

**Meeting of the School Board  
David Douglas School District No. 40  
March 8, 2018**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00pm in the David Douglas School District Board Room, located at 1500 SE 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97233.

School Board Members present were:

Christine Larsen, Board Chair	
Bryce Anderson	Kyle Riggs
Frieda Christopher	Andrea Valderrama
Ana del Rocio	

Excused Absence: Stephanie D. Stephens

Also present were Ken Richardson, Superintendent/Clerk; Candy Wallace, Assistant Superintendent; Patt Komar, Director of Administrative Services; Derek Edens, Director of Assessment & Technology; Brooke O'Neill, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Kelly Devlin, Director of ESL & Equity; Barbara Kienle, Director of Student Services; Andy Long, Director of PK-12 Education, and Laurie Brunelle, Board Secretary.

The agenda will include consideration of the following:

**Call to Order / Flag Salute**

**Student Body President's Report** – Student Body President Anwar Sheikh reported that four Student Council students attended an inspirational convention and learned different types of compliments such as; being nice is reactive but being kind is proactive. On Friday, the high school will be choosing their Rose Festival Princess out of four candidates. Mr. Sheikh stated that they will be introducing the Mental Health Awareness Campaign that is part of DDHS United. The Campaign will be kicking off in March with a "Let's Talk Week" which will include videos, a tip of the day, and a visit from a llama and alpaca on March 20th.

**Visiting Delegations -**

**David Douglas Music Department** – Tom Muller, David Douglas High School Music Director announced that March is *Music in Our Schools Month* which has been recognized throughout the United States since 1973. The purpose is to raise national awareness of music education for all children. Our students in the David Douglas District are fortunate to reside in a district where music education is valued and taught by certified music teachers. Mr. Muller stated that not only does involvement in music increase test scores, but it also teaches skills like teamwork, cooperative learning, the payoff of hard work, increased language and reasoning, and staying involved in school. Band students have a graduation rate of 91%, and choir and orchestra students are close to the same level. Mr. Muller said currently the District has 2,260 students in secondary music programs. He provided a list of high-level performance music awards our students have received this year and said without the support of our School Board and administrators our teachers could not provide this education to our kids.

**Gilbert Park Intercambio** - Amber Tatge, Language Development Specialist, Lauren O'Gara, teacher, Peter Martin, teacher, Donna Brown, Director of Champions Academy & community member, Erika Albarado-Davila, district parent, Iris Torralba-Herrera, district parent, and Sofia Torralba-Herrera, district student. Ms. Tatge introduced Gilbert Park's Intercambio program which is a Spanish-English language exchange for parents, teachers, and community members. The main goals are to increase bilingual skills and build relationship-based parent engagement opportunities. Ms. O'Gara said they practice Spanish in a variety of ways such as playing games, singing songs,

and having conversations. Gilbert Park student Sofia said she and her mom joined the Intercambio program because her mom wants to learn English. They share about their cultures, organize games, and did a cooking demonstration for Multi-Cultural Night. Ms. Tatge said during the meetings they share resources with families such as the food pantry, giving tree, and getting access to Christmas gifts. Ms. O’Gara stated that the program helps to build a strong community and parents feel more comfortable talking with teachers. Ms. Brown joined the program to connect with the parents of the Academy students, and to work on her Spanish for better communication with them. Some of the components to make this group successful is to spend time investing in relationships, personally inviting people, regular meeting times, and providing the parents a chance to contribute something meaningful.

**Attendee’s Input -**

Craig Rogers, district resident – Mr. Rogers said he has a great respect for the David Douglas School District. He stated that teachers and staff make a difference in students’ lives and he shared a story of attending three different schools where he experienced staff members who made him feel good about himself. Mr. Rogers complimented Mr. Pease, Principal of Floyd Light Middle School for being in the same class of staff who make a difference.

