

# Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association  
May 22, 2020

## Looking Forward, Looking Back (lyrics by Australian folk singer Slim Dusty)

"Looking forward, looking back  
I've come a long way down the track  
Got a long way left to go  
Making songs, from what I know"

This sort of encapsulates where we are at the moment, contemplating what's to come with hopeful anticipation.

We at CSEA have our eyes on the future and are planning for back to school events amid uncertainties. The CSEA Board of Directors will welcome two new members, **Monica Peeler** (Grant), who is our new Intermediate Grade Director, and **Jo Pike** (Columbia), who is the new Palmer Region Director. We will see what shape our scheduled start-of-fall events take: our annual Board of Directors retreat in late July, our Association Representatives' Kick-Off Tuesday, August 4, and CSEA's welcoming at New Teacher Orientation Friday, August 7. We can still hope to conduct these events in person, can't we?

When you started teaching remotely, we made this daily effort to keep in touch with you, support you by providing resources, and sometimes share a bit of humor. Thanks for including us in this challenging journey, thanks for everything you have shared with us, and thanks for your consistent professionalism.

## Bargaining

Bargaining continues June 1-4, when CSEA and D11 work through financials. The State budget is not complete as of today, but Federal funding has been coming in to soften some of the cuts, but until we have firm numbers, there are no decisions. The Board of Education's public discussions (i.e. recorded meetings) on their priorities are available on their website, an example of which is found [here](#). As noted, the next bargaining session is June 1. Contact [CSEA](#) if you would like more information about it. Assuming we reach a tentative agreement, following a 24-hour embargo on releasing information, it will be presented to the CSEA Board of Directors for a vote on whether to recommend the agreement to the membership and then dissemination of info to the membership. A ratification vote will then be scheduled--a very short turn-around time. **Be sure to check your D11 email after June 5 for information on and voting instructions.**

Dear Members,

Now is a very important time for member engagement. In this time of constant changes and uncertainty bargaining is ongoing. We have made significant gains for teachers' rights, but the team has delayed talks for financials until the first of June. We are waiting for the state legislature to pass the budget, and news from the state is fluid, making our work in bargaining impossible at this point. Because of these delays, the ratification of the agreement will be postponed until we are done with the entire package.

Unfortunately, that means that voting on ratification of the agreement will take place after the school year has been complete. Because of this delay we need you to continue to be

engaged by reading your emails frequently. Since we are not in school our person to person contact that CSEA relies on is impossible. We cannot stress enough how important it is that all members watch out for emails communicating the results of bargaining and the ratification of the agreement.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ritchie and Kelly Stroup  
CSEA Co-Chairs Bargaining Team

[www.cseateacher.org](http://www.cseateacher.org)

[csea@coloradoea.org](mailto:csea@coloradoea.org)



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