

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
February 10, 2022**

A Virtual Board meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 7:00pm.

School Board members present via virtual meeting were: Stephanie D. Stephens, Board Chair; Donna Barber, Vice Chair; Aaron Barrow, Frieda Christopher, Hoa Nguyen, and Gabriela Saldana-Lopez.

Also present via virtual meeting were: Ken Richardson, Superintendent/Clerk; Candy Wallace, Assistant Superintendent; Patt Komar, Director of Administrative Services; Kelly Devlin, Director of ESL & Equity; Brooke O'Neill, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Mary Pearson, Director of Student Services; Andy Long, Director of PK-12 Education; Taya 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 – Aspen Pearce reported on the following high school activities.

- Scot's Angels Fundraiser: over \$10,000 has been raised.
- ComuniCare Project: 14 Non Profit organizations applied and four or five will be chosen for an interview.
 - The goal is to raise up to \$750 for the CommuniCare foundation who will match it by ten.
 - If goal is met, \$15,000 will be given out to the chosen organizations.
- Presidential Council: 1st meeting is scheduled for March 9th.
- Next week: opening Scot's Shop which will sell apparel.

Public Comment

- Lucas Gonzalez, district resident
 - The Deardorff property in relation to the 2022 bond proposal.
 - Request to build a school in an urban forest that develops future generations to have respect for the environment.
- Heather Franklin, district parent
 - Advocating for equitable and student-centered literacy practices.
 - Request to audit and correct practices in accordance with the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

Multnomah County Public Health Presentation - Jessica Guernsey, Public Health Director and Dr. Ann Loeffler, Deputy Health Officer presented on the COVID-19 schools update. They provided the following information.

- Covid-19 public health goals.
 - Prevent severe illness and death utilizing a racial equity lens.
 - Help relieve pressure on healthcare and hospitals.
 - Keep kids in school.
- Omicron Variant: what everyone should know.
 - Vaccines provide strong protection against severe disease.
 - Other actions to slow the spread: wear a high quality mask indoors and stay home if you are sick.
 - Unique in its level of immune evasion and is less severe than prior variants.
 - The number of people getting severely ill is lower.
 - In Oregon cases have declined by 50% since the peak on January 21.
 - Hospitalizations are still increasing in some parts of the state.
 - Community disruption due to widespread isolation and quarantine in essential roles.
- Omicron Variant: Changes in our approach.
 - Highlights the importance of boosters and all doses of COVID vaccines.
 - Increasing share of COVID tests will be at-home.
 - Prompted a revision of public health tools.
- Quarantine and isolation change for schools.
 - Close contacts will not need to quarantine if they meet specific criteria.
 - Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or symptoms, must isolate.
- Statewide mask mandate.
 - The Governor announced the school mask mandate will end March 31. Decisions about mask requirements will be made at the county level after that date.

- The variant poses very little risk to school aged kids and much of the community is vaccinated.
- Hierarchy of masks: N95, Kn95, surgical and cloth. Cloth masks should be tightly woven and two layers.
- Multnomah County will come out with a policy or recommendation in regards to masks in school.
- BA.2 is a Sub variant of Omicron which seems to be not as dangerous and may have more immune evasion.
- Vaccinations may be available within the next six weeks for children ages 6 month - 5 years.

REAP and Floyd Light Middle School - Doug Pease, Principal and Kate Houston, Youth Essentials Coordinator of REAP joined students: Hannah Sesay, Berlin Martinez, Eman Muhammed, Brian Odom, and Christine Dushimirimana. Ms. Houston shared that she empowers her students to learn, find their voice, and advocate for their needs. Each one of the students had a chance to share their testimony.

- Brian recited the Mission Statement: REAP's mission is to proactively ignite, elevate, and engage the next wave of leaders for the future now.
- Hannah: ensure students can learn in a supporting and caring environment without the fear of being bullied.
 - Improvement suggestions: more staff patrolling the hallways and more cameras installed.
- Berlin: transportation impacts to students.
 - Students need a safe mode of transportation to and from school.
 - No money to use public transportation. Request for free or discounted bus passes for students.
- Eman: believes the school should do more and try to stop or decrease bullying
 - Train staff to prevent bullying and have check-ups on students weekly or monthly.
 - Teachers should discuss the effects and topics of bullying.
- Christine: how to prevent physical bullying.
 - We need more staff members working inside and outside of the school premises.
 - Have teachers talk more about things students should say or do to others.
- Mr. Pease: students' concerns are taken very seriously.
 - The Equity Team has been addressing concerns since the beginning of the year.
 - Updates and feedback could be given to students in their advisory class.
- Mr. Richardson: ensure follow-up and follow through with students and making sure they have a safe space.

Proclamation – Black History Month – Ms. Spears and Etema Banks, African American Student Liaison joined Black Student Union students: Asha Barber, Kaleab Bekele, and Awek De Piok in celebration of Black History Month.

- Ms. Spears reported that the Staff of Color planning team selected the importance of mental health in the African American community as this year's theme.
- Ms. Banks announced the Grand Opening of the We See You Center which is a new multi-cultural center for the high school. She introduced the Black Student Union students and had them answer the following questions:
 - How do you practice self-care?
 - Asha: Listens to music and binge watches a lot of shows.
 - Kaleab: Basketball, taking time for himself, and making sure he doesn't over pack his schedule.
 - Awek: Journaling.
 - What brings you joy?
 - Asha: Talking with her older brother and sister and going to Target to buy candy.
 - Kaleab: Basketball.
 - Awek: Journaling and family.
 - What does having a black studies class mean to you?
 - Asha: It means a lot to her and she is satisfied with the class. They have deeper discussions and talk about people in Oregon that they don't know about.
 - Kaleab: This is his favorite class and he likes the curriculum. It's comforting to see other people like him in class.
 - Awek: It means a lot to her as she was the only Black girl in her class from elementary to high school. Enjoys being in the same class with kids who have had the same experiences as her.
- Ms. Stephens read the Black History Month Proclamation.

Recognition – Lunar New Year – Ms. Devlin provided a slide deck recognizing Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year began on February 1st. The slide deck provided the following information.

- Countries that celebrate Lunar New Year: China, Vietnam, Korea, and Tibet.
- 1344 students in our District identify as Asian.
- Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices.

- Educator's attitude and knowledge of a student's life.
- Year of the Tiger traditions and customs: fireworks, lion dance, pagoda family gatherings, and lucky red envelope.
- Pictures of our DDSD students participating in Lunar New Year celebration events throughout the district.

Consent Agenda – Ms. Christopher moved approval of the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Ms. Saldana-Lopez. The motion approved in a vote of **6-0**.

- Approval of January 13th Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January 27th Board Meeting Minutes
- Personnel Recommendations
- Contract and Purchasing Approvals
- Adoption of MESD Programs and Services for 2022-2023
- Approval of Contract for Menlo HVAC Project

Calendar Revision – Ms. Wallace brought forward an adjusted master calendar for 2022-23. The staff was allowed to cast their vote on two different calendars with revisions. The calendar with the following revisions was chosen.

- Aligns our spring break schedule with Oregon colleges and universities.
- Allows us to observe New Year's Day on January 2nd.
- Moves the teacher's last day to the 20th after Juneteenth.

Ms. Barber moved approval of the revised calendar, seconded by Ms. Christopher. The motion approved in a vote of 6-0.

Bond Update – Jeremy Wright, President of Wright Public Affairs gave the Board an update on the Bond Survey. The following information was presented.

- Methodology: A survey was conducted of 400 likely voters in the David Douglas School District.
 - Interviews were conducted January 24-27, 2022. The margin of error is 4.9%.
 - Includes data analysis to compare from a survey conducted in November 2021.
- Perceptions of school facilities from October 2021 survey.
 - 36% - good/excellent and 49% - fair/poor.
- Satisfaction with how the district spends taxpayer dollars.
 - 65% - very satisfied/somewhat satisfied and 18% - not satisfied.
- How the district is handling the coronavirus crisis: in general the community has a positive impression.
- The Ballot language was tested in October 2021 and January 2022.
- The overall "yes" vote has held steady since October. The "yes strongly" and "no" votes have increased.
- Plain language explanation of all the things the Bond will do.
 - Slight uptick in "no" vote indicating price sensitivity.

Resolution Calling a Measure Election for General Obligation Bonds; and Related Matters – Ms. Christopher moved approval of the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Nguyen. The motion approved in a vote of 6-0.

Approval of Increased Capital Expenditures from ESSER Funds – Ms. Christopher moved approval of the Increase Capital Expenditures from ESSER Funds, seconded by Mr. Barrow. The motion approved in a vote of 6-0.

Board Policy – Second Reading – Ms. Stephens moved approval of the following policies, seconded by Ms. Nguyen. The motion approved in a vote of 6-0.

- Policy IJ (Instruction) – School Counseling Program
- Policy LBEA (Community Relations) – Resident Student Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Attendance

Board Policy – First Reading

- Policy AC (Board Governance) – Nondiscrimination
- Policy GBA (Personnel) – Equal Employment Opportunity
- Policy GBEA (Personnel) – Workplace Harassment
- Policy GBNA/JHFF (Personnel/Students) – Reporting Requirements for Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students
- Policy IB (Instruction) – Freedom of Expression
- Policy IGBHA (Instruction) – Alternative Education Programs
- Policy IGBI (Instruction) – Bilingual Education
- Policy GBNAB/JHFE (Personnel/Students) – Suspected Abuse of a Child Reporting Requirements

- Policy IKFB (Instruction) – Graduation Exercises
- Policy KGBB (Community Relations) – Firearms Prohibited

Discussion of language changes for Policy IKFB – Graduation Exercises.

- Questioning the language “In good standing” and the explanation to accompany it.
 - Sounds punitive using the graduation exercise as a form of discipline. Can create long term trauma.
 - This language could be somewhat subjective. Suggestion to change the definition of “in good standing”.
 - Determine if the graduation ceremony is the natural conclusion of the successful completion of academic work or if it’s a privilege/bonus to participate.
 - Making sure there are consequences to actions.
 - For disciplinary issues: request input from the high school principals.

Board Liaison and Committee Reports

- Ms. Nguyen reported: She attended a Regional Equity Team meeting on January 11th.
 - Discussion: who inspires you in your equity work and how are you doing with your equity work?
 - Also discussed race, ethnicity, and culture.
 - The next meeting is being held on March 8th.

Financial and Investment Report – Ms. Komar provided the following information.

- General Fund: projected ending fund balance is ticking up.
 - Data collection could affect this: high cost disability.
- SAIFE (Small Area Income Poverty Estimator) question from last month.
 - Why is our poverty ADMw declining but we are eligible for CEP for student meals?
 - The calculations are done on a look back to the prior December and differs from the directly certified meals and CEP program explained in the financial report.
- Investment Report: cash and investment balances are at \$60 million at the end of December 2021.
- State Local Government Investment Pool: interest rates are going down.

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

- Revenue forecast is up for the State of Oregon.
 - General fund and lottery revenues are up \$1.173 billion.
 - Personal kicker doubled to \$954 million and corporate kicker is up 150% at \$630 million.
 - The economy is up and we will continue to talk about the quality education model.
- Budget season and looking at projections.
 - Enrollment: we are projecting a decline again for next year.
 - Conducted 8 listening sessions and received 627 survey responses. Currently going through data.
- February 24th Board workshop/meeting around the charter school renewal process which will include a hearing.
- Youth Truth: data is in and we are currently going through it and using it.
- Masking update: OHA announced the masking mandate indoors will be ending anytime from now to March 31st.
 - Confusion: for schools it will not end before March 31st.
 - School districts have a choice of what they will do as a district after March 31st.
 - In March we can determine what we will do as a district.
 - By the end of March hospitalizations are projected to go down.
 - ODE and OHA are strongly recommending we continue with masks through the end of the year.
 - Staff and students on school buses must continue to wear masks.
 - ODE Predicts: if we move away from masks we will see an increase in COVID cases.
 - Multnomah County: if we move away from masks, contact tracing rules return.
 - HB 4404 Limited Liability related to COVID 19: if we follow the emergency rules, we have liability coverage. ODE and OHA are recommending masks, if we don’t wear them we may not have coverage.
 - We will be asking for input and direction from the Board as we move forward.
- Graduations are planning for in-person: David Douglas High School on June 9th. Fir Ridge Campus on June 10th.



Stephanie D. Stephens, Board Chair



Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk