

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
July 12, 2018**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 7:00pm in the David Douglas School District Board Room, 1500 SE 130th Ave, Portland, OR 97233.

School Board Members present were:

Christine Larsen, Board Chair

Bryce Anderson
Frieda Christopher
Ana del Rocio

Kyle Riggs
Stephanie D. Stephens
Andrea Valderrama

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; Mary Pearson, 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

Election of Board Leadership for 2018-19 – Chair Larsen opened nominations for Board Leadership. Mr. Anderson nominated Ms. Christopher as Board Chair. There being no other nominations, Ms. Christopher was elected Board Chair for 2018-19 in a vote of 7-0. Nominations were opened for Vice Chair. Mr. Riggs nominated Ms. Valderrama. There being no other nominations, Ms. Valderrama was elected Vice Chair for 2018-19 in a vote of 7-0. Mr. Richardson presented a Board Chair plaque to Ms. Larsen and thanked her for serving as Board Chair for the 2017-18 school year.

Attendee's Input -

Heather Franklin, district parent – Ms. Franklin stated that it's well established through academic research that both in-school and out-of-school suspension results have direct effects on both academic performance and graduation rate. She discussed the idea of trauma informed practices and stated that behavior problems as a result of trauma can be looked at as defiance and insubordination. The result of punishment such as a suspension is more trauma. She requested the Board to consider extending Senate Bill 553 that's used for K-5, to include middle and high school.

Craig Rogers, district resident – Mr. Rogers reported that he spoke to the Portland Parks Division and was told they did not have the money to cut down the blackberries and boxwoods in the homeless camp he refers to as tent city in his neighborhood. He stated that tent city is full of predators and is a clear and present danger. Mr. Rogers said everyone should be proud for supporting Mr. Richardson, Mr. Pease, Principal of Floyd Light Middle School, and himself for working together to improve the situation.

Chris Conklin, district parent – Mr. Conklin reported that he transferred his children out of Mill Park Elementary into another school in the District with a healthier environment for learning. He states that since he has done this, problems at Mill Park have gotten worse. He made a request for the District to take responsibility for the education of those who need it most in our region. Mr. Conklin informed the Board that he will not stop speaking out until the District makes the changes and proves that Mill Park children are educated to proficiency for success in our society.

Larry Fellows, district resident – Mr. Fellows spoke in support of Mr. Rogers in regards to cleaning up the overgrown area in his neighborhood. He considers this a danger zone and is worried about it for the children. He knows the City of Portland is responsible for the area but the neighbors would like to see it cleaned up the way it was done on District property.

PERS Bond Review - Carol Samuels, Piper Jaffray – Ms. Samuels gave the Board an overview on creating a PERS Side Account and the mechanisms available to fund a side account once it's created. A Side Account is a name for a savings account that is held at PERS. They are designed to reduce payroll rates by having employers deposit extra payments to PERS. The minimum deposit is \$250,000, or 25% of your unfunded actuarial liability. The current assumed rate is 7.20% and the draw down schedule is created over 20 years, used to reduce an employer's payroll rates through rate credit. PERS has the opportunity to invest in a broader array of investments than a school district can. School districts are limited to safe investments such as treasuries, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, and local government investment pools. PERS invests in a whole array of securities, equities, fixed income, commodities, etc. As a consequence, their rate of return is substantially higher. In the 2018 Legislature, a bill was approved to enhance the incentive to create a Side Account. Senate Bill 1566 created the following two key things that are relevant for the District; an employer incentive fund of approximately \$25 million which is designed to provide a match to local jurisdictions, and a special fund of \$115 million that will be devoted to school districts uniquely. All districts will get a slight sliver off of their payroll costs.

Ms. Samuels stated that Pension Bonds is another way of accessing funds to create a Side Account. The concept is to borrow at a low interest rate and send the funds to PERS. If returns exceed borrowing rate then jurisdictions save. Under federal tax law, Pension Bonds must be sold on taxable basis. Ms. Samuels reported on Oregon's history with Pension Bonds. Over 100 employers, including David Douglas issued Pension Bonds between; 1999-2015. Most had positive PERS returns but unfortunately because of the timing of the borrowing in 2007, the District is one that has not had a positive outcome. Bond rates are currently projected at 5% which is better than the rate the District borrowed in 2007. Ms. Samuels reviewed with the Board an ECONorthwest Probability Assessment which is the assessment of the probability of making positive arbitrage at three different interest borrowing rates. The probability of success goes up the lower the interest rate. Some of the risks include; timing, compounding matters, volatile rate credits, and unknown future changes to PERS.

Ms. Samuels reviewed the David Douglas background data of payroll growth, historical Side Account rate credits, and Pension Bond savings. She stated that an option for the District is to join a pool that is being put together with other school districts. The next steps and goal is to be in market in late September. By June 30: District requests actuarial analysis, by July 31: Board adopts resolution authorizing sale of bonds, by August 31: Actuarial analysis received, late September: Bond sale, mid-October: proceeds to PERS, November 1: payroll rates reduced. The estimated timeline is 12-16 weeks.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Board had a chance to ask questions, state their opinions and concerns, and decide whether or not to move forward with the Resolution. The consensus was to move forward but have monthly updates with an option to back out before anything is finalized.

Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing Participation in the Oregon Education District's Pension Bond Program; Authorizing a Full Faith and Credit Pension Bond and Related Full Faith and Credit Pension Obligations to be issued in One or More Series – Mr. Riggs moved approval of Resolution No. 1 pending an amendment of Section 2 part 4, taking the 5.5 percent interest rate down to 5 percent, seconded by Mr. Anderson. Mr. Riggs requested Board Leadership to ensure an

Pension Bond update is on the agenda for every meeting until October. Ms. del Rocio requested to connect this exploration to our larger explorations around PERS and revenue options. The motion passed in a vote of 6-1 (in favor: Ms. Christopher, Mr. Riggs, Ms. del Rocio, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Larsen, and Ms. Valderrama) (opposed: Ms. Stephens)

Ms. Christopher moved up Agenda Item 10 - Discipline Practice Presentation.

Discipline Practice Presentation – Andy Long, Director of K-12 Education and Florence Protopapas, Secondary Special Education Assistant Administrator. Mr. Long reported that our ultimate goal is to have students that are productive citizens and graduate from David Douglas. He said our systems and policies would not be effective if we do not have the right attitude. In David Douglas, our students come first, we create a safe and positive culture in each of our schools, we pride ourselves on forming relationships based on trust and mutual respect that allows us the gift of influence over time, and we believe in our students and never, ever give up on them. Mr. Long stated that we pride ourselves on our Student Conduct policy around this which states; the objectives of disciplining any student must be to help the student develop a positive attitude toward self-discipline, realize the responsibility of one's actions, and to maintain a productive learning environment. Mr. Long informed the Board of our Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook which was developed by administrators and teachers and includes general expectations and a system of consequences designed to correct student misconduct and promote acceptable behavior. This handbook is communicated with families at the beginning of the year and posted on our website. Our Student Discipline policy says the major objectives of the district discipline program are to teach the following fundamental concepts for living; understanding and respect for individual rights, dignity and safety, understanding and respect for the law, Board policies, administrative regulations and school rules, and understanding and respect for public and private property rights.

Ms. Protopapas stated that creating a positive culture in our schools is the foundation of setting up classrooms and building relationships with our students. We achieve this through a lens of expectations. It's important that teachers set up clear expectations by setting up routines, procedures, and making sure students know why they are here. Another key component to setting up our systems is teaching. We need to teach students what we expect, work on re-enforcing the behaviors that we want to see more of, and spend time re-teaching expectations. Teachers also work on correcting behaviors and set up their own in class systems on how they do this, which could include time out forms, a buddy classroom, and daily communication with parents. Another way we correct behaviors is using a minor referral for classroom managed behaviors and a major referral for office managed behaviors. She referred the board to the Referral Procedure Flowchart with definitions to help teachers determined which referral to use.

Mr. Long presented the Elementary and Secondary Discipline Matrix for Major Behaviors which comes from the Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Administrators use this as a guide but also use their judgement to make the most reasonable decision. The consistent piece of this matrix is conferring with the student and working with the family. Mr. Long stated that in regards to suspensions, it's always our goal to keep students in school. In-school suspensions for elementary are either in the office or a buddy classroom and secondary is in different locations with a staff member for supervision. For out-of-school suspensions, step 5 on our Suspension Policy is very important to our administrative team because it's where the re-entry of the student happens. This is where we designate a plan to help support the student to re-enter back into the school safely.

Ms. Protopapas reported that both the minor and major referrals are meant to be a form of communication. The goal is to make sure the building leadership team and staff understand what is happening in their building. She explained the documentation process of entering the referrals into

our information system called Synergy. Some of this information goes to Oregon Department of Education. We also use another information system called SWIS, which allows us analyze the data in a simple format. This data is then used to make decisions. We look at all incidents at least four times a year with all of our staff, and each building has a behavior team who looks at data school-wide on a monthly basis. Ms. Protopapas referred the Board to the three tiered flowchart for behavior support. Mr. Long said we still have work to do and the big one is to continue to address student disparities.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Mr. Richardson extended a welcome to our new Director of Student Services, Mary Pearson. He updated the Board on construction projects going on in the District. The District Office construction is going fine with no issues. The Alice Ott Middle School construction is going day by day with the last update saying they were on schedule. Mr. Richardson reminded the Board of the request from the City of Portland for an easement on our Deardoff property, and the Hansen building on 122nd Glisan being identified as surplus. Ms. Komar attended a public meeting and communicated our interest in buying the Hansen building and a follow-up letter was sent to the county leadership. Mr. Richardson shared that it was communicated with classified leadership that we're planning to change payroll. We currently are on monthly payroll and we are going to twice a month due to a possibility of being out of compliance with too many days between pay dates. He said we are looking at a possible lease of our Elks property for a construction company. Mr. Richardson recognized all the programming that's happening in our schools. At the high school there is around 430 students showing up for SUN School, Summer School, and Credit Recovery. Food is being served at every elementary school and most of our middle schools. There were over 414 breakfasts and over 5,000 lunches served for the month of June. July projections are well over 10,000 breakfasts and 20,000 lunches.

Financial Report – Ms. Komar reported that the ending fund balance in the General Fund is higher than projected. The County notified us they are expecting a payment of almost \$40 million from the Comcast settlement. Of that share, we have about \$550,000 anticipated coming due which will bring up our local revenues for 2018-19.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Anderson moved approval of the following Consent Agenda items, seconded by Ms. Larsen. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- Approval of June Board Meeting Minutes
- Personnel Recommendations
- Contract Approvals for 2018-19
- Purchase Approvals for 2018-19
- Approval for Lease of Training Space at Menlo Park Plaza

Superintendent's 2017-18 Evaluation – Ms. Christopher turned it over to the previous Board Chair, Ms. Larsen to present the evaluation. Ms. Larsen reported that by law and policy we are required to do an evaluation each year. Our policy states that the beginning of the year is where the goal setting happens. In June the Board discusses the goals to determine whether they were met or not met. In July the Board Chair submits the formal summary to the Superintendent of the three general goal areas. Ms. Larsen said we had a really good year and made some really good progress on the goals. Ms. del Rocio said there is benefit in having a very simplified instruction sheet where he is meeting all expectations but this does not capture all the ways Mr. Richardson has gone above and beyond in being very responsive to new Board members, willing to have difficult conversations, and trying new things. For a common goal and vision, Ms. del Rocio appreciates Mr. Richardson taking the time to meet with all Board members and feels he is establishing a really positive culture of collaboration. Ms. Stephens said as a new Board member she appreciates Mr. Richardson for going

above and beyond, and for always responding immediately to her questions. The respect between him and his Cabinet is very clear. She feels very supported and appreciates his enthusiasm and optimism. She stated he is always a positive person to be around. Ms. Christopher thanked Mr. Richardson and stated the Superintendent Evaluation is one of the two biggest responsibilities they have but he made the job easy this year.

Other Business / Future Agenda Items

Mr. Richardson requested approval from the board to move forward with a request from a construction company to use the Elks parking lot as a place to stage equipment and materials. The consensus of the Board was to move forward.

Ms. Komar presented the following business items for Board Approval. Ms. Larsen moved approval of the two items, seconded by Mr. Riggs. The motion carried in a vote of 7-0.

- Amended Resolution to the 2018-19 Budget
- Additional Purchasing Approvals and Contract Approvals for 2018-19

Board Member Reports

Ms. del Rocio apologized for not being able to attend the last scheduled Equity Committee meeting due to a personal crisis. She attended the OSBA Board of Directors meeting as part of her role as co-president of the newly formed School Board Members of Color Caucus. A lot of what they are doing is the best in the state, and is a great opportunity to share our best practices statewide and have a wider impact than just beyond our neighborhood. Ms. del Rocio said they were successful in petitioning OSBA to allocate \$40,000 for that caucus so we'll be working to build power for new School Board members of color and figure out how to best advocate for children of all underrepresented backgrounds.

Ms. Christopher reported that on Tuesday July 17th, IRCO is having a discussion of the 102nd Pacifica project that Prosper Portland is presenting. She said she was officially signed in as a member of the 'A Home for Everyone' Commission. They have work groups and she will see what will best benefit the District. Ms. Christopher said the new affordable housing on 105th is taking applications for residents with 16 units being set aside for homeless.

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



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk