

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
January 14, 2021

CSEA History, part 2: Colorado Springs Teachers Association Strike of 1975

On December 4, 1975, 1300 teachers from the Colorado Springs Teachers Association went on strike. The goals of the teachers according to Phil Moeckli, CSTA President, were “Professional dignity for all teachers, the right for teachers to determine their professional future, and good faith bargaining.” On December 19, at 11:50 am, the message was released: “Colorado’s longest teacher strike is over. Striking CSTA teachers voted by 92% this morning to accept the District 11 settlement offer...” In between, a failed Mill Levy Increase election occurred. So what happened? The Board of Education didn’t want to negotiate; for fear that the professional’s judgment might limit their decision making. They wouldn’t offer proposals. They never mentioned money. The Board of Education didn’t move in mediation. They simply tried to ignore the issues of the time: As Board of Education President John Wiman stated at the time, the “ability to pay was not an issue.” Rather, the records describe the specific issues as the retention and attraction of staff, recognition of the teachers’ right to collectively bargain working conditions in good faith, and finally the ability to have a living wage in Colorado Springs at the time. The teachers were successful because they engaged the community with their stories, they stuck together, and they were committed to the best education for students.

[HERE](#) is a link to a cartoon made by Charles Rockey, long time District 11 art teacher and artist, during the strike.

“I had discerned the ways in which we had been sculpted by a tradition given to us by others, a tradition of which we were either willfully or accidentally ignorant. I had begun to understand that we had lent our voices to a discourse whose sole purpose was to dehumanize and brutalize others—because nurturing that discourse was easier, because retaining power always feels like the way forward.” Westover, Tara. Educated. Random House, New York. 2018. P. 180.

Return To Learn

As teachers approach returning to in-person instruction, we see the hypocrisy of labeling educators “essential workers” and also delaying their receiving vaccines. We in D11 were on the verge of getting vaccines at the start of this week through Centura (our BEST network provider). Instead, the governor reshuffled the cards yet again, preventing essential educators in schools from rising on the list. Whether you are among the half of teachers who has been advocating for returning to in-person instruction, or the half that argues for staying remote, you should know that CEA continues to press the issue, as do associations of administrators and school boards.

So we are back where we were much of first semester, but with one light on the horizon to counter-balance D11’s suffering the greatest percentage drop in public-school attendance

anywhere in Colorado. We are losing thousands of students to “open” districts, but soon we will turn that corner.



Thumbs Up – To Anton Schulzki, CSEA Palmer Region Director and President-elect for the National Council for the Social Studies who was featured on *Good Morning America* on January 7, 2021. Click [here](#) to view the segment.

Announcements

Facilities Master Plan Focus Group Invitation

The Facilities Master Plan is the foundation for the vision of the next thirty years of learning environments for future generations of D11 students and families. The [Facilities Master Plan](#) is available at d11.org. The next round of forums will be throughout the day via WebEx on Friday, January 15, 2021. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Middle Schools, Coronado HS Area Elementary Schools, 8:30 am to 10:30 am Meeting Link:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/cssd11/j.php?MTID=m4b244359dac4bb80d6af14655f713002>

Mitchell HS Area Elementary Schools, 11:00 am to 12:00pm, Meeting Link:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/cssd11/j.php?MTID=m5624834181785a5056e3a57e4469f226>

Palmer HS Area Elementary Schools, 12:30pm to 1:30 pm, Meeting Link:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/cssd11/j.php?MTID=m9ea1d3609607d1abeb62eadde68a7936>

Doherty HS Area Elementary Schools, 2:00pm to 3:00 pm, Meeting Link:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/cssd11/j.php?MTID=me6f006057f9513a178ac2545d29fa6bb>

General Discussion, 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Meeting Link:

<https://cssd11.webex.com/cssd11/j.php?MTID=mb9ff0ba08b5dd519eb0e627f063a6145>

Virtual Events

Annually the NEA hosts an engagement in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. King, who was a trailblazer as he fervently advocated for civil rights, social justice, and equity for all. This year, in partnership with NCSEA and NCUEA, the National Education Association is proud to host a virtual roundtable discussion in honor of the life and legacy of Dr. King, **Tuesday, January 19 (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM MST)** entitled: *The MOVEMENT MOMENT! Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Elevating NEA’s Vision for Public Schools through a Racial Justice Lens.*

- Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://nea-org.zoom.us/j/92701778055?pwd=UzhMRW10dFN0L2RDVmxNdGZtOUNLdz09>
- Webinar ID: 927 0177 8055
- Passcode: 925251
- Or Telephone: US: +1 (301) 715-8592 (International numbers available: <https://nea-org.zoom.us/u/abvHogrRs>)
- Should you have any questions please email Merwyn Scott, NEA Community Advocacy & Partnership Engagement (CAPE) Director at mescott@nea.org.

Article Of Note

[Correct\(ed\): Teaching the Civil Rights Movement](#)

Vaccination info from CEA

[Vaccine Information from CDPHE](#)

[Vaccine FAQ from CDPHE](#)

[COVID Vaccine Guide from CPR News](#)

[COVID-19 Testing Information from CDPHE](#)

www.cseateacher.org

csea@coloradoea.org



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