



DCTA Slate

April 4, 2017

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Our Master Contract with DPS Expires in **106** Days on August 31, 2017!

BARGAINING!

DCTA Works to Pull DPS into the 21st Century: The DCTA Bargaining Team laid out a series of contract proposals to DPS representatives last night (April 3) that if enacted would effectively elevate DPS working conditions to meet contemporary workplace standards. The wide-ranging series of measures touched upon a number of teacher concerns all focused on meeting the critical needs of students throughout the district.

The proposals were presented as part of ongoing public negotiations between DCTA and the district, held at North High School since January. During the session DCTA had proposed changes to 18 contract articles while DPS presented changes to 12 articles. Teacher compensation, benefits, workload, classroom resources and class size were addressed as key factors to improving educational opportunities in DPS.

"We need to do something about class size. It's out of control," Rob Gould, of the DCTA Bargaining Team, said during a discussion on Article 8. "My wife has 32 and 30 in two different classrooms. We need to reign this in and have some parameters."

"The English department at Thomas Jefferson lost a full teacher last year," DCTA Vice President Lynn Valencia-Hernandez said. "Because of that my class sizes went to 41 in one class and 39 in the other. We're talking about 16 year old students. Put their big bodies into little desks and then try fitting everyone in a class."

District representatives agreed that class size is a serious issue, but provided little (if any) signs that DCTA's concerns would be addressed. In addition to a proposal limiting class sizes to 20, the Bargaining Team pushed for the following contract reforms:

- *\$50,000 starting salary
- *12 weeks paid maternity/paternity/adoption leave
- *All sick leave available at beginning of year
- *Ensure all classes are provided sufficient materials and equipment to serve students
- *Ensure DCTA representation for teachers facing complaints
- *Caseload caps for special education teachers
- *Contractual caseload sizes for SSPs
- *A true non-probationary status for SSPs
- *A "Whole Child" Article to provide students with wrap around services

Attendance at Monday's session was substantial, particularly in light of the session falling on district teachers' return from spring break. However, increased pressure will be necessary to ensure that district representatives are compelled to listen to and adopt DCTA's reasonable, student-focused proposals. Unfortunately, DPS leadership did not attend the session, continuing the district's history (except for the March 20th session) of providing not a single decision-making leader or board member to listen to teacher concerns.

"We need every teacher in the district to stand up and tell the district what they need to create the schools Denver students deserve," said DCTA President Henry Roman. "Our schools will never be the educational institutions they must be if we don't all come together to demand that the district hear the needs of students."

Upcoming Session : Monday, April 17, 5pm at [North High School](#)

Advice for Teachers Facing Non-Renewal and/or Resigning:

CEA has detailed information on what to do if you are facing non-renewal and/or planning on resigning. If you or one of your coworkers is on probationary status, please read this and make sure you are taking every step possible to protect your standing.

[2017 Non-renewal and Resignation Update](#)

Free Minds, Free People in Baltimore, MD, July 6 – 9, 2017:

Free Minds, Free People is a national conference convened by the Education for Liberation Network that brings together teachers, young people, researchers, parents and community-based activists/educators from across the country to build a movement to develop and promote education as a tool for liberation. Read more about their [mission and goals](#).

The most recent *Free Minds, Free People 2015* in Oakland, CA, was huge success and drew more than 1200 people participating in over 100 workshops, panels, site visits, and assemblies! Check out this [video from Oakland!](#) Mark your calendar, start organizing to participate, and spread the word!

DCTA Comes to You!

Before Spring Break: Our staff enjoyed spending time with the educators at Trevista, Park Hill, and KCAA.

Upcoming Visits: This week we are scheduled to visit Barnum, Bear Valley International, DCIS @ Montbello, DCIS @ Ford, Green Valley Ranch, and Trevista. We continue to schedule building visits, so please invite us by emailing DCTA@Colorado.org.

Upcoming Events:



16th Annual César Chávez Day March, Saturday, April 8

LET'S BUILD BRIDGES, NOT WALLS. CONSTRUYAMOS PUENTES, NO MUROS. Join DCTA as we march from the Regis University Chapel to the César Chávez Park, 4131 Tennyson Street to honor Chávez's legacy as an educator, environmentalist, and a civil rights leader. [Learn more and RSVP online.](#)



Rise Up End of Year Conversations Panel, Thursday, April 13, 5pm, [CEA Building](#)

Join Rise Up for a panel about your end of the year conversations, LEAP and your overall rating. Veteran teachers and LEAP aficionados will speak and answer your questions. All DCTA members are invited. [RSVP online.](#)



