Superintendent Rommel in meetings with Senator-elect Rod Monroe and Speaker-elect Jeff Merkley to discuss the upcoming legislative session.

Student Body President's Report – ASB President Ellyn Ward reported that the Mother-Son Dinner was being held tonight, in conjunction with the "Peter Pan" production. Sparrow Club is sponsoring a raffle to benefit a child in medical crisis. The Winter Formal is being planned. Many local businesses have made donations for the event, including flowers for the tables provided by Van Kirk's Floral. The Mt. Hood Conference ASB meeting was held on November 27, and planning continues for a "Battle of the Bands" event to be held April 5 at Centennial. Each high school in the conference will have a band in the competition. Funds raised at the competition will benefit Outside In. Upcoming concerts for high school musicians will feature Choir on December 12, Orchestra on December 13, and Band on December 14.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel introduced Mill Park Principal Kate Barker and patron Jim Kern. Ms. Barker reported that Mr. Kern, of Epic Imaging East, heard that Mill Park students were in the need of shoes and coats. He networked with different businesses, churches and private patrons to donate hundreds of these items. In addition, he also generated donations of sweaters, socks, hats, scarves, toothbrushes and underwear, and collected \$500 for other needs. Mill Park will donate these items on an "as needed" basis. Ms. Barker said that Mr. Kern has truly made a difference in the lives of Mill Park children. Superintendent Rommel presented Mr. Kern a token of appreciation and the heartfelt thanks of the school board and administration for his efforts.

Superintendent Rommel announced that Oregon First Lady Mary Oberst will visit Lincoln Park tomorrow at 10:30am. Her visit is sponsored by Scholastic, and will include a reading for students as well as the donation of 425 books by Scholastic to be distributed to our school libraries as part of Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. The superintendent credited Ann Sanchez from Realty Brokers and the Gateway Area Business Association, for facilitating this connection with the district. ODE's Oregon Advanced Placement Incentive Program has awarded the district a grant of \$30,000 over three years for middle and high school teachers to collaborate to strengthen the district's advanced placement program. One of the program's goals is to develop strategies to help under-represented students reach their full potential and meet college entrance requirements. The superintendent recognized Kelly Devlin and Cherie-Anne May for their work in writing the successful grant application. The high school has established plans to have four new Advanced Placement classes in place for the beginning of the 2007-08 school year.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Centoni made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Continuous Improvement Plan Revision Approval**
- **Approval of November Board Meeting Minutes**

Fiscal and Facilities Issues Discussion – Superintendent Rommel said that in addition to some election analysis by John May, tonight's discussion would focus on establishing the board's financial and facilities priorities in the wake of the failure of the district's bond measure.

Bond Measure Results – All of the tax measures put before voters in November were defeated in David Douglas precincts (our bond, MHCC bond, Library levy, METRO open spaces). The bond measure failed by the largest percentage in the south end of the district, which would have benefited most from the new elementary school's construction. Possible rationales posed during the ensuing discussion included the perception among our voters that the district doesn't really need the bond, as they see that things are going pretty well; patrons don't perceive the lag time to respond to enrollment growth. There was also a likely 'can't afford it' factor in the defeat of all of the tax measures in our district. A detailed analysis of the voting results will help the Citizens for Schools to specifically target their campaign in the future. Superintendent Rommel said the OSBA Bonds and Ballots workshop is offering an analysis service regarding polling results. Communication specialist Kathy Leslie will address administrators at their meeting on January 12 regarding community engagement.

John May said that *Oregonian* reporter Scott Learn became interested in some of the inequities between districts and did a brief report on the disparity between assessed values. Mr. May asked Scott how some of our neighboring districts fared, and Scott responded with a report on the entire state. John combining that data with enrollment growth after calculating a five year growth rate, ranked growth and assessed value, and came up with what he called a 'facilities stress index.' David Douglas came out on top statewide. He noted that four of the top five districts on the list failed to pass their bonds. Mr. May will share the full data analysis spreadsheet with board members.

Fiscal Issues – Superintendent Rommel recommended that board members come to consensus on what level of general fund reserve they want to maintain. Maintaining a prudent reserve will prevent a roller coaster effect on programs and staffing. Mr. Wilton recommended forecasting flat enrollment

for the next year during the budget process, as we determine whether this year's slower growth represented an anomaly or a trend. There will be a budget deficit next year. We can move ahead to next fall with existing programs in place, but will need to look carefully at any proposed enhancements.

Facilities Issues – The superintendent posed the following question and possible scenarios for board consideration.

With the failure of the bond measure, what actions should be taken to deal with growth?

- increase class size
- transport groups of students from schools over capacity to those with space
- make the Children's Services Center (CSC) a kindergarten center
- make CSC a small elementary school
- investigate boundary adjustments to better match enrollment and building capacity
- establish a year-round schedule – 4 shifts with 3 going at a time
- integrate 6th grade into block schedule to increase classroom availability at middle schools
- itinerant elementary specialists
- return to 1/2 day kindergarten (10 classrooms)
- add portable classrooms
- borrow funds to construct classrooms (debt service; build/lease)
- do a split shift schedule
- rent space
- develop an early childhood charter school
- use South Powellhurst for office space

Board members discussed the merits and problems of each option.

Deardorff Property – Board members were asked whether they want to continue Deardorff property planning through conditional use. A plus is that any rules and regulations that now exist are locked in for three years. A minus would be that if we fail to pass a bond, those dollars will be gone. It was the board's consensus to proceed through conditional use.

Audience Participation – The board chair opened the meeting for public comment. There were no remarks from the audience.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – The superintendent will be getting a group together in January to discuss planning for a future bond. There will be follow up on the viability of using North Powellhurst in other ways, feedback from middle school principals regarding pros, cons and logistics of moving sixth graders to a block schedule, and input from Transportation regarding modified choice busing. Administrators will be asked for feedback regarding the list of possible responses to enrollment growth. It was also suggested that a work group be formed to discuss charter school possibilities.

Superintendent Rommel said that Dan McCue will have a debriefing meeting with Citizens for Schools co-chairs to review lessons learned. Mike Stout said the CAC subcommittee will be doing a report on community involvement.

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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