



A Union of Professionals

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Dear DCF member,

As you know, there has been a lot of discussion around the “proposals” coming out of the DCSD Board of Education’s Choice Task Force. I would like to give you an update on the BoE Retreat this past weekend, the meeting on Monday night for staff, and the BoE Meeting last night. I would also like to provide a clear understanding of the Douglas County Federation’s stand on the proposed voucher program for Douglas County School District.

Friday night's meeting was mainly a discussion around the voucher ("Option Certificate") portion of the Choice Task Force and a lot of questions were asked by several members of the board as four of the seven members had very little prior knowledge of either the work of the Task Force or its proposals. The lawyer hired by the board, Eric Hall, gave a description of the voucher proposal and took questions from the board.

On Saturday, representatives from the seven sub-committees presented their individual proposals to the board and discussion took place after the presentations. You can find all of these proposals on the district website: www.dcsdk12.org.

While public comment was scheduled for the BoE meeting on Tuesday night, November 16th, we felt it very important to give members an opportunity to raise concerns and ask questions in a format that would allow for “back and forth” discussion, something that is not the case during public comment at a BoE meeting. Therefore, we arranged a “Staff Forum” Monday night, November 15th, with Dr. Fagen and two BoE members. At the forum, which included over a hundred employees, Dr. Fagen, Cliff Stahl, and Dan Gerken listened to mounting concerns raised by DCSD staff. After well over two hours of discussion, both board members stated that the concerns raised would be shared with the rest of the board.

At last night’s board meeting there was time set aside for public comment and over forty community members and parents voiced their views on the voucher proposal before the board. Please see the attached notes from last night’s meeting for details of these comments.

Our areas of concern for a voucher program in DCSD mirror those of our members. Make no mistake, the Douglas County Federation unequivocally opposes any proposal that would harm our schools and students.

In Solidarity,

Brenda Smith,
President, Douglas County Federation