Welcome Back!

Hopefully you had some time to renew your energies this summer. The time seems to fly by, but I had the chance to spend some time with my family, do a little paddle boarding, camp and, of course, watch every game in the World Cup. I must admit that I was cheering for Croatia in the final, but France pulled it off.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to address teachers and SSPs new to DPS. Every time I have this opportunity, I am reminded of how important an educator is in the life of a student and the impact an education has in the life of a child. We had a
A fantastic day that ended with hundreds of people opting to join DCTA. Growing memberships builds our organization and there is power in numbers. We face challenges this year as we are not only tested with the day to day job of teaching, but also decisions that are directly related to the direction of our profession in Denver.

**Bargaining the contract:** We all start every year with a sense of anticipation about the important work ahead of us. This year is no different. This year is a critical one as we are bargaining the entire ProComp agreement. Please plan on attending the bargaining sessions. Your presence and participation is essential, because the ProComp contract expires on January 18, 2019. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more updates regarding meeting times, location, etc.

I’d like to thank in advance the members of the Bargaining Team for the countless hours of volunteer time they will contribute this school year. This is part of the great work our members do for the collective benefit of everyone.

I also want to welcome the new teachers and SSPs to DPS. I hope that your first year in Denver is successful and meaningful. Finally, thanks to all of the educators of Denver. You all have the passion and drive that make our schools such incredible places. The work you are doing makes a difference in the lives of Denver’s children every day.

~ Henry Roman, DCTA President

**Initiative to Raise $1.6 Billion for Colorado Schools will be on November Ballot**

This fall, DCTA members and other Colorado educators will have the opportunity to join a campaign for $1.6 billion in additional funding for Colorado schools. The Colorado Secretary of State’s Office said last Thursday that Amendment 73, previously known as Initiative 93, met the requirements for signatures to appear on the November ballot. This Amendment would increase income taxes on large corporations and individuals who make over $150,000/year - helping to fully fund
Colorado schools and make a serious impact on issues such as the achievement gap, teacher salaries, and limited social-emotional supports for students.

Supporters of the Amendment, also called “Great Schools, Thriving Communities”, turned in over 130,000 valid signatures last month, easily exceeding the required 98,492 to get on the ballot. Colorado’s “Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR)” amendment requires that voters approve any tax increase and this will be Colorado’s third attempt in seven years to raise taxes for education. This year’s initiative comes on the heels of nationwide teacher strikes for higher pay, including a walk out of over 10,000 teachers here in Colorado.

The tax measure calls for:

- Raising the corporate income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 6 percent.
- Raising the personal income tax rate from a flat 4.63 percent to between 5 percent and 8.25 percent for people earning more than $150,000. The highest tax rate would be paid by people earning $500,000 or more.
- Setting the residential property assessment rate at 7 percent of market value for schools. That’s lower than it is now but higher than it is predicted to be in 2019 because current law has the unintended effect of gradually reducing the residential assessment rate.
- Setting the non-residential property assessment rate at 24 percent of market value, less than the current 29 percent.

According to an initial fiscal analysis by the state, the average taxpayer earning more than $150,000 would pay an additional $519 a year, while those earning less would be unaffected. The average corporate taxpayer would pay an additional $11,085 a year.

DCTA will be organizing members and community supporters to raise awareness about this important initiative. Passing Amendment 73 would truly be a game changer for education in our state and it is important that we all get involved to fix our rigged system that values large corporations and the wealthy over our students and teachers/SSPs! Reach out to your building rep, organizing captain, or UniServ Director for more information on how to get involved.

Welcome New Educators!

Welcome to the 439 new DPS teachers and SSPs who joined DCTA last week! DCTA is a family, here to support teachers and elevate the teaching professional. Don’t hesitate to contact your DCTA leaders or staff. We are so glad you are with us!
Summer Bargaining Sessions not so Hot

In both June and August, hopeful teachers turned out to bargain with the district.

In a not so surprising move, the DPS bargaining team came to the table without a proposal, but rather a lecture on budgeting. Teachers were met with explanations and excuses. Several times, DPS explained that the over $40 million in new money can’t be used to increase teacher compensation due to other district priorities.

Superintendent Tom Boasberg, in what was likely his last bargaining appearance, looked out over the audience as lead negotiator for DPS, Michelle Berge, asked for cooperation and commitment in getting Amendment 73 passed in November. This, she claims, would change the game for DPS, allowing them to increase teacher compensation. If Tom was looking for sympathy, he didn’t get it from teachers. It’s a story they’ve heard before. Teachers are tired of hypotheticals. Teachers are tired of stall tactics.
With rising cost of living in Denver and constant stalling from the district, teachers need a solution to the problems with ProComp, and they need it now.

DCTA lead bargainer, Rob Gould, asked several times for a written proposal from DPS. The simple fact is, there just wasn’t a proposal to present or write. Again, teachers received a public pledge for better compensation after a constitutional amendment has passed, after Tom has resigned.

Fed up with the disrespect, teachers conducted an impromptu walk out (pictured above), stating to DPS “You’re wasting our time. Next time bring a proposal.”

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**CO Schools Resist**

**Sanctuary Schools Committee**

coschoolsresist@gmail.com

Are you prepared to support your immigrant students? What would you do if ICE showed up at your school? Like you, we asked ourselves this very question. After the 2016 presidential election, individuals from various organizations across Colorado gathered for an emergency meeting. There, the Immigration Resistance Table was created. It then divided itself into actionable committees, including the CO Schools Resist committee.

CO Schools Resist was created to help guide schools on their path to providing true safety for immigrant students in the face of racism and bigotry, while simultaneously educating the community on their rights and access to immigration-related resources. As a coalition of community and school groups in Colorado including the Colorado Education Association (CEA), the DCTA (Denver Classroom Teachers Association), Equity Network United For Metro Denver (ENUF), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and others, we are standing up for our immigrant students and families. Most notably, we host an annual Sanctuary Schools Summit that brings together education and immigration professionals to share resources and best practices. Look out for our next one on April, 27 2019!

Now, we are asking you to guide the new podcasts and webinars we will be providing in the coming months. Is there a pressing topic you want to know more about in regards to supporting immigrant students? Do you need information on what your rights are as educators when faced with ICE requests?

Please take this survey so we know the type of information and resources you need at your school in supporting immigrant students: [https://bit.ly/2KpnWYT](https://bit.ly/2KpnWYT)

If you would like more information about the CO Schools Resist committee or would like to join our efforts, please email us at [coschoolsresist@gmail.com](mailto:coschoolsresist@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Rachel Sandoval
DPS in the News: Summer of 2018

Check out DPS highlights from this summer in Chalkbeat:

- Following the April 26th Rally for Public Education, a little over $150 million dollars was set aside for public education, with around $47 million coming to DPS! We have the money because educators went out and got the money.
- Tom announces his resignation as superintendent of DPS. Options for our next superintendent will be named by October. A push for more employee and parent voice in the process is underway - watch for ways to get involved!
- Denver found to violate federal rules in delaying services to students with disabilities. Taking decisions around paraprofessional supports away from school buildings and IEP teams must be changed. The 113 students currently in need of paraprofessional assistance are to be supported.
- New middle school in Stapleton - who has bid so far? Beacon Network schools, High Tech Elementary and Denver Green School - all innovation schools.

DCTA IS COMING TO YOU!
We look forward to visiting with everyone at the following schools this week:

Newlon, Valverde, Schmitt, College View, Eagleton, Place Bridge, Gust, Bear Valley, Grant Ranch, Force, Godsman, John Amesse, MLK, DCIS Montbello, Noel Community Arts, Florida Pitt Waller, Smith, Farrell B. Howell, Manual, Shoemaker, Holm, Hamilton, Samuels, Slavens, DCIS Fairmont, Bradley, Hill Campus, George Washington, Colfax, Denver Online, North, Nursing Services, Cowell, DC-21, and Brown

Education Leadership Council Survey

The Education Leadership Council has released a survey about public education in Colorado. Click the button below to make sure educator voices are heard!

Click Here to Take the Survey!

Calendar of Events

DCTA Board Meeting
Date Tuesday, August 21

DPS Board Meeting
Date Thursday, August 23
Time | 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
---|---
Location | 1500 Grant St, 4th Floor

Time | 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
---|---
Location | Emily Griffith Campus, All Purpose Room

Rep Council
Date | Tuesday, August 28
---|---
Time | 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Location | DCIS Baker

New Rep Training
Date | Saturday, September 29
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Time | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Location | DCTA Headquarters, Columbine Room

**SCHEDULE A MEETING**

All buildings should hold a union meeting this week, or in the very near future to update educators on all things DCTA! When your school gets one scheduled, let your UniServ Director know. If you aren't sure who your UD is, call 303-831-0590.

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