Cherie Anne May, district resident and former employee – Ms. May thanked the District for providing outstanding educational opportunities for students. Her son, Cameron attended elementary, middle, and high school in the David Douglas District. He was cared for in before and after school programs, diagnosed with health issues through vision and hearing screenings, had access to the gifted and talented program, played sports, and was highly involved in the music program. Ms. May said he graduated in 2012 with a 4.0 GPA, and his tenure in this District prepared him well for his life’s journey. Ms. May read a Statement of Diversity written by Cameron, summing up what is right in this District. In his closing statement he thanked the District for providing healthcare screenings, childcare, academics, support, love, and most of all, opportunities for all students to find a passion and follow it to their future.

Silke Akerson, district parent – Ms. Akerson stated she is making a direct specific request for the Board to make a plan for recruiting and hiring teachers of color. She feels the Board and the District is capable of creating an interim plan before the end of the school year. Ms. Akerson said this is centrally important for students of this District and will make a tangible impact on their educational experience.

**Recognitions** – Mr. Richardson extended his thanks to the District’s 671 classified employees for Classified Appreciation Week. He said it is a privilege to recognize an amazing group of employees and thanked them for what they do every day and for making a difference. He read the Classified Proclamation.

**Graduation Rate Presentation** – DDSD Systems Analyst, John May, DDHS Principal, John Bier, Assistant Principals, Linda Vancil, Mark Haner, Joe Talley, and Denise Pierson, Grant Coordinator, Angela Landy, Reengagement Specialist, Jeremiah Branch, and Fir Ridge Principal, Amy Straw.

Mr. May reported that six years ago in order to comply with federal and state requirements we began a new and better process to determine the graduation rate. The new formula is to count the graduates, which is the number of students who earned standard diplomas by August 2017 divided by the adjusted cohort, which is the number of students who were first enrolled in high school in 2013-14. To this number we add the students who transferred in and subtract the students who transferred out. ODE figures out during the month of October who these students are and who is accountable for them. On October 24, 2017 the DDHS graduation rate was 67.1% which always starts with a low number. During a six week period starting in November, the clerical staff at the high school has a chance to make adjustments of student whereabouts through a search of student files.

Once adjustments are made and the state has accounted for everyone, we receive a very large Cohort Media File. Mr. May said the media focuses on one number only, which is the four-year cohort graduation rate. He illustrated some factors of why we may want to look at the five year rates as a more appropriate measure of our success, and he discussed the issues of comparing schools. He said each state sets their own graduation requirements and calculates the rates differently, and school districts are not all organized the same even in the state of Oregon. Mr. May shared data on the non-completers/not continuing students which showed gender, ethnicity, and race gaps mainly within the male Hispanic population but also in the black male and white male groups on a smaller scale. The one factor they have in common is almost all of the students come from challenging economic circumstances. He shared multiple graphs and included information on ELL, special education, pregnant and parenting, talented and gifted, homeless history, mobility, and stability. Mr. May said there were a few technical errors to be cleaned up. We are working on developing tracking systems and being proactive instead of reactive.

Mr. Bier thanked John May for being a tremendous resource and the administrators who were here in support of the high school. He said the graduation rate is a K-12 venture and he appreciates the work the elementary and middle school administrators do to prepare our students before they reach the high school. The last few years we've seen some incremental growth and have worked hard on researching different programs. The high school staff sets a graduation goal every two or three years and has looked at data to help produce prevention and intervention programs.

### **DDHS Dropout Prevention Plan**

Ms. Vancil shared section 1: Partner with the community to create inclusive, caring, and safe learning environments. She stated that 70% of students who regularly attend supplemental after school programming experience improvement in math scores. Some of the highlights in this section include a partnership with SF2020 (successful families), IRCO, SEI, NAYA, Latino Network, and MFS. She said we also have an on-site Multnomah County Health Center including mental health services, a Scot's Angel program, and a Trio and College Possible program available to students.

Ms. Pierson shared section 2: Partner with families to engage them as stakeholders in the development of students. She highlighted three areas used to capture more students while making sure to find a path that's relevant to each one of them. The College and Trades Fair offers information on public and private universities, community colleges, military, and trade schools. FAFSA Night is held for families to come in and receive assistance in filling out the FAFSA forms. The Half Grad Ceremony is an event held in the fall of a student's junior year celebrating their success for being half way to graduation.

