



# DCTA Slate

September 19, 2017

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## We Ratified the Master Contract!

Thank you to everyone who was on this year's Bargaining Team for your countless hours planning, writing, and negotiating our new contract.

Henry Roman	Greg Ahrmsbrak
Rob Gould	Jane Lineman
Kelly Ryder	Dana Berge
Diane Santorico	Charlie Gaare
Lynne Valencia-Hernandez	Dennis Campbell
Marita Whalen	Bill Weisberger

## The ProComp Agreement expires in **104** days on December 31!

The DCTA Bargaining Team will have had just a few weeks of rest between the end of negotiating the master contract and starting negotiations on the Professional Compensation System for Teachers (ProComp). Stay tuned for updates on when and where bargaining sessions will take place.

[Read the ProComp Agreement here.](#)

## REP COUNCIL

The September Rep Council meeting is **TODAY**, Tuesday, September 19 at [DCIS Baker](#) from 4:30 pm—6 pm.

All members are welcome to attend. Today's training will include how to run 10-minute meetings and changes to the SLT (School Leadership Team).

It is important for all Reps to attend monthly Rep Council meetings this year. Rep Training is occurring at each Rep Council versus at a weekend training.

## Attention Innovation Schools!

Listed below are all of the schools whose innovation plans are up for renewal this year. Please reach out to us for assistance in navigating the renewal process.

Our new contract includes new language on voting procedures for all innovation schools, including renewals, which is now in effect! To learn what is in this MOU, please [click here](#) and look on page 11.

Throughout the long negotiations process, the DCTA Bargaining Team continually fought for teacher voice to be part of the process, but it only works if you, as teachers/SSPs, advocate for yourself. One of the best opportunities to do that is during the creation of your innovation plan. It is imperative that everyone come together and use your voice to advocate for the students and community we all serve.

In Solidarity,

Kris Bethscheider

Chair—Innovation Committee

**Centennial School**

**Collegiate Prep Academy**

**Creativity Challenge Community (C3)**

**Denver Discovery School**

**Denver Public Montessori Jr/Sr**

**DSISD**

**Grant Beacon**

**High Tech Elementary**

**Joe Shoemaker School**

**Legacy Options High School**

**Manual High School**

**Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment**

**Northfield High School**

**Place Bridge Academy**

## SPOTLIGHT

**Valerie Lovato, Eagleton First Grade Teacher**

### **Eagleton Elementary teacher chosen to help inform statewide education policy matters**

Valerie Lovato first received the news while she was on vacation. The First Grade teacher at Eagleton Elementary was relaxing and enjoying some down time with her mom when an email popped up from the Colorado Department of Education.

"I hadn't actually been checking emails," she said of that day in June, "but I knew it would be coming so I made sure to take a look on my phone."

Sure enough, the news came through and the news was good: Valerie had been selected to represent Denver schools as a participant on the Commissioner's Teacher Cabinet, a new opportunity for Colorado teachers to share their hands-on classroom knowledge and experience with state education policymakers.

"I was really excited," Valerie said. "I've actually heard from so many people reaching out.

[\(continued on pg 3\)](#)

[\(continued from pg 2\)](#) It's an opportunity to get my school and my name out there to start making those connections and see what else I can do for the teaching community in Denver."

According to a Colorado Department of Education press release, the Commissioner's Teacher Cabinet is made up of 20 practicing teachers from around the state representing small, medium, large, rural, suburban and urban school systems. The Cabinet serves as a sounding board for the implementation of state education policy and as a committee to brainstorm solutions for some of the challenges facing today's educators, such as raising achievement among all students, supporting low-performing schools and increasing the number of individuals joining the teaching profession.

Valerie said the group's first meeting in August was a chance to get to know fellow cabinet members, discuss key issues in Colorado education and learn how the group would function. Selected members are asked to commit to at least four meetings per year for a two-year commitment.

"They really tried to make certain every part of the state is represented," she said. "I'm the only teacher that represents DPS. There's also a teacher from Cherry Creek, Aurora and Jeffco, as well as a mix of charter, union/district and non-union district schools represented."

