

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
December 11, 2008**

The regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, December 11, 2008, 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:

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

Also present were Barbara Rommel, Superintendent/Clerk; and Gail Hunter, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Flag Salute

Board Member Reports – Annette Mattson reported that in October she attended a training titled, “Coaching for Educational Equity” in her capacity as an OSBA representative. She said the session focused on building cultural competence was very important and worthwhile. Along with our board leadership and the superintendent, she attended the OSBA Conference, where the governor delivered a keynote address. She also attended NSBA’s Pacific Regional Conference, where she heard Anne Bryant’s presentation on federal issues. She said NSBA representatives have already met three times with the Obama transition staff. She shared an article about West Linn / Wilsonville’s decision to eliminate course fees for students. Ms. Mattson commented on a recent East Portland Action Plan report in which the median income for our area was stated as \$65,000 per year. She said that the report wasn’t reflective of the area east of 82nd Avenue. Our area has highest percentage of families with children in poverty, as measured by number of people claiming the earned income tax credit. The only area in the state with a higher percentage is Woodburn, OR.

Mike Centoni requested a future report on student fees and said he hopes to discuss the issue during the budget process. He welcomed staff members in the audience, questioning whether the status of bargaining discussions constitutes a crisis, as he said some teachers have remarked, and reiterating that everyone on the Board wants a good contract for our teachers, with the district team members working hard to reach a settlement. He thanked teachers for attending and wished them a happy holiday. Board Chair Christopher was very impressed by the performance of the high school’s choir and orchestra at The Grotto on Tuesday evening. She said the Educational Foundation plans to partner with the district when it celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. The board leadership was invited to attend a meeting with Mayor-elect Sam Adams and County Chair Ted Wheeler to discuss high school drop-out rates across the county. An ‘education cabinet’ is being formed. City Council will hold their next meeting at Midland Library on Wednesday, December 17, 6:30pm.

Student Body President’s Report – Tyler Short, ASB Recording Secretary, reported on recent student body activities. Student Council members attended a performance of *Bye Bye Birdie* together. Tonight’s Mother/Son Banquet is being presented by the Dads Club. Tickets to the banquet include admission to the play. As a service project, Student Council members are providing gift wrapping for teachers, free of charge.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Rommel announced that Deputy Superintendent Mike Stout is attending a ceremony at the Pittock Mansion this evening, where he will accept the “Partner Pacesetter Award” from the Portland Police Activities League on behalf of the school district. High school students are working on a service project assisting neighbors with graffiti removal. On December 18, Mayor Potter will visit Ventura Park Elementary at 10am to talk with students about their ideas for being safe. The staff and students of Ventura Park are celebrating the school's 50th anniversary this year. All former principals have been invited to spend the day on December 17.

Candy Wallace reported that two of our elementary schools will receive the “Celebrating Student Success” award from the Oregon Department of Education. The award is based on high academic achievement in schools with high rates of poverty. Ms Wallace congratulated the Gilbert Park staff for being named a “Continuing Success” award winner, one of only six in the state. Schools were only eligible for this recognition if they were also champions last year. Gilbert Park will receive a \$1,000 prize and will become a model across the state for best practices. Lincoln Park was honored with the “Rising Star” award, again based on high student achievement in a high poverty school. Both schools will be honored at a banquet in May. Superintendent Rommel announced that Barbara Kienle took the initiative to write a grant proposal to get a scholarship for one of our speech assistants to go back to school for her certification in speech pathology. Her efforts resulted in an award of \$500 to Jill Ellers to continue her education.

Susan Summers presented a brief bargaining update. There have been twenty bargaining sessions thus far, totaling more than 115 hours, plus countless hours spent preparing by both sides. She reviewed a list of tentative agreements and reviewed items still being negotiated. She and Mike Stout met with Bob Gray and Debbie Hagan yesterday to clarify some questions prior to the next mediation session scheduled for December 18. Mr. Centoni expressed his hope for a settlement, remarking that the District is working hard to conclude the process with a contract that is fair and responsible.

Dan McCue shared a report which KATU aired regarding the high school wood shop students' efforts to make toys for needy children. Their goal is to make 150 toy trucks for distribution by the “Toys for Tots” program. Emerson Hardwoods and the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers provided materials and donated \$500 to the high school's woods program. This project was also featured on Channel 12 News. Mr. McCue reported on the third meeting of the Facilities Task Force which was held last night. The subcommittees will continue to meet and then join forces to prepare their report, which will be presented to the Board in March. Ms. Mattson said she shared information on the high school project with a number of manufacturers in the area, who are concerned about recruiting skilled workers.

Multnomah Education Service District Report – MESD Superintendent Ron Hitchcock and board member Zak Johnson presented highlights from MESD's annual report. Mr. Johnson reported on accountability and evaluation, saying MESD has held meetings with representatives of our staff to gather feedback and identify areas where improvement in services could be made. Discussions are focused on keeping costs down. Redesign of the iFAS system is currently underway to try to improve services.

Mr. Hitchcock reviewed a report on services provided to David Douglas School District, those funded through resolution dollars as well as supplemental contracted services, remarking that nearly \$5 million in services were provided to the District. An additional \$1.4m in services were provided through grants. The Dental Van program provided donated services valued at \$127,000, benefiting 287 of our students. The Early Childhood grant from ODE which provides special education services

for Pre-K students served 228 children ages birth – five years. He said that hard work to find internal efficiencies resulted in an 11% reduction in cost to the district for technical support services.

Mr. Hitchcock noted that cuts at the state level will impact the MESD's budget by about \$1 million. Education Service Districts are lobbying the Legislature to tie funding to the number of students and the level of services needed. Ms. Mattson said she thinks the relationship between DDS and MESD has never been better, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Hitchcock and their board.

Algebra I Credit Update – Director of Curriculum Brooke O'Neill presented a proposal for middle school students to receive Algebra I credit toward high school graduation. Middle school Math Coach Nanette Twist said much work has been done to align curriculum, to assure that the same material and rigor would be in place at both levels. Information will be sent home to parents to describe the opportunity and show the impacts on high school schedule planning. She requested the Board's approval to provide an opportunity for students to earn Algebra 1 credit as middle schoolers. Mr. Centoni so moved, with a second from Mr. Price. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

Library Budget Supplement – Superintendent Rommel said that last year during the budget process there was discussion regarding increasing the materials fund for our libraries. We had submitted a grant application that, if funded, would include some additional funds for materials. The grant application was not selected for funding. The superintendent proposed a fund transfer of \$35,000 to be added to the libraries budget. The money would be allocated to our schools on a per student basis. The addition of these funds would establish a new baseline for material purchases for future years. Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation to increase the libraries fund by \$35,000, seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Cari Harris, David Douglas High School Teacher, expressed her concerns about the impact of out of pocket insurance costs. She said she wanted to put a personal face on teachers' concerns, saying that as the sole provider of insurance for her family, she is having \$500 taken from her monthly check, resulting in less take home pay than last school year. She said that while these are tough economic times for everyone, she hopes the Board will be as eager to help teachers as they have been to make infrastructure improvements.

Olga Kaganova, Director of Azbuka Academy, reported that 26 students are currently enrolled, all of whom meet the District's eligibility standards, and that the charter school is now in compliance with requirement that 50% of its students be David Douglas residents. She extended an invitation to board members to visit the school.

As there were no further remarks from the audience, the Board Chair declared a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened.

Oregon School Boards Association Election – Annette Mattson presented the official ballot of OSBA officers and resolutions for consideration by member school boards. As part of changes in OSBA governance to make for more direct involvement, individual school boards are voting on issues which were previously determined by attendees at the state convention.

A vote was held on the position of Secretary/Treasurer, the only office where there was more than one candidate. The results were five votes for Bobbie Regan (Christopher, Gardner, Mattson, Price, Burton) to one vote for Dave Krumbein (Centoni).

The vote to approve the remaining slate of unopposed candidates and resolutions was 6-0. The results of the election will be submitted electronically to OSBA.

Leadership Priorities Outreach Plan – Superintendent Rommel reported that one of the goals established at the board retreat was to begin outreach to the community regarding priorities for the District and the qualities needed in a superintendent to accomplish them. The superintendent previously indicated her intention to retire this June and work in a post-retirement capacity next school year. She presented a vision statement and objectives which included engaging the community in articulating leadership priorities, determining a selection process, establishing a timeline for succession, and allowing for a seamless transition. Three general process options included choosing from internal candidates only, conducting a search in the Oregon/Washington area, or contracting with a national search firm.

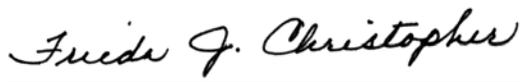
The superintendent made a recommendation that we engage our community in setting criteria between January and March 2009. Outreach would include a web-based survey, an article in the David Douglas News, holding a community forum with a facilitator and possibly combining that with the final work of the Facilities Task Force, and contacting community groups for their input. Once those activities conclude, it would be up to the Board to adopt the criteria, determine the process, and approve the timeline in a public meeting (suggested for April 2009). Promotional materials, if needed, could be produced between May and August 2009, with the search and selection process taking place during the 2009-10 school year.

It was suggested that meetings with community organizations be scheduled well in advance to provide them adequate lead-time. Board Chair Christopher said the Board will want the opinions of as many stakeholders as possible in articulating leadership priorities.

Approval of November Board Meeting Minutes – Mr. Gardner noted a needed correction to the November Minutes, under the Consent Agenda, in the name of the board member seconding the motion. Mr. Gardner moved to approve the November Board Meeting Minutes as corrected, with a second from Mr. Burton. The minutes were approved in a vote of 6-0.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items – none

Adjournment – There being no other business, Board Chair Christopher announced that the Board would reconvene in Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting, in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d) Collective Bargaining, and (2)(h) Litigation. She then declared the regular meeting adjourned.



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Barbara Rommel, Superintendent / Clerk