

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association

February 10, 2022

Email Awareness – D11 emails are public.

A heads up: We have verified that trolls are making numerous, specific records requests of D11, including for correspondence between some D11 e-mail addresses and CSEA President, Joe Schott. Trolling correspondence is one of the attacks on our union. If you have correspondence you wish to keep private, write CSEA from a home address. [Joe's](#), [Thad's](#), and [Laura's CSEA addresses](#) (...@coloradoea.org) are **not** on the D11 server, so they are already safe and private. It's correspondence that passes through ...@D11.org addresses that the trolls can access. If privacy is not a concern, D11 e-mail is just fine.

Right Wing Coordination

Last week, teachers in Douglas County organized to support continuity in their district. Over 1000 teachers called in sick on Thursday, forcing the shutdown of schools. While their action included a message of support for their superintendent (a 25-year employee with teaching roots), its *real* focus was on the abuses of power by the new School Board majority. Specifically, this new board demanded that District leadership share their political affiliation. They “daisy chained” a discussion of termination of the superintendent to skirt open-meeting laws, possibly violating the law. Such behavior aims to transform students into political pawns.

This unethical behavior is occurring all over the state. In Woodland Park, the new majority is threatening to fire employees for daring to discuss with each other the direction of the district. In Mesa County, the incoming superintendent is being examined by the new majority because he may not align with their politics. Similar conversations appear to be happening in coded language in D20, D49, Pueblo 70, Huerfano schools—and in D11. What CSEA knows is that teachers are professionals who, when trusted, develop critical thinking skills and habits of mind that open possibility to students. We nurture children to learn, explore, and open their minds. CSEA has a long history of fighting this type of behavior. We have academic freedom in our Master Agreement (article 11) to empower teachers to appropriately nurture student's imaginations. We will continue to fight for our students.



Thumbs Up – To Elissa Brost and Dwight Pickering for presenting at the AR council meeting this month and advocating for professional learning WITH teacher involvement in advancing our profession.

Announcements

Read Across America

March 2 is National Read Across America Day, a day to celebrate our favorite activity. The day was established by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1998 to help get kids excited about reading. The day occurs each year on the birthday of beloved children's book author Dr. Seuss, so a perfect way to celebrate is to don a Seussian hat and read one his famous tales, like *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*. On National Read Across America Day, students, teachers, parents, and community members around the nation come together to read books and celebrate the joy of reading. Does your school have RAA events planned? We'd love to know

how you will celebrate! Do you need a guest reader? We have a select number of volunteers available to read to your kids. Sign up [here](#) if you would like a volunteer to come to your school!

COpilot- Spring Catalog and Discount!

This Spring semester, COpilot is featuring over 100 classes that can help you take your teaching to the next level. Classes focus on real strategies you can use in your classrooms right away regardless of what time of year it is. Take some time and look through the classes and find some professional development from real educators that meets your needs at <https://www.ceacopilot.org>!

Coupon code for CSEA members only! **SPRING25** to take 25% off your *cart total*.
The promotion ends on 2/28.

Have questions about COpilot? We have local resources! CSEA members [Elissa Brost](#) and [Dwight Pickering](#) are COpilot instructors! Feel free to reach out with questions.

Articles, Resources and Websites

Celebrating Black History Month – [The story of Black History Month](#)

Born as a sharecropper in 1875, Carter G. Woodson went on to become a teacher and the second African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard. He founded the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#) in 1915 and was eventually known as the "father of Black history."

On Feb. 7, 1926, Woodson announced the creation of "Negro History Week" to encourage and expand the teaching of Black history in schools. He selected February because the month marks the birthday of the two most famous abolitionists of the time -- Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Feb. 1 is also National Freedom Day, a celebration of the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the US.

By the 1940s, schools in Woodson's home state of West Virginia had begun expanding the celebration to a month, and by the 1960s, demands for proper Black history education spread across the country. Kent State's [Black United Students](#) proposed the idea of a Black History month in 1969 and celebrated the first event in February 1970. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976 during the US bicentennial.

The excellent history site [BlackPast](#) has a full biography of [Carter Woodson](#) and the origins of Black History Month.

More on Douglas County: [After controversial firing, community members rally behind Douglas County superintendent](#)

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