

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
May 6, 2021

Teacher Appreciation Week 2021

“Teachers go above and beyond, and they have done that so consistently and for so long...it’s now expected. It’s good that that’s appreciated... but what does appreciation LOOK like?”

Read President Joe Schott’s full speech to the Board of Education regarding Teacher Appreciation Week [here](#).



Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the individuals who lend their passion and skills to educating our children.

PTA events at the national, state and local levels celebrate the outstanding contributions teachers make.

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly...

The Good: Teachers, we appreciate all you do.

The Ugly: When a teacher asked the Board of Education how CSEA’s mission failed to align with D11’s mission and Strategic Plan—a claim made overtly on behalf of the Board by its representative in a public meeting--Board Secretary Mason wrote back:

“...With all due respect, I will not provide an answer; and I wish that neither (sic) Board Director responds to your request.

Not because, (sic) either of us wish to be insubordinate nor (sic) disrespectful. My wish is based on my assessment that such a request is completely outside your scope of responsibility and authority...

Further, I recommend you and all others with a similar question request a meeting with Dr. Schott to develop a request for information and/or analysis to determine the scope of the Board's thinking with this matter... Please ask the appropriate authority to file an official request...”

So...we think Secretary Mason is saying *shut up and teach. Let important people handle the big questions. You have no business asking to understand what the Board says. Tell your representatives to ask for an audience.* Inasmuch as he apparently acknowledges that it is, in fact, the belief of the Board that CSEA’s mission doesn’t align with D11’s, we again ask whether the Board of Education supports professional working conditions. Do they support fair treatment of staff and students? Do they believe in living wages for staff? Do they support schools and their employees so that students can thrive? These are the pillars of our mission. For those who want to read the entirety of Secretary Mason’s email, you can find it [here](#). Once again, this is CSEA’s mission:

CSEA endeavors to ensure that all teachers enjoy the benefits of professional working conditions, fair treatment, just compensation, and the support needed so that students and schools thrive.

Just to remind everyone of Board Policy BHC: ...Therefore the Board affirms its position that any employee or employee group or organization may/can appear before the Board for the purpose of discussing any matter.
<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/domain/69/SectionB/BHC.pdf>

Virtual Events

Mental Health Roundtable with Educators and Allies, May 7 at 6:00pm

Join us for a discussion with educators and allies on facing mental health issues in our own lives, classrooms, and in the political arena. We'll be sharing amazing resources from our partners at University of Maryland National Center for School Mental Health, ways to get involved in political advocacy for mental health issues, as well as putting a bow on an amazing AE Mental Health Week. Register: <https://secure.ngpvan.com/Hfko0cLcfECVHRJypyimoA2>

Announcements

CSEA Board Positions

Due to shifting assignments around the district, the following Board of Director positions are available:

Secretary
Coronado Region Director
Intermediate Region Director

If you would like information or to self-nominate for one of these positions, email [Joe](#).

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success. Use this [link](#) to access resources for your classroom.

Book Recommendation

Salsa, Soul, and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age
By Juana Bordas (2012)

In *Salsa, Soul, and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age*, Juana Bordas shows how incorporating Latino (salsa), African-American (soul), and American Indian (spirit) approaches to leadership has the potential to strengthen leadership and inspire today's ethnically rich workforce. Bordas identifies nine leadership principles common to all three cultures. Multicultural leadership encourages diverse people to actively engage, contribute, and tap their potential. (Customized and edited from Bordas' website).

Article of Note

[KRCC Series on Mitchell High School: People are Devastated](#)

[KRCC Series on Mitchell High School: Use of Home Visits](#)

[Schools Use Art to Help Kids Through Trauma](#)

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