



DCTA Slate

May 16, 2017

In this issue:

- \$28 Million!
- Is Your Career At Risk?
- Bargaining Update
- Volunteer at NEI
- Hiring Teachers
- Retiring? Join DCTA-Retired
- DCTA Comes to You
- Sun Team Strategy Meeting
- LEAP Bargaining Session
- Rise Up Summer Kick-Off
- End of Year Social

DPS Budget to Increase by \$28 Million:

On May 10, 2017, the Colorado Legislature passed the School Finance Act SB 296 that brought positive news to Denver Public Schools.

DPS will see an increase of \$252.85 in per pupil funding and an additional 764 pupils for the 2017-18 school year, which will increase the District Budget by about \$28 million, even after the changes to the so-called "negative factor" are included.

This is especially good news given current contract negotiations, where a main point of contention is providing adequate resources and salaries in DPS to attract and retain teachers. We sincerely hope that the District brings real, positive ideas to address the challenges that teachers are facing and are willing to have an open discussion on how to best use these additional funds. As bargaining progresses, we will keep you posted!

Is your career at risk? Contact DCTA right way! Under current Colorado law, any non-probationary teacher who receives two consecutive years of less than effective ratings (approaching or not meeting) is at risk of losing their non-probationary status. If this is your second year, please contact DCTA right now for advice on how to appeal this rating. If you fail to act, you will become a probationary teacher in the fall and may be non-renewed next spring. This is something you must take seriously.

Whether you are probationary or non-probationary, do you feel that your approaching rating was inappropriate? You need to act immediately even if this is the first year for your rating. Please contact DCTA at dcta@coloradoea.org for advice on the redress process as soon as possible.

Our Master Contract with DPS Expires in 76 Days on August 31, 2017!

BARGAINING:

District: Funding Whole Child Initiatives Nice, Not Necessary

The DCTA Bargaining Team and DPS officials met last night as part of ongoing contract negotiations to discuss prioritization of programs that support Whole Child initiatives. At issue: whether these needed programs are mandated or merely encouraged.

Rachel Sandoval, a teacher at Godsmen Elementary School moving to a community/parent liaison position next year, spoke passionately about the need for robust and sustained resources to create an environment where students can grow, learn and thrive.

Although she loves teaching, the change in her role will provide her an opportunity to "bridge the gap" between the school and the community, she said.

"Liaisons can demystify report cards, academic testing and other things that come home to parents," Rachel said. "If we explicitly teach our children, why are we not explicitly teaching our parents? Parents are asking for this; why not give it to them?"

DCTA's Whole Child proposal *guarantees* that the community/parent liaison position and other supports that students desperately need to succeed are continued and expanded. The district's proposal provides supportive language for these measures but falls short of mandating that funding be allocated for these resources.

Concrete Whole Child initiatives proposed by DCTA include such measures as restorative practices resources and training, community/teacher liaisons, full-time in-school nursing and psychological services, physical education and recess mandates as well as other critical programs. DPS Brown Elementary School parent Erika Taylor offered her testimony on why these efforts are mandatory and not luxuries.

"As PTA president at Brown I like to say we're fat and happy," she said of the support her school receives... [continue reading online](#)

TAKE ACTION! Summer is quickly approaching and contract negotiations will occur throughout it: We need you to actively participate so we can continue to put pressure on the District to respond to your needs. **Actions you can take to fight for your contract:**

- ⇒ [Give us your personal contact information](#) so we can reach you over the summer.
- ⇒ [Sign up](#) for text msg alerts.
- ⇒ [Like DCTA on Facebook](#), [RSVP](#) to Bargaining Session events on Facebook and share them with your friends.
- ⇒ **Attend Bargaining Sessions!** The next bargaining session will be the day after Memorial Day - Tuesday, May 30, 5pm at [North High School](#) We will be negotiating LEAP. If you would like to speak at this session, please contact Corey at ckern@coloradoea.org.



Volunteer at NEI



Monday, July 31, Represent DCTA at this summer's New Educator Institute. Be the first to meet the newest DPS teachers and share with them the benefits of being members of their teachers' union!

Join friends and colleagues on July 31st to help DCTA's membership recruitment. Come for a morning, an afternoon or stay the day! Email ljimenez@coloradoea.org if you want to volunteer.

Only a Few Spots Remain in the Teacher Organizer Summer Program:

Are you motivated to strengthen the Union? We are looking for people like you to build DCTA membership and keep teachers informed about Bargaining! Apply to DCTA's brand new Teacher Organizer Summer Program. The TOS Program will consist of 9 Teacher Organizers conducting house visits to non-members who are returning to DPS for the 2018-2019 school year, with the goal of increasing Association Membership and bargaining activism.

Earn a \$1,000 stipend plus mileage for a training and eight work-days, Monday—Thursday, 11:00am-6:30pm, during June 12-June 23. Applications are due by midnight on May 30. [Apply here](#).

Retiring Teachers/SSPs Join DCTA-Retired Now: Membership in DCTA-Retired provides you with an active, organized proponent voice to support Colorado public schools and our PERA pension benefits. Your participation in DCTA-R will keep you in touch with the statewide and national activities of your peers and your profession. As a member, you will be informed about important issues, such as retirement, medical and insurance benefits. Your eligibility for NEA Member Benefits programs will continue, and you can continue to support your colleagues, public education and children.

[Click here](#) to learn more about DCTA-R and to download the DCTA-R Application.

DCTA Comes to You!

Last Week: Our staff enjoyed spending time with the educators at Denver Discovery, South, Bradley, Merrill, Southmoor, Samuels, Steck, Howell, Westerly Creek, Farrell B Howell, Smith, and Northfield.

Upcoming Visits: This week we are scheduled to visit Collegiate Prep, Carson, Grant Beacon, Oakland, DCIS @ Ford, Ashley, Maxwell, Kunsmiller, Columbian, Northfield, Westerly Creek, and Stedman. We continue to schedule building visits, so please invite us by emailing DCTA@Coloradoea.org.

Upcoming Events:



Sun Team Strategy Meeting, Thursday, May 25, 5pm [DCTA Office](#)

Come to this SUN Team meeting to create a successful plan to keep your members and contacts engaged in the bargaining process while school is out in order to hit the ground running when school starts again. [RSVP online](#).



Bargaining Session on LEAP, Tuesday, May 30, 5pm [North High School](#)

Attend this session and support your Bargaining Team as they negotiate on LEAP. [RSVP to attend this session](#) so we can count on your presence!



Rise Up Summer Kick-Off Party, Thursday, June 1, 4-7pm, [Ace Eat Serve](#)

Make this end of the year happy hour your first stop! All early career educators are welcome. Invite and bring teacher friends from across the district and even outside the district! 1 free drink for the first 10 members who arrive. [RSVP online](#).



End of Year Social, Friday, June 2, 3pm-?, [Bout Time Pub & Grub](#)

Come and celebrate the end of the year with fellow DCTA members!



New Educator Institute, Monday, July 31, [Denver Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Join friends and colleagues to help DCTA's membership recruitment. Come for a morning, an afternoon or stay the day! Email ljimenez@coloradoea.org if you want to volunteer.

