



David Douglas School District

Don Grotting, Superintendent
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To the Residents of the David Douglas School District

In May of 2012, you approved a construction bond measure for the District by the highest margin of any bond vote in our history. First and foremost, on behalf of the District and our students, we want to again extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your show of trust by that vote.

We also want to take this opportunity to tell you what we've done so far with that \$49.5 million bond measure, as well as let you know about challenges we continue to face with our school facilities.

What has our community gained by passage of the 2012 bond measure? Here is a brief list:

- **The brand new David Douglas Aquatics Center.** It replaced a 50-year-old pool at the end of its life. In fact, the old pool mechanicals quit working just days prior to the new Aquatics Center opening. The new center gives our students one of the finest school-operated swimming facilities in Oregon. But it also provides a much-needed exercise and recreational facility for all of our District residents. We invite you to drop by and see the new Aquatics Center anytime.
- **The Richard C. Alexander Early Learning Wing and Neighborhood Center at Earl Boyles Elementary.** Half of the \$7 million cost of this new facility was paid for with bond funds; the other half with private donations and public partnerships. Our intent with building an early learning wing and neighborhood center within an existing elementary school is to revolutionize how and when we connect with our students and families. The early learning wing will provide a high-quality preschool to more than 100 3- and 4-year-olds each year. The neighborhood center will provide resources and services to struggling families, providing a stabilizing effect for them. Thanks to you, Earl Boyles has grabbed the attention of the state, which sees it as a potential model for what could happen at elementary schools throughout Oregon.
- **Technology and textbooks into the hands of our students.** Thanks to the bond, the District had its first adoption of new curriculum and textbooks in 7 years. We have all new elementary curriculum, as well as new science and social studies secondary curriculum. Students now have access to classroom sets of iPads and Chromebooks to enhance their learning and prepare them for a world driven by technology.
- **Healthier and better learning environments for our students.** Some or all of our schools have new roofs, windows, siding, heating and ventilating systems, gym floors and flooring in our classrooms and hallways. The vast majority of our school floors were constructed decades ago with asbestos tiles. While these tiles were perfectly safe if not broken up, maintaining them was extremely expensive. Our new polished concrete flooring alone will save taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars every year.
- **Safer schools for our students.** Bond funds allowed us to install security cameras throughout our District properties. Some of our school entrances were reconfigured so that people can no longer walk in undetected. We will be installing swipe card security doors at all our schools to increase security and safety.

continued

Visit our web page: www.ddouglas.k12.or.us E-mail: David_Douglas@ddouglas.k12.or.us

School Board

Bryce Anderson • Frieda Christopher • Donn Gardner • Christine Larsen • Shannon Raybold • Kyle Riggs • Cheryl Scarcelli Ancheta

These projects and others have been built over the last two summers and will continue through next summer. But what about our future beyond 2015?

We recently convened a group of citizens and staff to begin looking at our future facility needs. Through months of meetings, one message came through: We need more learning space. Our elementary schools are at capacity. There are no unused elementary classrooms in our district, and our class sizes are peaked out.

Our middle schools are approaching their capacity, and of course David Douglas High School is the largest high school in Oregon, with more than 3,000 students.

Yet we continue to grow. Population growth experts predict that the David Douglas School District will add another 3,000 students over the next 10-20 years. We simply have no place to put these kids.

We have other challenges. There are few vacant pieces of land in the District large enough to accommodate a new school. We could add classrooms to existing schools, but we already have some of the largest schools at all levels in the state. How big is too big for an elementary school? Eight hundred students? A thousand?

We have not settled on any answers yet, and we welcome your input. All options are on the table.

You'll recall that our 2012 bond measure was structured so that it exactly replaced an old bond measure that was coming off the books that year. As a result, your taxes did not increase when the bond passed. We are looking off into the future to explore how something similar might be done when and if we need to ask you again to pass a bond measure.

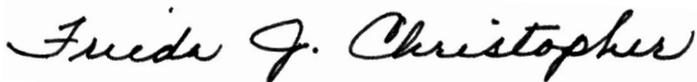
We are also in conversations with the City of Portland to see if zoning changes could be made that would allow growth to happen more slowly in our area, so that we might hold off some of the projected growth in our schools.

Again, all options are on the table. We invite you to contact us with your ideas and questions. Send an email to david_douglas@ddouglas.k12.or.us

If you are interested in learning more about our ongoing bond work, we invite you to sit in on one of our Bond Oversight Committee meetings. They are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the District Office Board Room.

Meanwhile, come visit our new website at www.ddouglas.k12.or.us, follow us on Facebook or Twitter, and most importantly, please continue to support our schools and students as we prepare them for a successful future.

Thank you,



Frieda Christopher, School Board Chair



Don Grotting, Superintendent



Mike Ewald, Bond Oversight Committee Chair