**Meeting of the School Board**
**David Douglas School District No. 40**
**April 9, 2026**

A regular meeting of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6:00pm in the David Douglas School District Boardroom, 1500 SE 130th Ave, Portland, OR 97233.

**School Board members present were:** 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.

- Introduced Leaderson Kariuki the 26-27 Student Body President: he is honored to serve on Student Council.
- Town Hall is being held on April 10th - hosted by LSU: will include public officials and district leaders.
- Prom is being held on April 24th - theme is La La Land being held at Castaway: had a prom dress giveaway.
- Held a Spring egg hunt, crowned the Rose Princess Lydia Yihdego and raised $30,000 for Scots Angel Tucker.
- Fine Arts Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra and Symphony all took first place in league.
- Flag football team is undefeated and multiple track athletes go to the Oregon relays.
- Shared after graduation plans: attend a 4-year university out of state and study political science or biochemistry.

**Public Comment -** Full comments are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives. **Topic: staff position cuts.**

- Maryann Dunbar, district staff testified on behalf of colleagues: Paraeducator Mentors are valuable assets.
    - With their positions cut: who will answer their questions and who will be their point person.
- Collen Vala, district staff read a letter on behalf of Lincoln Park staff expressing deep concerns to staffing cuts.
- Nikki Whitton, district staff: the teacher mentor program is vital to retaining new teachers.
    - If the District receives the funds: requested to consider bringing the program back.
- Eleasha Tryon, district staff: shared her personal experiences with Student Achievement Specialists.

**Written Comment -** Full comments are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives. **Topic: staff position cuts.**

- Lauren Struzik-Landfair, district staff: encourages funding reallocation to mentor positions when budget allows.
- Theo Kline, Ann West, V Phoenix, Kenny Walker, Faith Petitmermet, Kim Whipkey, Jordan Vakselis, Heather Santos, Debby Smith, district staff: shared how the Paraeducator Mentor Program has benefitted them.

**DDEA Comment** - Full comments are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives.
Lincoln Fisher, Vice President is proud of the unity created in the last three years: improved the way they live and work.

- Staff cuts - New Teacher and Classified Mentors, SAS, and DEI TOSA: do not forget these meaningful programs.
- Inspired by immigrant rights organizations and networks: need to be in meaningful networks that affect change.

**OSEA Chapter 40 Comment** - Full comments are located in the David Douglas Board meeting archives.
Darla Black, President expressed gratitude to Cabinet and School Board as she reflected on her 11 years as President.

- She's deeply appreciative when invited to the table for important topics that affect the classified employees.
- She leaves this role proud of what's been accomplished together and hopefully for the continued progress.

**Arab-American Heritage Month** West Powellhurst Elementary: Amy Fennell, Teacher provided the following information.

- Shared a slide deck highlighting their hallway bulletin board, student's quilt project, language & history of Arab Afgans, and photos of their Dari family connection & native language read aloud.

**Autism Acceptance** Gilbert Heights Elementary: Grace Groom, Teacher provided the following information.

- Shared a slide deck highlighting an Autism introduction, a quote by Dr. Stephen Shore, along with an explanation of the diverse range of the autism spectrum.

**Arab-American Heritage Month Proclamation and Recognition of Autism Acceptance Month -** The Board shared in the reading of the Proclamation.

**Staff of Color Update -** Andreina Velasco, GYO Pathway Navigator, Craig Brown, ISS Monitor, Mel Borbon Tabarez, Instructional Assistant, and Kaity Wu, Teacher provided the following information.

- Purpose: provide space for BIPOC staff to connect, heal, and advocate for increased representation in the district's educator workspace.
- Why have a Staff of Color group: students lack educators that share their racial and cultural experiences.
    - Graphs shared of 2024-25: student population and teacher population.
    - Academic outcomes, social emotional benefits, and benefits of black students with a black teacher.
- Started in 2020: BIPOC staff organized to demand the district prioritize racial and cultural representation in hiring.
    - Demands became Freedom Dreams: student achievement, student discipline, and workplace policies.
- The accomplishments since 2020 were shared: curriculum adoption, Grow Your Own Program, Equity Teams, staff affinity spaces, bilingual stipend, trainings, and protections.
- Shared the impacts on BIPOC staff: 5.1 % growth in licensed and 9.4% growth in classified.
- Shared the priorities for 2026-27.

A recess was called in order for Mr. Burchell to conduct a public hearing on the Application for Title VI Indian Education Funds: one member of the public appeared for testimony.

**Child Development Center (CDC) Presentation** - Kristi Byfield, Early Learning Administrator, Valoree Hill, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Komar. Provided information on history, data, and budget.

- 1993: certificate of advanced mastery model was requested for high school students.
- 1994: learning program for children, experience for HS students, teen parent & community childcare.
- 1998: teen parent, high school student, and community focused: expansion and introduction to Preschool Lab.
- 2025: learning program for children, experience for HS students, teen parent & community childcare.
- Student enrollment: charts and graphs were shared from 95-96 to 25-26.
- Staffing ratios: shared a chart and graph from 1994 to 25-26.
- Budget: In 1999 the CDC was created in the budget: funding sources from then and now were shared.
    - Daily rates: a chart and graph from 97-98 to 26-27 was shared of infant/toddler and preschool.
    - ERDC's current rates: wage requirements, pay equity study, classifications, pay grades and costs.
    - 25-26 tuition revenue and budget expenditures were shared: $437,618 deficit.
    - Cost per student was shared: does not include rent, utilities, insurance or other administrative costs.
    - 2026-27: no licensed teacher cost, no administrative costs, staff are eligible for staff & COLA increase.
        - Estimated rates for 26-27: $119 per day per students.

