DCTA Elections:
DCTA elections are now open. The following positions are on the ballot: President, Vice President, three Northwest Board of Directors positions, one Northwest Board of Director positions, one Southwest Board of Director positions, NEA delegate positions (top three vote getters attend at DCTA expense) and CEA delegate positions. Ballots will be distributed at the Rep Council Meeting next week on Tuesday, February 21 and collected at the Tuesday, March 21 Rep Council Meeting. To be counted, all ballots MUST be at the DCTA office by 5pm on Wednesday, March 22nd.

In this issue:
- DCTA Elections
- Bargaining
- Support Gilpin on Thursday
- Educators Demand Action for Gun Sense
- Urgent Action on DPS Healthcare Benefits
- Union Dues Are Tax-DEDUCTIBLE!
- Bargaining:
- Upcoming Events

Meeting your 2017 candidates.

DCTA Slate
February 14, 2017

Our Master Contract with DPS Expires in 140 Days on August 31, 2017! BARGAINING - Master Contract Negotiations

Next Session: The next bargaining session is on Monday, January 27, 2017 (so bargaining on President’s Day). DCTA has proposed the following topics for discussion: Healthcare, School Closings, and Charters. We are waiting for the District to respond.

Click here for the update on the 2/26 bargaining session and to hear reactions from attendees.

ACTION: We need your personal contact infor- mation! We will be providing urgent, up-to-date infor- mation on bargaining, in- cluding recent proposals and calls to action via these email addresses and cell phone numbers. There will be times we want you to get information BEFORE we tell the District. Click here to add your email to the list.

Support Gilpin at Thursday night’s DPS Board Meeting:
Denver Public Schools Board has a regular meeting on Thursday, February 16 at the Emily Griffith Campus, 1860 Lincoln Street, with Public Comment at 5:30pm. Come support Gilpin students, parents, teachers and community as they fight to keep Gilpin open. If you can’t make it to the meeting, click here to stream the meeting live on UStream TV.

Urgent action needed on DPS Healthcare Benefits:
The Benefits Board will vote on Thursday, February 16th whether to make an HMO plan one of the available options for District em- ployees. The Benefits Board is the governing body with regard to benefit plan design, made up of administra- tion and District employees.

If the Benefits Board approves an HMO, all employees will have it as an option for this coming school year. We need the Benefits Board to pass this so that our members have as many options as possible to get a health insurance plan that fits their needs!

Thank you to everyone who has written an email. Since yesterday, the Benefits Board Members have each received at least 140 emails from you. If you have not emailed them yet, it just takes a minute. Click here to email them. They need to hear from you!

Bargaining 101: The Flow of Bargaining – As you may have noticed, our bargaining sessions are typically scheduled to end around 8pm, and, in general, that is our goal. We know that our bar- gaining unit members have to be at the schools bright and early the next day in order to adequately serve their students. There is also the reality, however, that we are on a timeframe. Our contract ex-pires on August 31, 2017, and it is imperative that we have a new contract in place by then, if possi- ble.

Those two concepts do not always mesh well together. There may be times, like last Monday’s ses- sion, in which the two sides are making progress on a given issue when it that it rick’s hour comes. If that is the case, the two teams may continue to hash out that issue. We hope that those in the audi- ence can stay for the full conversation, but we also understand if people need to leave. We will continue to provide a live-view of the events and provide bargaining updates so that everyone is in the know.

Support Gilpin on Thursday:
We need your rep know or email those two concepts do not always mesh well together. There may be times, like last Monday’s ses- sion, in which the two sides are making progress on a given issue when it that it rick’s hour comes. If that is the case, the two teams may continue to hash out that issue. We hope that those in the audi- ence can stay for the full conversation, but we also understand if people need to leave. We will continue to provide a live-view of the events and provide bargaining updates so that everyone is in the know.

Upcoming DCTA Events:
How to Lobby for your Rights, Thursday, February 16
Why are the Colorado legislature’s decisions, what do they have power, what trends are impacting public education today? How do you impact all of this? Come to our information session. Read more.

DCTA Lobby Day, Wednesday, February 22
If you are passionate about educating Colorado legislators regarding students and teachers’ needs, join us as we talk with them in person. Read more.

ASIST Suicide Prevention Training, Friday, February 24 & Saturday, February 25
Would you like to earn 15 hours of recertification credit? 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 800 registra- tion 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. Read more.

Upcoming Community Events:
Educators for Justice Rally, Monday, February 20
Join us in solidarity as we make our voices to support our local communities in opposition to anti-public education and anti-social justice institutions. Read more.