Mr. Talley shared section 3: Partner with students to promote personal and academic growth and responsibility, and to find relevant and engaging pathways to credit. He said in order to graduate, students have to pass or demonstrate essential skills in reading, writing, and math and earn credit. There are many pathways to demonstrate essential skills and the most important one is the state assessment test, which is known as Smarter Balance. If students fail this test they can take other exams such as PSAT, SAT, ACT, and AP exam. Other options are localized work samples, which are embedded in core classes. The options available for students to make up credit include Credit Retrieval, Summer School, Day Academy, and Graduation Alliance online school.

Ms. Straw gave the Board an overview of Fir Ridge Campus. She said they max out at 200-225 students, have 16 teachers, a librarian, 1½ counselors, an attendance specialist, and classified staff that help out with students. The great thing about partnering with the high school is students are able to participate in all the activities such as, CTE classes, choir, foreign language, and PSAT exams. Ms. Straw said Fir Ridge provides an educational experience that values and respects response to student's individual needs. They offer all core classes, multiple electives, summer

school, and credit retrieval. The average class size is 5 students and they max out at 25. Ms. Straw said every student is known by name.

Mr. Branch shared section 4: Partner with educators to continuously shape and improve classroom and program practices to fit students' needs, resulting in graduates with skills that extend beyond high school. Mr. Branch stated that sometimes there's an incompatibility between the needs of a student and the needs of the state and we are constantly trying to negotiate these two things. He said we have tried to add real time implementable structures to help students regardless of their current level. He highlighted the New Teacher Mentor component and stated that it is hard to hang on to teachers because it's a demanding profession and involves a great deal of personal sacrifice. Students are looking to teachers for guidance and sometimes teachers feel like they do not fulfill the needs of their students. The mentor program helps teachers learn perspective. The District Data teams help us to understand who are our at risk students in middle school. Mr. Branch said 8th graders who attend less than 80% of the time and failed either Math or English are 75% likely to drop out of high school. We are trying to connect the mentality of middle school students so they can envision themselves as successful high school students.

Mr. Haner reported on the Link Crew program, which is made up of juniors and seniors. These students go through a three-day training to learn personal, speaking and communication skills, how to build relationships with freshmen, and how to be successful in school. The freshman attendance rate has gone up this year due to the building of these relationships through this program. Mr. Haner said the RISE program's purpose is to engage in the power of immigrant and refugees through culturally responsive after school programs. RISE provides academic support, social support, and career opportunities. Mr. Haner reported on a new program where our Student Engagement Specialist will track students and help them get over the finish line to graduation. The high school has hired three new attendance specialists who will have time to dig deeper into students who are chronically absent, talk with families, and call students who have withdrawn to keep track of where they are going.

Ms. Landy reported on the Portland Community Parks Community Garden Project. Our CTE students will design, build, plant, grow, and use the food in the garden. The leftover food will be used in the food bank. Community members have an opportunity to buy a plot or receive a scholarship to grow their own food. Ms. Landy stated she is working on the 21st Century Grant renewal effort and looking at afterschool programs we can enhance and create to get more involvement with our students, including 7th and 8th graders. For the 8th grade forecasting process, counselors meet with every student and extend invitations to their families to be included. Ms. Landy said they are creating an advisory to give each student an adult to connect with and be a support and resource for them.

Ms. Vancil said one of the new things for next year is PSU will be holding a Student Teacher Cohort at the high school. This is really exciting for us as we look at new teacher recruitment and diversifying our teaching staff. Ms. Vancil thanked Ms. Christopher for attending the Business Partnership Breakfast highlighting our CTE students.

Mr. Bier said he is surrounded by hardworking, wonderful people and feels very fortunate to work with them on a daily basis. We have some terrific programs and we have always strove to get better. Our graduation rate has dropped but we have not let up. He is excited about the Re-Engagement Specialist and said this is an opportunity to pull systems together to make sure less kids fall through the cracks. Every kid counts and we have to have a place for every kid and give them an opportunity to be successful. Mr. Bier said we will continue to work hard so all of our students have a chance to graduate.