Teachers were selected from across the state as well, including urban, rural and suburban areas from the Front Range, the Western Slope and plains towns. According to Valerie, the group identified three major areas of concerns during their initial meeting:

- Teacher pay
- Time and resources concerns
- Behavior and discipline issues

Valerie said the commission has topics from the state Board of Education that the group will discuss as well. Of particular interest to the Board is gathering teacher's perspectives on the Colorado teachers shortage and how the state should address it, as well as how to increase retention and improve recruitment.

Valerie sees the opportunity as a chance to give back to the profession she loves.

"I've kind of been on a path of self-reflection and self-exploration about all that I can contribute to the field of education besides being a classroom teacher," she said. "I love being a teacher and I love my students. But I feel there's a little bit more that I can provide."



Text @dctapol to 81010 to receive political updates

## School Visits

**Last week:** We spent time at Goldrick, High Tech Early College, High Tech Elementary, Manual, Pascual LeDoux, Shoemaker and Slavens.

**This week:** We will be visiting Collegiate Prep Academy, Contemporary Learning Academy, Denver Discovery, Godsman, Isabella Bird, JFK, Place Bridge, Samuels, Southmoor, Swigert, and Trevista.

**If you have not had your DCTA Back to School meeting yet, email your Uniserv Director—[Darnell Tingle](#), [Jesus Altamirano](#), or [Kate Martin](#) to schedule one.**

## Regional “Open Houses”

At last week’s open house in the Northeast, over twenty teachers came together to learn how the new contract elevates teacher voice at their building. Many educators were thrilled to know that their SLTs will develop a student discipline policy that positively impacts student, faculty, administration, and the overall community.

Teachers asked how quickly these changes would take effect, luckily for everyone the new contract was ratified by members and now DPS schools can move forward in implementing the new contract.

All teachers present at the far northeast schools are committed to increase participation and invite all other schools to join and learn how to implement the new contract at their schools. Join us at our next Northeast open house on October 11, at the GVR Beer Garden starting at 4pm to continue the conversation!

Members also learned how to take full advantage of the NEA Member Benefits site! For example, there is \$500 to use towards a vacation this upcoming summer! Join us at the September 20 or September 27 open houses to learn more about this and other member benefits!

We are hosting regional open houses to make it more convenient for all members to remain up to date on everything happening with DCTA. Drop in to an open house near you to receive current information on your contract, upcoming events, etcetera from a Uniserv Director.

### Southwest:

Wednesday, September 20, 4—6:00 pm  
[Crown Lanes Bowling Center and Sports Bar \(2325 S Federal Blvd\)](#)

### Central:

Wednesday, October 4, 4—6:00 pm  
[DCTA Office/CEA Building \(1500 Grant St.\)](#)

### Central:

Wednesday, September 27, 4—6:00 pm  
[DCTA Office/CEA Building \(1500 Grant St.\)](#)

### Northeast:

Wednesday, October 11, 4—6:00 pm  
[GVR Beer Garden \(4995 Argonne St.\)](#)

## Happy Hour for Early Career Educators



Rise Up is a diverse and active group of early career educators providing practical and emotional supports. We are active, social justice-oriented educators working to engage and empower others in advocating for our students and communities! Come join teachers from across the district and let's work together to be the change we want to see for our students!

**Rise Up Happy Hour, Thursday, September 21, 5:00 pm**

Join Rise Up and other early career educators at [Blackbird Public House](#) (305 S Downing St)! Eat, drink, and connect with colleagues across the district. Appetizers will be provided.

RSVP [here](#) or on [Facebook](#).



### Would you like to earn 15 hours of recertification credit? ASIST Suicide Prevention Training, Friday & Saturday, Nov. 10 & 11

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. [RSVP here](#).

ASIST is the world's leading suicide intervention workshop. It is a scientifically proven intervention model where participants learn to intervene and help prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Many of your colleagues have already taken this training and carried out life-saving interventions. It has saved and changed hundreds of thousands of lives around the world!



### Free Screening of a film exploring the real cost of privatizing America's Public Schools.

Our Denver Our Schools is hosting a FREE Screening of the film [Backpack Full of Cash](#) narrated by Matt Damon, on Thursday, September 28 at the Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Su Teatro, 721 Santa Fe Dr, Denver, 80204. Doors open at 6:30pm, screening at 7pm, and Q&A to follow.

[Reserve your tickets now](#) before all of the spots are taken! (The 9/27 screening is already sold out.)

**Our Students.**

**Our Profession.**

**Our Careers.**