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## School Board Information

The following candidates were elected to serve on the DCSD School Board:

John Carson  
Dan Gerken  
Meghann Silverthorn  
Doug Benevento

Each of these individuals has been elected to serve a term of four years. They are scheduled to begin their terms on December 1st, the next Board meeting. Our office will be providing information about Board Meetings to members via building/site Political Liaisons. To see the agenda for the next Board meeting, visit the DCSD Website: [http://www.dcsdk12.org/portal/page/portal/DCSD/Board\\_of\\_Education/2008-2009%20Meeting%20Agendas%20and%20Minutes](http://www.dcsdk12.org/portal/page/portal/DCSD/Board_of_Education/2008-2009%20Meeting%20Agendas%20and%20Minutes)

*Douglas  
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## PERA Information

As you know, the Douglas County Federation has three representatives on the PERA Coalition. This Coalition is made up of representatives from all of the different divisions that belong to PERA. Please visit the Secure PERA website for the latest information about PERA: [www.securepera.org](http://www.securepera.org)

Please take the time to educate yourself about what is happening with PERA. If you visit the above website you can sign up for email updates.

## DCFCE and DCFT Contracts

As mentioned in the last Rapping Paper, the DCFCE and DCFT Contracts were approved by member vote. If you visit our website, you will find the new contracts under "For Teachers" or "For Classified Employees."  
[www.dcfce.net](http://www.dcfce.net)

## Devastating Numbers:

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter has announced K-12 funding reductions for the state of Colorado. With a proposed \$260 million in state K-12 cuts, DCSD faces a budget reduction of over \$30 million for the 2010-2011 school year. Per pupil funding is going to be decreased from \$6,951 ('09-'10) to \$6,563 for the '10-'11 school year. Possible cuts for the "site-based budgets" per building are shocking. Some examples are listed below:

If only 50% of the decrease in PPF is passed on to buildings, the following amount would need to be cut from an average high, middle, and elementary school:

~1,800 student high school: \$385,200 (\*6 FTE)

~1,000 student middle school: \$214,000 (\*3.3 FTE)

~660 student elementary school: \$141,240 (\*2.2 FTE)

If .75% of the decrease in PPF were passed on to buildings, the following amount would need to be cut from the average high, middle, and elementary school:

~1,800-student high school: \$577,800 (\*8.8 FTE)

~1,000-student middle school: \$321,000 (5 \*FTE)

~660-student elementary school: \$211,860 (3.2 \*FTE)

\*1.0 Full Time Equivalent (teacher)

## Privatization:

DCF is aware that the district is reviewing and conducting analysis concerning "privatizing" portions of the school district. In an effort to keep our members informed, we would like to explain what "privatization" is and what this might mean for Douglas County.

Privatization is "the act of reducing the role of government or increasing the role of the private sector in an activity or the ownership of assets." When school districts or governmental entities refer to privatization this usually includes the following scenarios, among others not listed here:

1. Sale of public assets to the private sector;
2. Contracting with a private corporation to provide services, such as managing public schools, custodial, transportation, food services, maintenance, managing social service programs, or running correctional facilities.

School boards, and local and state governments are increasingly turning to privatization or "contracting out" as a simple solution to complex problems. In reaction to the \$30 million plus in proposed budget cuts for the 2010-2011 school year, DCSD is reviewing departments, and services which could be contracted out to private companies. The goal would be to reduce the district's overhead for employees (such as salary, benefits, PERA, etc.). The DCF office is utilizing connections at the national level thru the American Federation of Teachers, as well as local entities, to prepare and openly discuss budgetary options with the district. We will be keeping our employees informed of the process and provide all details as they become available. If you have any questions, or feedback, please contact the DCF Office.

## Discussion Forum:

The DCF Office will be hosting a forum for classroom teachers about the upcoming budget cuts. With the level of cuts being proposed, classrooms will be impacted to a much greater degree next school year than this school year and we want to hear your thoughts. This will not be a "sit and get" situation or a presentation by the DCF Office. You will be asked to take part in discussions with other people from your same level (elementary, middle, high). We would like to include 10-15 teachers for each "group." Please contact Courtney Smith ([Courtney.Smith@dcsdk12.org](mailto:Courtney.Smith@dcsdk12.org)) if you would like to be included in this discussion. When contacting her please include your position and school. We are planning to hold the meeting the week of December 7<sup>th</sup>, date, time, and location TBD.

## The Wellness Corner

Mountain View Elementary School's Physical Education Instructor, Jan Kerr, is planning great things for her students this winter. She has introduced the "Exercise Club" for first, second, and third graders at her school. The Exercise Club will be meeting two days a week for one hour in the morning for eight weeks. During the hour classes the students will be working on cardio activities, muscle strength, stretching and endurance.

If you or another member are doing something fun to promote wellness with students and/or other employees please let us know. Our goal is to share some of the great things that are happening with wellness in our district.

### HSA Tips, and Links:

The DCF Office has received numerous questions and concerns around the cost of prescriptions, tests, screens, doctor's visits, etc. A lot of members have also expressed a desire to be able to comparison shop. Therefore, on our website, we have provided information we hope will be beneficial to our members. Click on the link to our website, then select HSA/Benefits: [www.dcft.net](http://www.dcft.net)

The [Shopping for Health Care](#) tab will give you three websites designed to help you educate yourself before you walk into your doctor's office on what services will cost.

The [Prescription Assistance Programs](#) tab will provide information on programs that offer access to cheaper prescriptions. However, please be aware that some of these programs do not allow prescription costs to count towards your deductible.

The [Migraine Medication Guide](#) tab provides many different websites for everything from diagnosis to treatment options for migraines. It even allows comparisons between medications, allowing you to possibly find cheaper prescription options.

### Does your site/building want to meet with Health at Work?

If you are interested in receiving a pedometer and were not able to attend one of the "Ped Rollout Meetings" you are not out of luck. Health at Work is willing to talk to your staff about any aspect of the wellness program, Health Savings Accounts, or the pedometers. If the employees in your building or at your site would like to have the Health at Work Team visit, please encourage your building principal or site manager to contact the Benefits Department.

#### HSA Booklet:

Please visit our website, under HSA/Benefits, if you would like to view the HSA Booklet from Health at Work. It compares our current HSA Plan to what our "old" plan would look like if the district had not switched to a Health Savings Account.

[www.dcft.net](http://www.dcft.net)

## AppTrack Information: Important Classified Transfer Information

The Human Resources and IT Departments are in the process of converting all Classified In-District Transfer Requests to the online AppTrack system. With this new system, classified employees will be able to create an online profile/application and apply for several job postings at one time. Employees can update and change their profile as necessary. Setting up the employee's initial profile takes a little time, but the application portion makes the process simple, fast, and paperless. **Please also note that Human Resources will no longer accept paper transfer request forms as of December 1, 2009.**

There are four computer kiosks available at the Wilcox building and four computer kiosks at the Learning Center for employees who need assistance using computers or do not have access to a computer at their worksite. If you require additional assistance, or have questions, please contact Courtney Weber, Application Specialist, at 303-387-0143. She is available to help employees through the process.

## Two DCF Members Testify at the State Capitol

Carol Adams (Center for Staff and Community Development) and Joe White (teacher, TRHS) testified before the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) at the Colorado State Capitol last week. They testified about the possible ramifications of K-12 funding cuts at a district level. Below, each of them describes what they shared with state senators and legislators.

Carol Adams: I spoke last and explained I was not representing just “another special interest group.” That public education has long been the cornerstone of a free society and when budget cuts force the districts to reduce services to students then the entire society becomes at risk. I shared that the disparity between those in our society who have knowledge and those who do not is growing and K-12 education is the only thing preventing that gap from growing. I asked the committee to look at revenue enhancement options and all spending cuts very carefully when making the decision on where to reduce state funding.

Joe White: I shared that I have two fourth graders attending school in Douglas County and how critical it is for all students to have access to services that range from Special Education to Gifted and Talented programs. I also shared that my wife and I are third generation Colorado Natives and we are watching the quality of life in Colorado decrease with all of these cuts.

If you know either Carol or Joe please let them know how much you appreciate their taking time from their busy schedules to share our concerns as educators and employees of Douglas County.

## Classified Building Reps. Needed!!!!

The Douglas County Federation needs Classified Building Reps. at the following schools/sites:

### **Sites needing DCFCE Building Reps:**

Arrowwood Elem	Northeast Elem
Acres Green Elem	Northridge Elem
Castle View High School	Prairie Crossing Elem
Cimmarron Middle School	Rocky Heights Middle School
Copper Mesa	Soaring Hawk Elem
Gold Rush Elem.	Stone Mountain Elem
Heritage Elem	Summit View Elem
Iron Horse Elem	ThunderRidge High School
Legacy Point Elem	Transportation East (Parker)
Mesa Middle School	Service Center (Warehouse/Nutrition
Mountain View Elem	Services/Purchasing Depts.)

If you are a DCFCE member at a location not listed, and would like to be more involved, please contact our office. Several sites have excellent building representatives who may be able to utilize your help.

### Upcoming School Visits:

Sierra Middle School: Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sagewood Middle School: Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Castle Rock Elementary: Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Legend High School: Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>  
Douglas County High School: Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sedalia Elementary: Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ponderosa High School: Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Roxborough Primary/Intermediate: Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

\* If you would like us to visit your school/site, please email or call Cindi Leitch or Andy Pippin.

# Save the Date!

\*DCSD School Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

\*Classified Contract Negotiations: December 2nd

\*Classified Building Rep. Meeting: December 3rd