



DCTA Slate

February 14, 2017

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DCTA Elections:

DCTA elections are now open. The following positions are on the ballot: President, Vice President, three Northwest Board of Directors positions, one Northeast Board of Director position, one southwest Board of Director position, NEA delegate positions (top three vote getters attend at DCTA expense) and CEA delegate positions. Ballots will be distributed at the Rep Council Meeting next week on Tuesday, February 21 and collected at the Tuesday, March 21 Rep Council Meeting. To be counted, all ballots MUST be at the DCTA office by 6pm on Wednesday, March 22nd.

[MEET your 2017 candidates.](#)

Our Master Contract with DPS Expires in 140 Days on August 31, 2017!

BARGAINING - Master Contract Negotiations

Next Session: The next bargaining session is on Monday, January 27, 2017 (no bargaining on President's Day). DCTA has proposed the following topics for discussion: Healthcare, School Closings, and Charters. We are waiting for the District to respond.

[Click here](#) for the update on the 2/6 bargaining session and to hear reactions from attendees.

ACTION: We need your personal contact information! We will be providing urgent, up-to-date information on bargaining, including recent proposals and calls to action via these email addresses and cell phone numbers. There will be times we want you to get information BEFORE we tell the District. [Click here](#) to add your email to the list.

Bargaining 101: The Flow of Bargaining - As you may have noticed, our bargaining sessions are typically scheduled to end around 8pm, and, in general, that is our goal. We know that our bargaining unit members have to be at the schools bright and early the next day in order to adequately serve their students. There is also the reality, however, that we are on a timeline. Our contract expires on August 31, 2017, and it is imperative that we have a new contract in place by then, if possible.

Those two concepts do not always mesh well together. There may be times, like last Monday's session, in which the two sides are making progress on a given issue when that 8 o'clock hour comes. If that is the case, the two teams may continue to hash out that issue. We hope that those in the audience that can, stay for the full conversation, but we also understand if people need to leave. We will continue to provide a live-tweet of the events and provide bargaining updates so that everyone is in the know.



Button Mondays:

Wear your button in solidarity on Mondays! If you don't have one or your school needs more, let your rep know or email [Lila](#).

Support Gilpin at Thursday night's DPS Board Meeting:

Denver Public Schools Board has a regular meeting on Thursday, February 16 at the Emily Griffith Campus, 1860 Lincoln Street, with Public Comment at 5:30pm. Come support Gilpin students, parents, teachers and community as they fight to keep Gilpin open. If you can't make it to the meeting, [click here](#) to stream the meeting live on UStream TV.

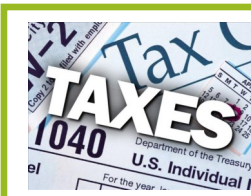


Urgent action needed on DPS Healthcare Benefits: The Benefits Board will vote this Thursday, February 16th whether to make an HMO plan one of the available options for District employees. The Benefits Board is the governing body with regard to benefit plan design, made up of administration and District employees.

If the Benefits Board approves an HMO, all employees will have it as an option for this coming school year! **We need the Benefits Board to pass this so that our members have as many options as possible to get a health insurance plan that fits their needs!**

Thank you to everyone who has written an email. Since yesterday, the Benefits Board Members have each received at least 140 emails from you. If you have not emailed them yet, it just takes a minute. [Click here to email them.](#) They need to hear from you!

Educators Demand Action for Gun Sense: Join DCTA member Rachel Barnes in a campaign to keep guns out of schools. Recently, legislation that would have allowed anyone with a concealed carry permit to carry a loaded weapon into a school, was shut down in a state House Committee. We can expect legislation like this to continue to be introduced at the state and federal level. Moms Demand Action has started a campaign, Educators Demand Action for Gun Sense, to fight back against the gun lobby's agenda. Educators have a unique and compelling perspective on the dangers guns pose in schools and on campuses. [Click here](#) to endorse a sign-on letter showing your commitment to keeping guns out of educational spaces.



Reminder - Union Dues Are Tax-Deductible: If you itemize, you can include \$62.10 per month from your dues in your deductions.

Upcoming DCTA Events:



How to Lobby for your Rights, Thursday, February 16

Who are the key Colorado decision makers, where do they have power, what trends are impacting public education today? How do you impact all of this? Come to our information session. [Read more](#)



DCTA Lobby Day, Wednesday, February 22

If you are passionate about educating Colorado legislators regarding students and teachers' needs, join us as we talk with them in person. [Read more](#)



ASIST Suicide Prevention Training, Friday, February 24 & Saturday, February 25

Would you like to earn 15 hours of recertification credit? ASIST is an Evidence-Based Practice designed to teach professionals and non-professionals alike how to recognize suicide risk and what to say and do to keep the person safe until the next level of help can become involved. The \$60 registration fee (payable to DCTA) includes 2-day interactive training, all participants' materials, a certificate of completion, as well as continental breakfasts and lunches both days. [Read more](#)

Upcoming Community Events:



Educators for Justice Rally, Monday, February 20

Join us in solidarity as we raise our voices to support our local communities in opposition to anti-public education and anti-social justice institutions. [Read more](#)