

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
April 23, 2020

CSEA President Joe Schott's Statement to the Board of Education on April 22, 2020

President Gullixson, Board Directors, Dr. Thomas,

We all agree tonight, that America has a very serious problem. Not only does America have a very serious problem, but our people have a very serious problem.

Education is the answer. Teachers will make it happen.

All of District 11 is pulling together to take care of our students—and their families, too. That is to say EVERY student, and every student as a person, which is what a whole student is: a person with a history we appreciate, a present we care about, and a future we cultivate.

Teachers continue to nurture those students every day. Our professionals focus on empowering students to grow into engaged citizens who take informed, purposeful, and moral action to make the world better, to shape communities, governments, and societies of which they are integral parts—not mere inheritors of others' institutions.

Teachers are “mission critical.” We strive to foster continuous learners:

- Who can think and make connections across disciplines.
- Who can adapt, bounce back, and identify their own interests and paths.
- Who think FOR themselves...and who think OF others.
- Who make just decisions because they understand what they have learned about our history...and what we can hope for our future.

That hasn't changed at all with the hiatus in in-person learning. We meet students where they are and fight to assure they ALL are able to take full advantage of the abundant opportunities District 11 has to offer. Teachers from all disciplines—even more than before—are collaborating to enrich, to deepen the learning opportunities for our students; to support student curiosity and inquiry with integration of concepts, observation, understanding, and communication, so that they begin to—and succeed at grasping and penetrating some of the world's complexity.

Teachers are leading the way in enabling our problem-solvers, our innovators, to flourish as healthy individuals and as ethical citizens who are responsive to the needs of a just society.

On behalf of all the teachers whose rights are secured by the Master Agreement, I thank the Board of Education for its recognition and support of the dedicated and hard-working teachers of District 11.

Access To Buildings

Teachers will be allowed in to their classrooms for one half hour on either Friday, April 24 or Monday, April 27. Principals will coordinate the schedule and details, using a very specific protocol the District has developed. Please look for that info and follow the guidelines.

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This correspondence is intended for members of CSEA, ESPA, CEA, and their families. It is not intended for public distribution.