Lend your support to #FlipTheDPSBoard

Last year, DCTA members stood strong for fair compensation and an end to disastrous teacher turnover. This fall, we have an opportunity to permanently change the power structure of our district and ensure that the people leading DPS put students and educators first! The DCTA Fund recently endorsed Tay Anderson – At Large, Scott Baldermann – District 1, and Brad Laurvick – District 5 because of their commitment to strong neighborhood schools, equitable outcomes for ALL students, and the rights of DPS workers. We urge you to volunteer your time for these candidates by signing up below.

Sign Up Here

Free Screening of Backpack Full of Cash

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Labor Day History

Take some time this week to remember why we have a long weekend. You are a part of this history as a union member - remember, what we do today to make our conditions better for our career, becomes the expectation for the future. Enjoy this review of early American labor history through song by Music 101 on The Colorado Sound.

Let us never take our rights for granted and continue to fight for a workplace that
supports the profession and those that dream of entering it in the future. Happy Labor Day!

Rep Council

Rep Council met on August 27th at DCIS Baker. There was a quorum present and Reps received their school's ballots for the election. Reps also discussed the location and schedule of future meetings, heard from our endorsed school board candidates, and discussed the heat in buildings around the district.

DCTA Internal Elections

Candidates for DCTA President

The two DCTA Presidential Candidates have created a video that explains the voting process. Please click on the button below to view the video.

Voting "How to" Video

Dear fellow DCTA members:

I'm running for DCTA president because as a classroom teacher, I care deeply that we uphold the promises of our democratic nation by providing a high quality public education for all students in Denver. However, Denver Public Schools demonstrates daily that they do not uphold the values of “equity” and “students first” through their punitive
district insisted our members were highly paid through bonuses; reports in the newspapers and television spread this myth in a widespread manner. They insisted they were good faith negotiators. But we knew better. We knew a battle was coming. We knew, to win, we would need committed union leaders, we knew we needed help to build our base, and we knew we needed a bargaining strategy that would not fail.

I built the team of union leaders and negotiators I believed would effectively meet our needs during bargaining. I designed a recruitment strategy that dramatically increased our membership. The increase was crucial for negotiations. I organized bargaining sessions that lasted for months because I believed it put the district on notice. I believed that if we did these things, we would win higher and more predictable pay. The strike was a success because we organized and united around a common purpose.

This past few weeks, I joined the team of educators at Ellis Elementary. We have worked hard to set up our rooms and welcome the community and students to our school. While this time of year is exciting and filled with potential, I also know the work is demanding and we live under intense pressure to get it right. We have work to do to support educators with increasingly impacted students whose demands are great. At the same time, we are consistently told to make it work with fewer and fewer resources.

It is clear to me there is so much work to do, and the leadership of this organization is critical. I can provide leadership that has been tested in the most difficult arena. I have the institutional memory and I will use the full force of DCTA to ensure that our hard-won contract is implemented with fidelity. I ask for your vote because I have shown I have the passion and vision to keep DCTA on a meaningful trajectory. I have fought alongside all of you to strengthen our organization and get results. Vote for me to keep us on the right track.

teacher evaluation practices, ranking schools rather than supporting them, and frivolous overspending on marketing under the guise of a so called “choice” system. As a result, teaching has become a less desirable profession. Segregation has increased in our schools. Suspension rates for black males are still disproportionately high. Unchecked corporate interests in DPS and across the education system in this country have led us to our current system: a system in which schools must now compete for resources, and families are often left with a choice far from equitable. However, I believe that we the teachers, the experts in our field and the leaders in our schools, in collaboration with our communities, can start to make positive changes.

As DCTA president, my priorities will be:

1. **Intentional action against privatization policies.** Eliminate the School Performance Framework, which serves as a tool to close public schools and forces schools to compete for resources. End public school closures. Foster a community school model.

2. **Social justice action throughout the organization of DCTA:** Educator led professional development around equity and culturally responsive teaching. Trainings at Rep Council to educate reps about our current contract rights, including restorative practices. Apply for grants and build structures to help recruit and retain teachers of color. Build proactive relationships with community groups such as Padres y Jovenes Unidos and Industrial Areas Foundation.

3. **Improved communication and transparency with rank and file members.** Updated information on website. More consistent communication on social media. Encourage relationship-based organization from DCTA board members and building reps to grow.
participation and membership. Informative and democratic meetings at Rep Council. Improve DCTA bylaws to make elections transparent and democratic. Elect rather than appoint DCTA fund members, and hold the DCTA fund accountable to DCTA membership.

In Solidarity,

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