**Financial Report** – Ms. Komar reported that we are trending up in the General Fund and the report includes the data on why we are up. She stated we have more teacher experience and statewide poverty calculations are down.

**Consent Agenda** – Ms. del Rocio requested to pull the Appointments of the Budget Committee Positions from the consent agenda to have a discussion around the thoughts that went into it. Mr. Riggs made a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Anderson. The motion carried a vote of 6-0

- Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes
- Personnel Recommendations
- Appointment of Budget Committee Position 4 – Dennis Secrest
- Appointment of Budget Committee Position 5 – Edith Duku
- Appointment of Budget Committee Position 6 – Adriana Govea
- Superintendent Contract Renewal
- Approval of Construction Contract
- Approval of Agreement with City of Portland/Parks for Community Garden at David Douglas High School
- Contract Approvals 2018
- Approval of Insurance Renewal
- Approval to Auction Buses

Mr. Riggs moved approval of the Appointment of Budget Committee Positions, seconded by Mr. Anderson. Ms. del Rocio stated she would like to hear the thoughts that went behind the appointment. Mr. Riggs stated he chose Ms. Duku for her participation in Site Council and the understanding of the interworks of the building. Mr. Anderson stated he chose Mr. Secrest for his involvement and desire to run for a Board seat and his management skills. Ms. Valderrama stated she chose Ms. Govea for the work she has done in the community, classroom, and district wide. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

**Approval of Secondary English Language Development Curriculum** – Ms. Devlin reported on the adoption process of Secondary English Development Curriculum. She said in this year's approved budget we have funding to adopt new curriculum at the secondary level. A team of secondary teachers attended the ELD curriculum review. They contacted other districts who were early adopters and asked for their opinions and feedback on how the curriculum was making an impact on student achievement and student learning. They held an adoption meeting to review ELD standards, talked about 6-12 ELD program objectives, and had a publisher come in to give an overview and presentation on their curriculum. The Committee recommends National Geographic Cengage Learning: INSIDE for the middle school level and EDGE for the high school level. Mr. Riggs moved approval of Secondary English Language Development Curriculum, seconded by Mr. Anderson. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

### **Committee Reports**

- Bond Committee – The final report was given at the February meeting.
- Equity Committee – The Equity Committee meeting has been rescheduled for March 22nd.

**Second Reading: Board Policy** – Ms. Christopher moved approval of the following board policy, seconded by Mr. Anderson. The motion carried in a vote of 6-0.

- AC - Nondiscrimination
- GBEB – Communicable Diseases - Staff
- GCA – License Requirements
- IGBA – Students with Disabilities – Child Identification Procedures
- IGBAH – Special Education – Evaluation Procedures
- IGBBC – Talented and Gifted – Programs and Services
- IGBC – Title 1A/Parent and Family Involvement

- IICC – Volunteers
- JGAB – Use of Restraint and Seclusion
- JHCC – Communicable Diseases - Students
- JHF – Student Safety
- JOA – Directory Information
- KBA – Public Records
- KL – Public Complaints

**Board Policy – Discussion of Requested Revisions From First Reading** – Mr. Richardson said these will be brought forward to the April meeting as an action item.

- AC-AR – Discrimination Complaint Procedure (administrative regulations)
- BDDH – Public Participation in Board Meetings
- CCG – Licensed Evaluation - Administrators
- EBBB – Injury/Illness Reports
- GCN/GDN – Evaluation of Staff
- IGBAJ – Special Education – Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- JECA – Admission of Resident Students
- KL-AR (1) – Public Complaint Procedure (administrative regulations)
- KL-AR (2) – Appeal to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction (administrative regulations)
- KN-AR (1) - Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies (administrative regulations)

**Other Business / Future Agenda Items –**

Ms. Larsen requested topics the Board would like to discuss at the March 22nd board meeting. Ms. Christopher requested a presentation from Mt Hood Community College on their Two-Plus-Two program and the high school's AP courses being offered to students. Ms. del Rocio stated a presentation from Latino Network on best practices would be relevant given the graduation data that was received by the high school.

