**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]   
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2011 8:42 AM  
**Cc:** Burkett, Kay [CO]; Docherty, Fran [CO]  
**Subject:** Membership Update 12/12/11  
**Importance:** High

**Historic Ed News Greets the Holiday Season!** Validating what Colorado’s public school employees have know for decades, Denver District Judge Sheila Rappaport ruled late last Friday in the case *Lobato vs. State of Colorado,* filed in 2005, that Colorado’s public school funding system is “significantly underfunded” and is not “thorough and uniform” as mandated by the Colorado Constitution. Judge Rappaport said the state has “failed to respond to the increasing resource needs driven by standards-based education.” Much of the ruling focuses on the underfunding of mandated statewide assessments, and we all know too well the resulting damage.

This ruling provides the spark we have needed, and while it is certain to be appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court, it is a bold statement about the pathetic state of Colorado’s K-12 funding. Several more years of judicial, legislative and voter action lie ahead, but the ruling provides us a rallying cry at both the state and local levels *right now*.

Read about the ruling and get invigorated for the challenges that lie just ahead.

[Denver Post editorial: Ruling requires ed funding reset](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_19513075)   12/10/11

[Judge rips schools' funding  - The Denver Post](http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_19513992)  12/10/11

[Denver court decision says state is underfunding education by billions - The Denver Post](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_19511537#ixzz1g5EilDoT)  12/9/11

**Bargaining Begins Tuesday**The SVVEA and District negotiations teams will meet Tuesday afternoon to determine bargaining dates and the general timelines for topics under consideration, including SB 191 Educator Effectiveness, Master Agreement Articles, and compensation.

**Teacher Advisory Council  (TAC)**  Superintendent Don Haddad holds a TAC meeting monthly with school representatives. The Q & A format is not meant to be solution-oriented, but it can be very informative. See the list below for your school representatives. TAC reps have received minutes from the last meeting (held Monday, December 5th) and many take their own notes.  Ask your TAC rep for a copy if you have not yet received them. If your school does not have a TAC representative, it presents a valuable opportunity to be a liaison between the superintendent and your staff.

Teacher Advisory Council

2011-2012

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | **Teacher Rep** | **Sign In** |
| Alpine | Amy Hermann |  |
| Black Rock | Beth Little |  |
| Blue Mountain |  |  |
| Burlington | Jesse Sapir |  |
| Central |  |  |
| Centennial | Chelsey Hagen |  |
| Columbine | Jenna Duff |  |
| Eagle Crest | Vikki Nazarenus |  |
| Erie | Denise Parker |  |
| Fall River | Sandy Whisman |  |
| Frederick | Colleen Metz |  |
| Hygiene | Jennifer Bentley |  |
| Indian Peaks |  |  |
| Legacy | Deb Luther |  |
| Loma Linda | Kelly Bernhardt |  |
| Longmont Estates | Ronda Soliz |  |
| Lyons | Doug Stahl |  |
| Mead | Jon Woltkamp |  |
| Mountain View | Sue Knaus |  |
| Niwot | Julie Nelsen-Breyer |  |
| Northridge | Melissa Castillo |  |
| Prairie Ridge | Amy Schiers |  |
| Red Hawk | Wendy Durst |  |
| Rocky Mountain | Peg Hannon |  |
| Sanborn | Tara Winger |  |
| Spangler | Rod Halsey |  |
|  |  |  |
| Altona | Laurie Rayhill |  |
| Coal Ridge | Janice Kai |  |
| Erie | Gina Cianciola |  |
| Heritage | Brent Marshall |  |
| Longs Peak | Kathy Gargent |  |
| Mead | Chris Allen |  |
| Sunset |  |  |
| Trail Ridge | Christy Kocjancic |  |
| Westview | Gene Kath |  |
|  |  |  |
| Erie High | Julie Mitchell |  |
| Frederick | Susan Goddard |  |
| Longmont | Brenda Mullins |  |
| Lyons | Karen Gregg  Kyle Schuyler |  |
| Mead High | Alice York |  |
| Niwot | Scott Sanchez |  |
| Silver Creek | Peter Dalby |  |
| Skyline |  |  |

**Most humorous Survey Response to “Three areas working well:”** Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Spring Break

The first Negotiations Survey link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/72FDZS8> remains open through this Friday. It has been available since the end of October and the information provided is extremely helpful top your team. Please take this opportunity for input if you haven’t done so already.

Enjoy the Holiday Season!

Trip Merklein

President

St. Vrain Valley Education Association

255 Weaver Park Road, Suite 202

Longmont, CO   80501

Office (303) 772-3666