

# Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association  
January 21, 2021

## CSEA History, Part 3: Strike Aftermath and the Crystal Apple Award

Critical to the successful strike was the outpouring of support from the community. Parents and local businesses were largely supportive of teachers. For example, it was the collective effort of staff and community members to quickly and overwhelmingly submit letters of support to the Gazette-Telegraph. Businesses, staff, and community generated, distributed and returned petitions to the Board of Education demanding they return to the bargaining table. The goodwill was not universal however. Holly Sugar Corporation created an anti-union policy that granted their employees the leave to substitute one day per week as part of their job. These activities, to either support or break the strike resulted in lingering issues. In particular, the issues of rebuilding trust and mending relationships became paramount. One source (and we are still trying to confirm its accuracy) described the introduction of the Crystal Apple award for excellence in teaching in D11 as a major step to restoring relationships. First awarded in 1983, the partnership between PTA and D11 continues to this day. The Crystal Apple represents one way in which teachers are honored for their very important work.



**Thumbs Up** – To all educators who are planning clubs this semester! Our kids need this opportunity to be creative and interact during COVID.

## Announcements

### Asynchronous Learning Days

Teachers continue have the option of working remotely or in-building when they are not conducting in-person instruction, just as they did after Thanksgiving. Of course this pertains to “Asynchronous Mondays.” This can mean meeting with their teams over WebEx, for example.

### Change In Process for D-11 Job Postings

D-11 won't email notices of open positions within the district anymore. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday job postings will be updated on the D11 website:

<https://www.d11.org/jobs>.

From now on, the emails will only include only “Temporary Worker” positions that are not specifically posted online.

### Teacher Stipends for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Clubs and Activities

- Utilize all teacher stipends for the 2020-2021 school year! This money we negotiated for teachers does not roll over to next year.
- Any club/activities that can be done virtually, do it.
- Following CHSAA recommendations per Chris Noll---Sport Clubs are approved, but do not move forward until the 1st of February

- Mondays **before or after the asynchronous day -- clubs are *not* held during the school day except during lunch or planning period as is always possible per the Master Agreement** -- or after school (Middle School Athletics) – 1st of February
- Extra-Curricular and Activities/Athletics on hold until the 1st of February
- Mid-February clubs (**in-person**) providing our infection rates are stable

Please monitor the infection rates before moving forward with “in person” activities. We do not want to close our schools.

If you have questions about Stipends, ask your AR for help. We don't want to miss opportunities for student enrichment and fun activities.

### **Standards Review and Revision Applications**

Per *HB 20-1032*, there is now a requirement for regular review and revision of the Colorado Academic Standards. Previously, all content area revisions were required to occur within six years of the prior cycle, which occurred in 2018. Colorado now requires the State Board of Education to review and revise approximately one-third of the standards beginning in 2022 (planning in 2021) and an additional one-third every two years thereafter. Phase 1 standards review and revisions include Visual and Performing Arts and Social Studies. **The Office of Standards and Instructional Support is now accepting applications for the standards revision committee membership in the following content areas: social studies, visual arts, music, dance and drama/theatre arts. Application window has been extended to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2021.** Selected applicants will be notified in March 2021. If interested, [access the application here](#). This is a great, professional opportunity for our educators representing the content areas above to elevate their voices in reviewing and revising/setting standards for their respective content areas. For additional questions, feel free to contact Joshua Quick, CEA Director of Professional Practice and State Education Policy at [jquick@coloradoea.org](mailto:jquick@coloradoea.org).

### **Virtual Events**

#### **Leveling Up Your Screencast**

- January 25, 2021, 5-6pm MST
- The ability to make screen recordings has become an essential skill. What are the benefits of Loom, Screencastify, Screencast-o-Matic, Quicktime, as compared to other tools? Learn how to make a video, share a video, and edit a video. Also, learn about some best practices and fun ideas for screencasts.
- Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/nea/event/365267/>

### **Articles Of Note**

["Mindfulness and Positivity Project" helping teachers, students' mental health amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

['Not Broken But Simply Unfinished': Poet Amanda Gorman Calls For A Better America](#)

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