

# Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association  
September 2, 2021

## Labor Day 2021

*What can Labor do for itself? The answer is not difficult. Labor can organize, it can unify; it can consolidate its forces. This done, it can demand and command.*

-- Eugene V. Debs

Since the late 1800's, education workers unified in the interests of professionalism in the workplace, fairness and equity of treatment, and to ensure our students had the resources to achieve whatever they wished. This work continues.

We teach children the values of an inquisitive and empowered society, the importance of civic engagement, and the power of imagination. We need to expect the trust and autonomy to teach. We need to insist upon justice in our workplaces. And we need to work together to ensure we have the resources necessary to do our job and live in our community.

Thus, on this Labor Day weekend, we want to thank you for your tireless efforts and important work to cultivate the next great generation and stand together for your profession. Relax and enjoy this well-deserved celebration.



**Thumbs Up!** Thumbs up to the volunteers that coordinated our All-Member Back to School BBQ! The event was well-attended by members of CSEA and PPEA. Food, drinks, and outdoor games were enjoyed by all!

## The Good, the Bad & the Ugly...

The Ugly: Behavior of a number of Board-meeting attendees at last week's session (25 August 2021) was both improper and rude. Outbursts were common while citizens were speaking—both heckling and applause. Some repeatedly sought to interrupt the Board President as he pursued the agenda. Others loudly complained as they failed to follow long-standing Board procedures, blaming the Board for their own lack of understanding.

## Upcoming Events

### CSEA Books & Balloons- Labor Day Lift Off

On Labor Day weekend, CSEA members and District 11 teachers will once again be supporting literacy and making children/families happy by giving away free books. 2 years ago, we gave away over 5,000 books and saw so many joyful faces. Please join us in Solidarity, meet some wonderful people in the community, and check off a requirement for your teacher evaluation (civic engagement). If you have questions or need more information please see the links below, or email: [Kevin.Coughlin@d11.org](mailto:Kevin.Coughlin@d11.org)

### Sign Up to Volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0944A8AF2EA7FF2-balloons>

**Event Information:**

<https://coloradospringslabordayliftoff.com/>

**Announcements****Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment: 9/1/2021 – 9/30/2021**

The **Sick Leave Bank** is a voluntary paid leave benefit and is designed to provide assistance to an employee that has exhausted all sick leave time and needs more paid leave to carry them through a critical illness/injury for the employee or their immediate family. Sick Leave Bank enrollment must be completed in PeopleSoft Self Service by the September 30, 2021. Please review the Sick Leave Bank Instructions-FAQ's available [here](#) for any questions.

**BOE election, open seats**

Look for recommendations in the next few days.

**Article of Note**

<https://www.npr.org/sections/back-to-school-live-updates/2021/08/30/1032417970/school-board-members-hostile-meetings-mask-mandates-politicized>

There are many decisions that school board members make in their elected capacity. Unfortunately, these unpaid, volunteer, and elected officials face questions, personal attacks, and ridicule because of their role. Lately, as seen in our D-11 BOE meeting last week and in the meetings of many of our neighboring districts, it seems that more active vitriol and actual violence are rising. This is a nationwide phenomenon largely characterized by the language of radical individualism. Regardless of the politics of decision-making, CSEA believes we must treat these officials with the respect befitting our profession and with the knowledge that adults can disagree without being disagreeable.

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