**Inter-District Transfer Recommendations for 2026-27** – Mr. Long provided the following information.

- Per Oregon law, the Board determines the number of students we release and accept.
- The recommendation is to have no limit for students requesting into the district or out.
- In 2026-27: we will have roughly 255 students on an Inter-District Transfer renewal from previous years.

Mr. Stephenson moved approval of the Transfer Recommendations for 2026-27, seconded by Ms. Epstein. The motion approved in a vote of 5-0.

**Consent Agenda –** Ms. Jordan moved approval of the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Ms. Ender. The motion approved in a vote of 5-0.

- Approval of March 12th Board Meeting Minutes
- Contract and Purchasing Approvals

**Bond Update** – Ms. Komar provided the following information.

- We have bids in for our movers: in the process of making award for the contract for this summer's construction.
- DDHS CTE Center: made adjustments to exhaust system and window treatments.
    - Looking at adding a repeater due to having trouble with cell phone and radio reception in the building.
- DDHS renovations: glass wall installed in the south vestibule trophy case and looking at adding air conditioning in the north building office.
- Cherry Park: getting substantial completion signed off.
- West Powellhurst and Mill Park: working on punch list items.
    - Mill Park HVAC is moving forward: PCEF has approved the project.
    - Mill Park buried oil tank: addressing if it has been decommissioned properly.
- Lincoln Park is on track for summer work and at Fir Ridge we are reconciling and closing out.
- South Powellhurst: working on the maintenance shop HVAC and replacement for central freezer.

- Earl Boyles and Menlo Park are on track for summer work.
- Gilbert Park HVAC: will need to add additional electrical service and working on locations to bring in the service.
- Wood truss assessments: insurance has notified us we need to review for potential issues.
- Bond Oversight Committee: the next meeting is June 16th and will present an update to the Board in July.

**Approval of Human Sexuality Education Plan** - Brooke O'Neill, Brennan Brockbank, Health & Science Coordinator, Carrie Foster, Curriculum Coordinator, and Molly Franks, Community & Adolescent Health Program Specialist at Multnomah County Health Department provided the following information.

- Division 22 sets the expectations, State Board of Education adopted standards defines the learning, and Board policy ensures oversight.
- The fundamental sex education laws in Oregon were shared.
- Student Health Survey: data was shared.
    - Graphs 2010-2024: Teen birth rates, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual activity & protection trends.
    - Grades 6, 8 and 11: topics, percent of participation, and number of questions. Sample questions shared.
- Curriculum overview: Oregon sexuality education standards: learning progression for K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
    - The Great Body Shop core elementary curriculum.
        - Reviewed annually and updated for medical accuracy, and being in line with current guidelines.
        - Topics, key ideas, and example lessons from kindergarten and 4th grade were shared.
        - Child sexual abuse prevention (Erin's Law): grades K-5.
    - Middle school health core is supplemented with GET REAL curriculum.
        - Topics and example lesson from 7th grade was shared.
        - Child sexual abuse prevention (Erin's Law): grades 6-8.
    - 9th Grade: example lesson was shared: adapted from Positive Prevention Plus.
        - Child sexual abuse prevention (Erin's Law): grades 9-12.
- Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education Plan: components, notification, opt out process, and implementation.

Ms. Ender moved approval of the Education Plan, seconded by Mr. Stephenson. The motion approved in a vote of 5-0.

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

- Prosper Portland: ongoing conversation regarding the soccer field: will return with a plan and recommendation.
- Electronic device policy: Smart glasses have made an appearance.
    - Our policy does address this but we will be reviewing it and making some updates.
    - Enrollment is dropping rapidly: elementary K-5: from 3,800 down to 3,500.
- Town Hall event being held on Friday, April 10th: hosted by LSU students.
- CTE Fundraiser: we received a donation of $50,000.
- 2026-27 anticipated budget reductions.
    - Proposed reductions: administrator, manager, classified and licensed.
    - FTE reductions by school for elementary, middle, and high.
    - District Office FTE program reductions.

**Financial Report** – Mr. Komar provided the following information.

- Pension Obligation Bond participation agreement: $2,500 would provide for three different analyses through 2028.
- General Fund: has been reduced from S15.7 million to $15.2 million.
    - Due to tax returns: checking on decline in the collections or delay in payments.
    - ODE started rolling out adjustments to the State School Fund.
    - Received a high-cost disability fund update: we have a $217,000 payback for 2024-25.
        - On March 25th, we received a preliminary estimate of nearly $1.7 million.
        - The State has a $55 million pool: costs are skyrocketing.
        - ODE is changing the methodology for estimates: using predictive model.
        - Instead of receiving $1.7 million it was recalculated to $989,551.
        - ODE sent notification: districts may opt for the predictive rate or preliminary rate.
    - Change in ending fund projection: increase in substitutes.

Stephanie D. Stephens, Board Member

Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk