



A Union of Professionals

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Dear Members,

The Douglas County Federation (DCF) prides itself on putting the interests of students first. This means developing and supporting quality educators while building positive, collaborative relationships with district administration including the School Board. These relationships ensure each one of our students has the educational opportunity to reach his or her full potential – and the same can be said of each employee. We want our members to understand this focus is unwavering.

It is our role to enhance the educational system for our students by making sure learning and student achievement remain the District's primary focus. The DCF believes working on behalf of educators and students has never been and should never be mutually exclusive interests. Many of the students being educated within the District are our own children; clearly it is in our interest both as parents and staff to create an effective and efficient working environment.

Many of you have expressed concerns regarding the future of teaching and learning in Douglas County. There is the sense that during the recent election, the debate centered on political agendas and not educational ones. In other words, there seemed to have been more focus on the beliefs of the adults in the system and not the best interest of our students. Be assured, we will reject any attempt to compromise our ideals; as you all know, an educator's working conditions are his or her students' learning conditions.

Those who choose to continue to focus on political agendas, and not on the needs of our students, must not underestimate the passion of educators and concerned parents. Let there be no debate on the challenges the District is facing. In the coming months, the School Board must address significant budget shortfalls while also conducting a search for a new Superintendent. Collectively – meaning ALL of us – we must focus our energies on solving for these challenges. To do anything else is to fail public education and would be a misguided fight, suggesting that the rhetoric of the recent election was just the beginning. Our hope is for a better future for the students of Douglas County.

As we begin our conversations with the newly elected Board, we will provide timely communications to inform you about the direction of our District and the decisions made during these difficult times. Please visit our website for updates: WWW.DCFT.NET, or feel free to call our office with questions, 303-688-3381.

Yours in Solidarity,
Brenda Smith, President