

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
February 28, 2019**

A Board Workshop of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 6:30pm in the David Douglas School District Board Room, 1500 SE 130th Ave, Portland, OR 97233.

School Board Members present were: Frieda Christopher, Board Chair; Andrea Valderrama, Vice Chair; Bryce Anderson, Donna Barber, and Christine Larsen.

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.

Board Workshop Topic: Student Safety

The intent of this Board Workshop was to bring together parents, students, staff, and community to have a conversation and share their perspective about student safety with our David Douglas School Board members. Each table included 1-2 Board members and the following questions were raised.

1. What do you see as the best strategies, programs, to ensure our students are safe?

- There was a discussion of what is currently in place such as:
 - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), fire drills, security badges, Student Resource Officer (SRO), making sure water and buildings are safe, and building relationships with parents and students.
- Trauma informed practices especially at the classified level.
- Addressing issues immediately and conflict resolution.
- Discussion of students being traumatized or hurt by other students and safety of staff.
 - There needs to be more support for staff and teachers for out of control students.
 - How do you break up fights without teachers getting hurt?
 - Where is the legal department to interpret the law?
 - What are the repercussions when a student threatens another student?
 - Discipline Matrix was referenced in regard to where does attempted murder fall?
 - Lack of structure in the classroom – students out of control and using vulgar language.
- Visitors have to be buzzed in.
- At the high school safety officers work both outside and inside.
- National and social context of violence and gun control impact our students.
- Built in Physical Activity for students – exercise is really important to help them.
- Remove sugar as a reward or incentive.
- LGBTQ family inclusion.

2. What support services do you think we need to prioritize for our kids to ensure a safe school environment?

- There was a discussion of what is currently in place such as:
 - Student Behavior Specialist and increased PBIS.
 - Behavior intervention plan –understanding what is motivating the behavior and coming up with solutions.
- Restorative justice/discipline. Demilitarize police.
- Early learning and social-emotional curriculum.
- Mental health interventions and support. Classroom behavior breaks.
- High school social media was discussed in regards to bullying. Need support for bullied students in all levels.
- Need more consistent and policy based training for staff across the District.
- Need more training for classified Instructional Assistants dealing with special needs students.
- Need more consistency and structure across schools.
- Curriculum needs to be consistent across the buildings.
- Provide support services for parents. Western discipline is different than Eastern.
- Provide support for students entering at upper classmen level.
- Be mindful of the constant overturn due to poverty and lack of rent control. Lives are unstable so schools should be constant.
- Where is a parents place to turn on a consistent basis? There needs to be a common person that is not just connected to the school.
- Play Works, art work around the schools, mentors, sensory break areas, and transgender education.

- Work on empowering student to deal with other kids.

3. How would you prioritize student safety & well-being in our school District?

- Discussion on active shooter drills.
- Permanent police officer in school.
- Block house in lieu of Counselor. Safe place for students to go.
- Need more early intervention for mental health/counselors.
- Very limited visuals around the schools and in classrooms are represented of the current student backgrounds.
- Support families at home.
- Empowering students, parents, and teachers.
- Social well-being has equal priority with academics.
- Having empathy and celebrating differences.
- Need a lot of parent involvement.
- SROs
 - Like having their presence in the school. They deter a lot of issues.
 - Promotes positive interaction and connection with adults and students.
 - Protects students from everything coming into the schools.
 - OK to help kids but not arrest them.
 - Would rather see SROs with guns than teachers.
 - Can we begin with the supportive system and honoring student voice vs. the need to having armed SROs?

4. Do you and your children feel safe in our schools? Why/why not?

- Lots of students are acting out and have behavior issues.
- Schools are keeping students safe by alerting parents to incidents.
- Issues at home are brought into the schools. Kids feel safe when they know adults will listen.
- Physical safety vs. cultural/emotional safety.
- Not always physically safe at the high school because of open campus.
- How does staff balance between protecting and communicating with one student vs. disciplining/addressing the other student?
- There is no one to turn to in regards to social media incidents.
 - Parents don't know what to do when their student gets bullied online.
 - Have gone to counselor but feels it gets swept under the rug.
 - Even if school fixes it, students spread it like wildfire on social media.
- Surprised at how many students have Wi-Fi password for school.
- Need more restorative practices and conflict resolutions.
- Don't feel safe because there are cops around.
- Would rather call SROs instead of general officers.
- Discipline is always the school's responsibility, not SROs.

At the conclusion of the meeting, an exit ticket was handed out with the following questions:

- Do you have any questions you were not able to ask?
- Do you have any topics you feel should have been discussed?
- Would you like follow-up on anything discussed?
- Do you have any feedback you feel we should know?



Frieda Christopher, Board Chair



Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk