

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
March 3, 2022

Michael Thomas Out

Last night the Board of Education severed its relationship with our superintendent, Michael Thomas, mid-stream. Many saw this as inevitable since his ouster was part of the campaigning in last fall's BoE race. More recently, too, the vitriol targeting Thomas from public comments planted at BoE meetings made it clear that a coordinated effort was being made suggest public outrage against him—something the Board majority then could point to for action.

This follows the pattern of factions taking over school boards around the state and nation, then forcing out superintendents and radically changing the character and direction of districts. We noted recently that Douglas County's board is doing this, as well as Woodland Park's, Pueblo 70's, Mesa's, and others.

With this first target thus removed, we can expect full attention and animus to be turned on us and our choice of union representation, CSEA. Many had concerns last week about a Board power move to take over, control, and direct *all* aspects of curriculum, but the Master Agreement—which is to say teachers' *rights*—presented a hurdle to such a takeover. Of course, removing the Master Agreement would remove the hurdle (along with other workplace rights that depend on the MA). Make no mistake: that is the game plan of much of this BoE. Eliminate the check on complete Board authority to direct teaching professionals however they wish without collaboration or recourse. As we've noted before, the BoE majority was *already* trying to eliminate representation by a fellow teacher through their bargaining issue. Now we can look for more slurs, false assertions, and attacks on teacher voice.



Board Watch - When asked at Wednesday's BoE work session, administration enthusiastically assured the BoE that Faculty Meetings are currently and in the future could be used to assign teachers professional development. We strongly reject that notion. Faculty Meetings are specifically carved out for a purpose—not simply as time teachers can be assigned more work outside of normal hours. See the "Contract Video" on the member page of www.CSEAteacher.org.

Announcements

Deadline to Self-Nominate for CSEA Board of Director Positions and Representatives to the 2021-2022 NEA Representative Assembly- March 4th!!

Board positions open for election at this time are Secretary, Coronado Region Director, Doherty Region Director, Mitchell Region Director, Palmer Region Director, Intermediate Grade Director, and Itinerant Director. All positions are for a two-year term starting July 2022.

For NEA Representative Assembly, CSEA is allotted 7 delegates. According to the CSEA bylaws, the President is automatically a representative. Six additional representatives will be elected. In order to receive funding to attend RA, representatives must have served on at least

one CSEA committee or as an Association Representative this year. If you have questions, please contact Joe Schott at jschott@coloradoea.org. Representative Assembly will be held in Chicago, IL July 3 – July 6, 2022.

Nomination forms are available here:

[CSEA Representatives to the NEA Representative Assembly Nomination Form](#)

[CSEA Board of Directors Nomination Form](#)

Contact us at [CSEA](#) if you have any questions.

CSEA March First Friday

This Friday, March 4, we will get together at **Cogstone Brewing Company**, 3858 Village Seven Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80917. We'll provide the appetizers and hope to see you there!!

Bargaining Continues....

The next bargaining session is scheduled for Monday, March 7 from 1:00 until 8:00 pm. Join us for some or all of that time in Room 250, Tesla Educational Center/International Circle or streaming [online](#).

Articles, Resources and Websites

[Inside Colorado's kindergarten enrollment rebound: Simple numbers, complicated stories](#)

"When Colorado's kindergarten enrollment plummeted during the first year of the pandemic, people wondered: Where did the kids go and will they come back?"

[Jorgenson, Loma face backlash, calls for reprimand](#)

"Colorado Springs School District 11's regular school board meeting on Feb. 23 was anything but regular. It started with a student-led protest against conservative board members Jason Jorgenson and Al Loma, who have been under fire for offensive conduct — and ended with the board moving to consider their formal reprimand."

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