Ms. del Rocio requested a dress code update. Mr. Richardson said we are in the process of looking at our District dress code, taking the feedback from public and administrator testimony, looking at climate survey results, and looking at a number of policies across the area. We have drafted up a policy that reflects what we have heard. The next steps is to finalize, share with administrators to make sure we are not missing anything, then share with the community.

Ms. Larsen gave a reminder of the All Hands Raised Fund Raiser Event on March 14th. The confirmed Board Attendees are Ms. Larsen, Ms. del Rocio, and Ms. Valderrama.

Mr. Riggs requested a future agenda item to be a discussion of how we look at health curriculum. He feels we should look at the way we teach health especially for our community. There is a wide range of health topics to discuss, and he would like the District to aspire to have a health reputation like our music reputation.

Mr. Anderson requested a future agenda item to be a discussion on the District's equity hiring plan. Mr. Richardson said at this time we have a draft but not a formalized plan. The goal is to have a plan by this hiring season.

Mr. Riggs suggested a possible alternative to our second board meeting of the month. Board members could meet and talk out of session with community members who would be able to choose their own topics to discuss. The Board would form small groups of 2-3 members, and would alternate between each other to give the community a variety of groups to choose from.

Mr. Anderson suggested discussing community member's concerns in an open session.

**Board Member Reports** – Mr. Riggs stated it was a reassuring thing to meet with a group of educators that have the opportunity to affect our students' lives in a very special way. This group of high school teachers have an opportunity to build relationships with students beyond normal instructional time. The subjects they were teaching, the interaction and questions from the students, and the follow-up from the teachers speak volumes on how much they understand their role in these students' lives.

Ms. Valderrama stated she was excited about the Proclamation for classified employees. Both her mom and her mom's husband are classified employees and they are dedicated to this District. It's been exciting to hear about their experiences. Ms. Valderrama said she has been thinking about our students who may participate in their own civic engagement and organizing around being a violent free environment. She would like to acknowledge, show support, and stand in solidarity with the students. Ms. Valderrama would like to continue direct conversations about how we are being intentional about students who are dropping out at alarming rates. She would like to make sure we are thinking through all of the strategies possible moving forward.

Ms. del Rocio said Happy International Women's Day. She reported that her Kindergartener can read now and thanked everyone for that first step. Ms. del Rocio attended the second meeting of Metro Regional Housing Measure Stakeholder Advisory Table looking at the housing instability in this area and the potential ballot measure with a lens of racial equity from the School Board.

Mr. Anderson seconded Ms. del Rocio's statement of Happy International Women's Day. He is the father of five daughters and has been very invested in women's growth, development, and to become anything they want to be.

Ms. Christopher reported she attended the Business CTE breakfast at the high school and was served a wonderful breakfast from the culinary group. She said they do an outstanding job and it was interesting to see the different businesses there willing to get involved. Ms. Christopher said due to her husband's passing, they are endowing a scholarship in their name for automotive which will start next year for students who want to go into that field. She reported that she attended Strudels and Stories at Gilbert Heights Elementary where the kids read to you. Our teachers are truly challenged with the different ways of educating students and helping them learn. She said they do a wonderful job.

Ms. Larsen reported she attended an all-day MESD Board Equity Training on February 9th which was very good. She directed the Board to their packet which included the Equity Leadership Training Series flyer. This is a four part series that encourages Board members to attend all four sessions with the first one being the most important. Ms. Larsen echoed Ms. Valderramas' sentiments regarding the activity on March 14th. She does not like the idea of her child coming home and asking how was her day, with the response of, we didn't get shot today. Ms. Larsen said we are doing the best we can to keep our students safe but this is on the rise and not good.

**Adjournment** - There being no other business, Chair Larsen declared the meeting adjourned.



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Christine Larsen, Board Chair



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Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk