

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
September 9, 2021**

A regular Board Meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00pm in the David Douglas School District Boardroom at 1500 SE 130th Ave, Portland, OR 97233.

School Board Members present were: Stephanie D. Stephens, Board Chair; Donna Barber, Vice Chair; Aaron Barrow, Frieda Christopher, Andrea Valderrama, and Hoa Nguyen.

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; Taye Spears, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Laurie Brunelle, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Native American Land Acknowledgement

Student Body President Report - Larissa Antunez, First Vice President reported on the following high school activities.

- The first football game is scheduled for Friday.
- Focusing on events: promoting football games, planning a field day and announcing the Homecoming theme in the upcoming week.
- The first Student Council class is tomorrow. The Freshman President will be chosen soon.

Public Comment – No Public Comment

Multnomah County Health Presentation - Dr. Ann Loeffler, Deputy Health Officer and Jessica Guernsey, Public Health Director provided a Multnomah County Public Health COVID-19 Update. The following information was provided.

- Oregon's EPI curve COVID-19 cases: Total cases 281,513
- Multnomah County: Lowest case rate in the State - new cases 143.
- Pediatric COVID-19: what did we know before the Delta Variant?
 - Children were less likely to be: Infected with SARs CoV-2, be very sick when infected, and transmit to others.
- In the context of the Delta Variant. Children are increasingly likely to be:
 - Infected with SARS CoV-2 and hospitalized if infected in large numbers.
 - It is unclear how much this is related to the rest of the population being vaccinated.
- Children can: tolerate masks, participate in other mitigation efforts, and attend school and day care.
- Pediatric COVID-19 case counts have increased dramatically since July 2021.
- Vaccination rates: Multnomah County is 68% vaccinated.
- Updates to school guidance: we are recommending many precautions above and beyond ODE.
 - No masks off indoors unless eating - 6 feet apart.
 - Seating charts everywhere: busses, classrooms, lunchtime.
 - No indoor sports without masks.
 - No indoor choir or wind and brass instruments.
- Masking: masks remain on when indoors at all times unless the child is eating.
 - Students should maintain at least 3 feet distance from others.
 - Multnomah County recommends students wear masks outdoors.
- School mealtimes: lower risk in outdoor setting.
 - Recommend 6 feet apart with masks off.
- Athletics and other activities: move all activities outdoors if possible and mask when not actively competing or scrimmaging.
- After school programming: maintain essential daycare/aftercare programs with safety precautions in place.
- Buses and transportation: discourage carpools and keep windows open on school buses when possible.
 - Have a 3 feet distance seating plan and consider having a monitor on buses.
 - Mask wearing and assigned seating.

- Quarantines for the unvaccinated: a quarantine chart was provided.
- School closures are decided by the school district with input by the local public health authority.
- Dr. Loeffler provided answers to previously submitted questions by the Board and allowed time for any additional questions and comments.

Public Hearing - A recess was called in order for Ms. Komar to conduct a public hearing on the Student Investment Account Annual Report. There was no public comment as no members of the public appeared.

Approval of Student Investment Account Annual Report – Ms. Christopher moved approval of the Student Investment Account Annual Report, seconded by Mr. Barrow. The motion approved in a vote of 6-0.

Recognition - National Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month - Ms. Stephens recognized National Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month which begins on September 15th. The reading of the Proclamation is being delayed until the October meeting where we will receive a report of the celebrations, activities, and events that have taken place throughout the District.

Board Vacancy Meet and Greet – Community members interested in the open Board position were provided time to ask questions directly to our School Board. Deian Salazar, John Flaherty, James Howerton-Smith, and Gabriela Saldana-Lopez joined the meeting. The full question/answer session is located in the David Douglas Board Meeting Archives.

- What are the qualities of an effective Board member?
 - The ability to work together and listen to multiple perspectives to make the best decision possible.
 - Cannot come in with a personal agenda. You have to think about all of the kids and staff.
 - Be conscious of the fact that this is a district of education and everybody needs to be a learner.
 - Value student and parent voice.
 - Being open and willing to study the community to make the best choices.
 - It's essential to understand the district, community, students, families, staff, and partners.
 - Being prepared, committed, and present.
 - Working as a team.
 - Trusting your fellow Board members.
 - Realize you are the official voice of the community.
- What is the true time dedication?
 - Time varies: 10-20 hours per month but depends on what you can give.
 - Board members have other committees they serve on.
 - Receiving continuous emails and updates. Your radar is always on.
- What are the current issues you are working on that you are passionate about and makes you excited?
 - Connecting the community to the school district and volunteering in the schools.
 - Board Liaisons to individual schools.
 - Making a difference.
 - Equity work.
 - Working with a high functioning Board team.
 - Collaborative work and being deliberate about including all voices.
 - Board meeting information and presentations are interesting.
 - Learning what we are capable of and where the gaps are.
 - Continuing to lift up priorities.
 - Continue to ask and to hold accountability.
- How are you engaging constituents and addressing concerns during the pandemic?
 - Administration takes the lead on parent and community engagement.
 - Accessibility and communication: important to meet the community where they are and providing translators and interpreters.
 - Deliberate about being in the community and schools: talking and listening.
 - The engagement around Student Investment Account activity gave an opportunity to hear what the community wants us to prioritize. Thinking about how to reengage.
 - Being accessible, available, and approachable.
 - Keeping up on social media to know what families are talking about.
- Bargaining process.
 - It varies by leadership in the Union.
 - This can be an extreme time commitment.

- Staff and teachers are an important asset and feel supported by the Board.
- Have to trust the leadership team.
- Employees are essential and it's important to honor their work. It's important to engage them as a partner in the decision making.
- What is necessary to increase and expand the support with our BIPOC youth and community: health care expansion and special education?
 - We have recognized we need to diversify our staff.
 - Using grant funds for a Grow Your Own Program to educate classified staff who want to be teachers.
 - Every child should receive a quality education and get the supports they need.
 - A Racial Equity Plan, Racial Equity Policy and Strategic Plan was created which has specific goals and metrics.
 - We have work to do on special education: new challenges due to the pandemic.
 - Social emotional health: grant for trauma informed practices.

Consent Agenda – Ms. Valderrama moved approval of the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Ms. Christopher. Ms. Stephens clarified that the easement request is on Floyd Light property which is in the Mill Park neighborhood. The motion approved in a vote of 6-0.

- Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes
- Personnel Recommendations
- Contract and Purchasing Approvals
- Approval of Sole Source Purchase/s
- Approval of Easement Request at Mill Park

Bond Update – Mr. Richardson provided the following update.

- We have a Bond Consultant: Jeremy Wright Consulting.
- Next week's communication.
 - Reaffirmation that we are going out for a Bond per the Board's decision.
 - Bond 101: What is a Bond?
 - Open call for a Bond Development Committee. We will be recruiting.
- Meeting as an executive team with the consultant every other Thursday.
- Reaffirming and connecting with architect firms. They will help with the community engagement piece.
- Development of a full communication plan.
 - What does this look like and how do we continue to roll it out.
- Final piece is the narrative.
 - Communicating with our community where we're at and what are needs are.

Inter-District Transfer Recap – Ms. Wallace reported on the Inter-District Transfer Recap as of 9/1/21. This is the first year the Board has approved to accept and release all students without a cap on the amount.

- 116 students were approved into the District.
 - 86 continuing students.
 - 30 new students.
- 149 students who were previously on Inter-District Transfers were renewed for the 2021-22 school year.
- We denied 1 incoming new senior due to: new seniors are not accepted under Inter-District Transfers. This has since been approved.
- 134 students were released out of the District.
 - 80 continuing students.
 - 54 new students.

Opening/Enrollment Update – Mr. Richardson provided the following information.

- At this time we are 3 days in and enrollment is mostly on paper. Weekly updates will be sent out.
- Mr. Richardson recognized and thanked the staff for all the hard work in making it a special opportunity for our students to come back and re-engage.
- The first week back for staff: care and connect calls were made to families.
 - Building relationships before students came back.
- Every building had a staggered start and the feedback was great.
- Enrollment:

- Elementary school and middle school enrollment is down.
- High School enrollment is up.
- New this year: Online School.
- ELD numbers are in the middle.
- The Board asked questions and share their comments/personal experience around the opening of schools.
- The Online School program has doubled. There is no waiting list at this time.
- We've developed a system and reopening plan around ODE and OSAA recommendations.
 - Multnomah County has provided their new recommendations for school guidance. We are trying to navigate these new recommendations.
- Vaccination clinic open every Wednesday from 2:40-4:40pm at our School-Based Health Clinic.
- Lunch time seating charts.
 - Elementary and middle school have seating charts.
 - High school does not have seating charts. Staff is monitoring the mask requirement and they are opening up to the outdoors as much as possible.

Lead Testing Update – Ms. Komar provided the following information.

- A faucet was replaced at Gilbert Heights Elementary and tested under 15 ppb.

Committee Updates – No updates.

Financial Report – Ms. Komar provided the following information.

- State Revenue update was presented at the end of August.
 - Revenues were higher than previously projected.
- State School Fund was passed at just under \$9.3 billion which is lower than we had anticipated.
- Statewide ADMw: State's projection is 703,000 - the prior year was 709,000.
- Our ADMw is slightly lower. 11,717 was the projection for the 20-21 ending ADMw.
- Maintenance of Effort requirement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: requires us to spend the same amount or more each year for special education students.
 - Exceptions: voluntary departure/retirement, decrease in enrollment, termination of the obligation of a high cost student, and termination of costly expenditures.
 - We anticipate being \$600,000 short. This number may change due to MESD's final numbers.
- Notified: the State is going out to bid for the Early Intervention Early Childhood Special Education program.
- General Fund: beginning balance \$18.7 million. Estimate \$15.2 million ending balance.
- Technology Fund: anticipate the funds to be negative \$42,000.
 - Submitted a reimbursement for e-rate. We anticipate the payment will be \$101,000.
- Nutrition Services Fund: covered the overage from our ESSER grants fund.
 - Notified of available relief benefits.
- Transportation Replacement Fund: returned buses due to quality issues.
- Grants Fund: \$4 million ending fund balance.
- Insurance Fund: ending fund balance is \$72,000 which will be rolled forward.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Richardson provided the following information.

- Acknowledged we are having difficulties with staffing throughout our District.
 - We need to use proactive thinking and creative ways to be an employer of choice model.
- Received feedback from the community about the Elks property.
 - A homeless camp surrounds the property on the sidewalk. We do not have the authority to move this.
 - A Solve cleanup is being planned.
- Reminder of: House Bill 3294 Menstrual Dignity Act.
- New policy is coming to the Board regarding a bus pass program.



Stephanie D. Stephens, Board Chair



Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk