**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 12:59 PM
**Cc:** Burkett, Kay [CO]; Docherty, Fran [CO]
**Subject:** Member Update 4/15/11

**A wrap-up of this week’s events:**

* **SVVEA Election Results:**

Members overwhelmingly approved the revisions to our Articles of Incorporation. The non-officer Board of Directors is now nine instead of ten. Jessicca Shaffer (Longmont Estates Elementary) and Michelle Blanken (Coal Ridge Middle School) have been re-elected to the Board.  Sarah Hightower (Burlington Elementary) is newly elected, and former Board member Fred Wilson (CDC/Longmont H.S.) has been reelected. Faythe Hanna (Columbine Elementary) has been elected Secretary. The Elections Committee will be reviewing the Election Guidelines to determine the details of a run-off for Treasurer. Detailed election results will be provided to your building’s Association Representative at next Tuesday’s AR meeting (4/19).

* **Negotiations** with the District this past Tuesday - Substantial progress was made crafting language from the recommendations of the Collaboration Task Force (see Monday 4/11 Member Update) that will clarify future building-level decision making. We will continue bargaining on Tuesday, 4/26, addressing SB 191(Educator Effectiveness) terms and concepts that must be negotiated at the district level.
* **Evaluation Task Force** – Yesterday’s meeting included a presentation of a concept that is similar to the evaluation model recommended by the Educator Effectiveness Council (see next bullet). Ron Noriyuki, a Coordinator of Quality Assurance for the district, has been exploring the information from the Educator Effectiveness Council and developed a conceptual model that may assist in the implementation of the SB 191 requirements for principal and teacher evaluation.

The last Evaluation Task Force meeting of this school year, on May 12, will include an update from Linda Barker from CEA and possibly Nina Lopez from CDE joining us as well. Both have been closely associated with the work of the Educator Effectiveness Council. They will help guide a discussion about next steps for our Task Force, including the implications of a future district pilot for principals and teachers.

* ***State Council For Educator Effectiveness Presents Recommendations For Evaluating Teachers And Principals***

***For the first time, definitions and expectations of “effective educators” will be the same across the state***

***(From the 4/13/11 CEA Action Line)***

After 13 months of work, the State Council for Educator Effectiveness presented 60 recommendations to the Colorado State Board of Education for a new statewide teacher and principal evaluation system. To see the detailed recommendations, visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/Partner-SCEE.asp>

Pending approval this fall by the Colorado State Board of Education, Colorado will have common statewide definitions of “effective teachers” and “effective principals," performance standards, performance rating categories and evaluation scoring frameworks – all of which have been developed as part of the Council’s work.

“Teachers and principals will have clear expectations – and, for the first time, those expectations will be the same across the state,” said council vice chair Nina Lopez, also special assistant to the commissioner, Colorado Department of Education. “Those expectations coupled with greater support and resources for teachers and principals are expected to directly impact achievement.”

In the past, state law required districts to rate educators as either satisfactory or not satisfactory. Now, teachers’ and principals’ evaluations will place them in one of four categories: highly effective, effective, partially effective and ineffective. Also, an educator’s non-probationary status will be based on effectiveness in the classroom – not years of service.

* **Sally Joyce Memorial** nominations are **due by Friday, April 29** **(see attachment)** - Sally Joyce was the epitome of what a good Association member is all about – active, dedicated and involved in many activities at the local, state and national level.  Shining above all was her love of people, especially children.  Her sudden passing in the fall of 1991 left a void that was impossible to fill.  The SVVEA Board, of which Sally was a member, wished to honor her memory by establishing an award.  It is to be awarded to a person – teacher or other employee, parent or anyone in the St. Vrain Valley School district who has volunteered *above and beyond the call of duty*for the welfare and education of the students of the St. Vrain Valley Schools.

This Saturday I’ll be in Denver to participate in a meeting to help define CEA’s blueprint for transforming Colorado’s P-20 education system, and then heading up to Loveland to join members for an evening of hockey at the Colorado Eagles playoff game. Monday is CEA Lobby Day at the Capitol. Ten of our members will be joining colleagues from across the state to persuade our legislators to minimize the destructive cuts to Colorado’s public education. There isn’t a more worthy cause.

Have a great weekend!

Trip Merklein

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