DCTA Lobby Day, Friday, April 28

Were you unable to attend the 2/22 Lobby Day and still want to meet with your legislators? Did you attend Lobby Day and you want to continue building on the relationships you formed? If you are passionate about educating Colorado legislators regarding students and teachers' needs, join us as we talk with them in person. [Read more and RSVP online.](#)



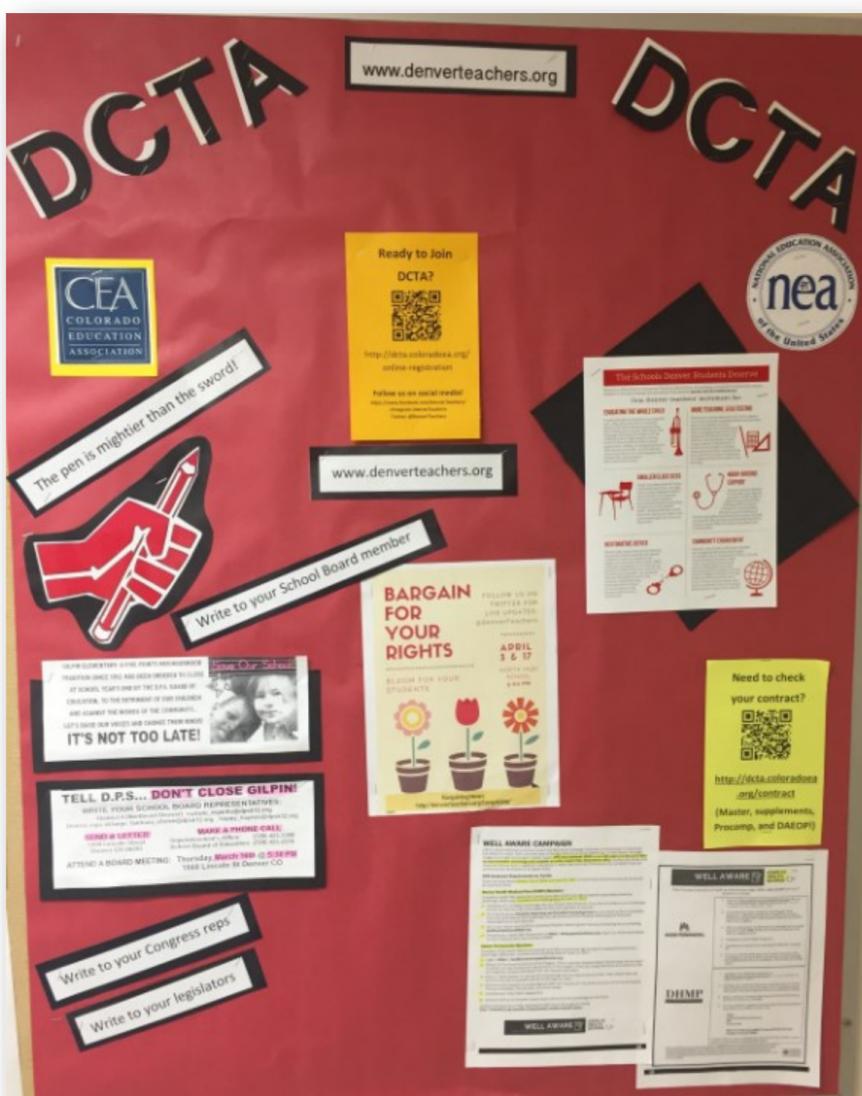
Button Mondays:

Wear your button to show support for teachers/SSPs getting a strong contract! **Don't have a button?** Check with your Rep to see if s/he has them.



T-Shirt Tuesdays:

Send us pictures of your school in DCTA shirts and we will post them in the Slate.



Park Hill Rocks Their DCTA Bulletin Board. Share yours!

Discounted Sports Tickets:

Denver Nuggets: Final Teacher Appreciation Night: Denver Nuggets vs. New Orleans Pelicans, Friday, April 7, 7pm at Pepsi Center. Purchase tickets at www.nuggetstix.com/teachers1617

Colorado Eagles Hockey: Playoffs Round 1 vs. TBD: The Colorado Eagles have clinched their spot in the 2017 Kelly Cup Playoffs and will have home ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs! **Game 1** - TBD at Colorado, April 14, 7:05pm and **Game 2** - TBD at Colorado, April 15 7:05pm at the Budweiser Event Center, Loveland, CO. Purchase discounted tickets at BudweiserEventsCenter.com/promo, use promo code: GSTICKETS.

