Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
February 12, 2026

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 6:00pm in the David Douglas School District Boardroom, 1500 SE 130th Ave, Portland, OR 97233.

School Board members present were: Heather Franklin, Board Chair; José Gamero-Georgeson, Board Vice Chair, Althea Ender, Sara Epstein, Muriel Jordan, Stephanie D. Stephens, and Thomas Stephenson.

Also present were: Ken Richardson, Superintendent/Clerk; Andy Long, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Patt Komar, Director of Administrative Services; Brooke O'Neill, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Florence Protopapas, Director of Student Services; Aide Juarez Valerio, Director of Communications, Family Engagement & Strategic Partnerships, and Laurie Brunelle, Board Secretary.

The agenda included consideration of the following:

Call to Order / Native American Land Acknowledgement

Student Body President Report – Jacob Hall provided the following high school activities.

- Hosted a Mt. Hood Conference ASB Meeting: discussed leadership demographics and student representation.
- Scot's Angels Assembly: introduced Tucker and raising money from raffle tickets, miracle minute, and coin drive.
- Schnitzer Care: connecting with non-profits that honor their mission statement: non-profits to interview.
- Winter Formal: fun, highly attended, and lots of music.

DDEA Comment - Full comments are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives.
Alice Eberharter, President expressed a belated School Board Appreciation Month which was in January.

- Referenced the Lay of the Land slide deck that was shared with the Board: setting the tone for bargaining.
- Bargaining sessions will be open again this year: appreciated the tone and questions in last night's session.

OSEA Chapter 40 Comment - Full comments are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives.
Tiffany Hoofnagle, Treasurer reported on the importance of the classified staff and last year's budget impacts.

- As licensed bargaining begins: request to keep in mind the critical role classified staff play in supporting students, teachers, schools, and our community.

Black History Month - Floyd Light Middle School: Ali Feuerstein, Vice Principal**,** Andy Tran Nguyen, Campus Security Monitor and Craig Brown, ISS Monitor provided the following information.

- Shared a slide deck highlighting the Black Panther Party: year they were founded, community focus, key members, community survival programs, and economics.
- It was also shared how the district builds on the work of the Black Panthers.

Consent Agenda – Ms. Stephens moved approval of the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Mr. Stephenson. The motion approved in a vote of 6-0 (Ms. Ender was not available for the vote).

- Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes
- Contract and Purchasing Approvals
- Approval of an Easement for PGE and Floyd Light Middle School
- Approval of MESD Local Service Plan for 2026-2027

Analysis for New Pension Obligation Bond – Discussion – Ms. Komar provided the following information.

- The Oregon Association of School Business Officials (OSABO) is looking at how many districts would be interested in going out for another pension bond: part of the process is to do an analysis.
- A Piper Sandler analysis for 18-24 months would cost $35,00-$50,000: cost split among participating districts.
- Update on current Pension Obligation Bond Side Account.
    - Our side account will expire sooner rather than later due to: reduction in principal, adding employees at MECP, and large payroll growths: anticipated expiration: between October-February 2026.
    - Once it's depleted, PERS will move the PERS rate to the school rate: which will increase.
- A summary of the side account rate credits and Pension Obligation Bond savings was shared.
- Mr. Richardson shared the 2026-27 anticipated shortfall projections.
- Board members were able to ask questions and provide their thoughts and opinions. The full discussion is located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives.

Black History Month – Gilbert Park Elementary School: Luan Nguyen, Principal, Kaity Wu, Teacher, and students Nia'Myiah Youngblood and Ocean Coleman provided the following information.

- Shared how they celebrate Black History Month with morning announcements about leaders and art projects.
- Established the Black Student Union (BSU) this year for 4th and 5th grade students.
    - Both students shared the importance of BSU and what it means to them.

Lunar New Year - Ron Russell Middle School: Leanna Leatherbury, Teacher Carin Rosenberg, Library Media Assistant, and students Braylon Nacoste, Osman Dogo, and Hawan Fanta provided the following information.

- Shared a slide deck highlighting their Student Equity Group, who celebrates Lunar Year along with how, where, and why it's celebrated: included Portland celebrations and a variety of student books.

Black History Month Proclamation and Recognition of Lunar New Year – The Board shared in the reading of the Black History Month Proclamation and Ms. Stephens recognized Ramadan.

Strategic Plan Update - Ms. Juarez Valerio provided the following information.

- An update was provided on the process of the plan: we are still in Phase I and transitioning into Phase II.
    - Phase I: we are still coding the data gathered from the Board workshop.
    - A visual of the pillars were provided: equity is the foundation in every pillar.
        - Added: High Quality & Diverse Teachers and Leaders.
    - Phase II: community engagement will take place from February – May.
        - Families, students, staff, and community partners.
        - First family focus group: Family Ambassadors on February 24th.

Approval of District Calendar for 2026-27 – Mr. Long provided the following information.

