

Education Committee Meeting Update
7/9/17

We believe that education is the foundation of democracy and a free, public and equitable education is the right of all.

Representative Barb McLachlan
6/26/17 10:00-11:30

1. PreK-12

- salary
 - 9R has raised the starting teacher pay to \$40K, better, but still not commensurate with the cost of living in Durango
- cost of living in rural areas
 - Roaring Fork Valley began a lottery for income-based housing for teachers
 - *The communities, in partnership with the school districts, need to be creative and develop ways to recruit and retain teachers by providing access to affordable living situations. The state doesn't have the funds to do this.*
- recruit and retain highly qualified teachers
 - HB 1176: modification of retirement regulations for public employees and allows rural schools to hire retired employees to cover shortages without reduction in benefits
 - *Montezuma-Cortez School District is experiencing a significant shortage of qualified teachers. Thanks to this bill, one of Rep. McLachlan's, several newly retired, highly qualified teachers from Durango will be teaching in Cortez for the next school year 2017-2018.*
 - University of Northern Colorado (UNC) Rural Education Center
 - Rural Teaching Scholars—a \$2800 stipend for those who would student teach in rural districts
 - teacher-cadet program for high school students interested in a teaching career
 - Ignacio High School has a program but very few takers
 - Rural Teacher Leaders program—support and encourage rural teachers to get National Board Certification and more professional development networks for rural teachers
 - lack of social network in rural communities

The Colorado Department of Higher Education and Colorado Department of Education are hosting a series of town hall meetings this summer to inform a statewide educator shortage action plan. Educators, students and parents and concerned members of the public are encourage to share their experiences and ideas for recruiting and retaining educators. HB 17-1003 was signed by Gov. John

Hickenlooper in May which requires DHE and CDE to develop a collaborative action plan that will outline the necessary steps to resolve the state's educator shortage. Locally, the town hall in our area is scheduled for August 14 or 15 (time not yet determined) at Ignacio High School. If you cannot attend, please share your thoughts and suggestions through this online survey: <http://highered.colorado.gov/> Rep. McLachlan also said that you have more input, use her FB page to add comments, write her barbara.mclachlan.house@state.co.us, call: 303-866-2914, 970-749-5683 (home)

- funding
 - SB 17-267 Hospital Provider Fee is now an Enterprise and out of the general fund, Tabor and Gallagher amendments impacts
 - local
 - Emily Newcomer, one of our committee members, is applying for the 9R school board seat (District E) vacated by Andy Burns who was hired as the COO of the district. She is also training on how to be elected for office and hopes to be elected to the 9R School Board.
 - Continuing to liaison with Durango Education Association (DEA) and their knowledge of funding within the district
 - The Financial Transparency for Colorado Schools website
 - keep trying—the website in the Herald doesn't work
 - state
 - **Interim committee looking at funding HB17-1340**
 - from Great Education Colorado website :
 - HB17-1340: Senator Andy Kerr plans to offer amendments on the floor of the Senate:
 - accelerate the study's timeline so our legislators get actionable information before it's too late
 - make sure that the committee studies what new resources would be necessary to meet the needs of ALL Colorado students
 - allow Colorado experts to bid on the study contract
- charter schools
 - funding
 - HB 1375
 - transparency and accountability
 - **districts must have a plan in place to show funding needs and other funding sources for the charter schools**
- IDEA, LGBTQ and meeting student needs
- immigration/deportation

http://educationvotes.nea.org/2017/06/25/supreme-court-case-every-public-school-advocate-talking/?utm_source=EdVotes&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=

2. Higher Ed

- Western Slope schools drop in enrollment
 - cost of living
- Ideas:
 - community internships
 - affordable housing through creative partnerships with the community and the college
 - impact of vacation rentals within the community for students and teachers
- impact of DeVos/Trump budget for Colorado
 - Colorado is attempting to put things in place as DeVos attempts to dismantle pathways and safeguards for students (we didn't have time to elaborate on this)
 - **The best thing to do is call/write/email/fax DeVos regarding these concerns. She doesn't have a direct email or phone number. You have to go through her press office:**
 - (202) 401-1576
 - press@ed.gov
 - 400 Maryland Ave, SW Washington, DC 20202
 - keep PELL grants funded
 - student loans for graduate and undergrad students
 - College Invest for parents
 - hoping to change the parameters:
 - currently—investments are dollar-for-dollar returns which favors wealthier parents
 - change to a tier system
 - parents making less than \$100K would receive \$2.00 on every \$1.00 invested
 - investment returns would be based on income
 - keeping student loan forgiveness programs in place
 - DeVos just appointed Wayne Johnson as the head of Office of Federal Student Aid. He is the CEO of Reunion Financial Services Corporation, a private student loan company

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/business/dealbook/massachusetts-betsy-devos-lawsuit.html?mcubz=0>

- funding of higher ed
 - Barb did get additional funds for FLC
- Title IX protections remain
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/betsy-devos-under-fire-scaling-213943379.html>
- support for humanities programs

Take a look at these sites as they are up on the current issues at many levels. If you see something that requires attention (mostly everything!) let us know.

National Education Association <http://www.nea.org/>

Colorado Education Association <https://www.coloradoea.org/>

Durango Education Association <http://www.durangoea.org/>

American Association of University Professors <https://www.aaup.org/>

Durango 9R School Board <http://www.durangoschools.org>

Great Education Colorado <https://www.greateducation.org/>