- The calendar is brought to the Board early in the year so Payroll and Human Resources can shift to 2026-27.
    - Syncs with local colleges.
- Once approved: collaboration begins with the licensed union and district leadership to create leveled calendars.
    - Includes: conferences, grading days, and professional development.
    - 192 days that is measured by instructional hours.

Ms. Stephens moved approval of the District Calendar, seconded by Mr. Gamero-Georgeson. The motion approved in a vote of 7-0.

Appointment of Budget Committee Member – Position 2

- Ms. Stephens appointed Nikia Solbjor to Budget Committee Position 2.

Bond Update – Ms. Komar provided the following information.

- The CTE building is open and students are using it
- Other projects: going through closeout items and final punch list.
- Fir Ridge: received our record drawings and closing out the project.
- Ramping up for HVAC projects and summer renovations: Lincoln Park, Mill Park, Earl Boyles, and Gilbert Park.
- Next Bond Oversight Committee meeting: February 23rd.

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

- Licensed bargaining was launched last night: expressed gratitude to the entire DDEA team.
- Division 22 hours are short at the high school: in collaboration with DDEA, we have a draft solution to add time.
- Legislature meetings: communicating our story and what's happening around budget.
    - Legislature Breakfast: Legislators from Salem joined along with Board members and students.
    - County Chair Vega Pedersen: budget, supports, public health, and safety.
    - District One Portland City Council Representatives; Dunphy, Avalos, and Smith: supports and safety.
    - February 17th is the Legislative Day in Salem: participating along with some Board members.
- Bond ending and construction projects: received notification the high school track will soon need attention and our buildings with wooden trusses will need to be assessed.
- Prosper Portland update: next month.
- A community organization reached out about putting in new turf at Ron Russell Middle School.
- National School Counseling Week on February 2-6: recognized our Counselors and read a Proclamation.
- School Board Appreciation Month was January and due to our canceled Board meeting: gave a belated recognition and expressed his appreciation.
    - Read the Governor's Proclamation, provided gifts from liaison schools, a certificate, and thank you letter.

Financial Report – Ms. Komar provided the following information.

- State Revenue Forecast Update: not hearing mid-biennium reductions or mid-year reductions for this year.
- Enrollment is currently down and the ADMw is currently down from where we projected.
    - Multnomah County birth rates were shared and a 10-year enrollment forecast is coming.
- Small Area Income and Poverty Adjustment: small decline in our poverty due to the decline in district population.
- General Fund: ending balance is up from the last projection at $15.7 million.
- Nutrition Services Fund: fund balance is the same as the last projection.
    - Having problems with our central freezer: heave in the floor.
- Transportation Fund: ending fund balance went up due to postponing a purchase of buses.
- Grants Fund: increased to $3.4 million.
    - Waiting on the grant agreement with MESD for our second PCEF Grant for Lincoln Park and Gilbert Park.
    - In regards to the trusses, the State has a small grant that we plan on applying for.
- Cash and Investments: total balance is $68.3 million in December.
- Local Government Investment Pool: interest rate is still declining.

Board Policy – Second Read – Ms. Stephens moved approval of the following policy, seconded by Ms. Ender. The motion approved in a vote of 7-0.

- Policy JHCA (students) Immunization, School Sports Participation, Concussions and Other Brain Injuries

Reflections on Public Comment - Board members had a chance to give comments/feedback on what they heard during public comment. Full comments/feedback are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives.

- Enjoyed hearing from the students.

Board Liaison and Committee Reports - Full comments are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives.
Mr. Gamero-Georgeson attended the Presidential Council meeting: discussion on absenteeism and tardy policies.

- As an OSBA officer: attended a non-partisan conference in Washington DC: regarding education funding.
- OSBA's Color Caucus offers scholarships to School Board members to help pay for conferences.

Ms. Franklin attended a Continuum of Services Task Force meeting: goal of improving serving students in the district focused on middle and elementary. Will report to the Board in May.

- Opening of CTE: having amazing conversations and thanked everyone for the work put into the Fundraiser.
- Attended the "We Rise" play about lived Black experience in the Black Box Theater: incredible students.

Ms. Epstein met with Alice Ott, Gilbert Park and Ron Russell principals.

- Gilbert Park: kinder met the DIBELS goal, principal proud of equity groups, and class sizes have been eased.
- Ron Russell had an attendance engagement event.
- Providing office hours at her three liaison schools: an opportunity for the staff to talk with her.
- Attended a Legislative Brunch: underfunding.

Ms. Ender is serving as Vice Chair of OSBA's new LGBTQIA2S+ Advisory Committee: another space to support kids.
Ms. Stephens remarked on the actions students took at the high school and middle school to express how they are feeling: she is impressed in their passion and discipline and is also proud of how the district handled it.

Heather Franklin

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Heather Franklin, Board Chair

Ken Richardson

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Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk