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School Board Advocate: October 26, 2018



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Delegate Assembly Action

The 2018 Delegate Assembly had 80 CASB delegates come together to help establish the legislative direction for the upcoming session of the Colorado General Assembly. Delegates debated and ultimately approved resolutions on everything from the need for increased funding for special education services to more opportunities for recycling electronic equipment. The approved resolutions help guide the CASB advocacy efforts and are a valuable tool to encourage legislative support. Please visit the [CASB website](#) to view all of the approved resolutions.

A Full Day of Learning

Delegates who attended the first day of the Fall Delegate Assembly Conference were treated to information on a host of topics. Ed Sealover of the *Denver Business Journal* and Todd Engdahl of Capitol Editorial Services kicked off the conference with an election update. With just a few weeks left before Election Day, their insights helped to educate the audience on the scope of the races and how they may impact the citizens of Colorado.

Andrew Romanoff, president of Mental Health Colorado, was joined by Dr. Sarah Davidon, research director of Mental Health

Colorado, to lead a lunchtime discussion around the important topic of student mental health issues. School districts are facing increasing demands for mental health services, yet the available funding only provides support for a fraction of students who need it. There is some good news, however, as Romanoff announced the receipt of a multi-million-dollar grant to fund services aimed at preventing teenage suicide. The grant is provided in conjunction with the Colorado Attorney General's office and Colorado Children's Hospital. Additional information about the grant is available [HERE](#).

Breakout sessions were well received and covered topics such as Amendment 73, Effective Communication Strategies for School Board Members and An Amendment to Remember - How Robert's Rules of Order and a Well-Planned Agenda Can Improve Your Board Meetings.

Election Countdown

The majority of Colorado voters should have received their November ballot by now. Because scientific polling can be expensive, there is usually very little polling data for local races. However, the University of Colorado at Boulder's "American Politics Research Lab" recently released a poll that helps to illuminate where voters are in regard to the election.

The item of most interest to CASB members is the polling data related to Amendment 73. The poll found that a majority of Coloradans support increased funding for Colorado education. A note of caution is in order, however. As recent elections have shown, polls aren't always accurate in predicting election outcomes. You can view the poll results [HERE](#).

The best way that you can help ensure a successful result for Amendment 73 is by educating your local community to the benefits for schools if the amendment passes. All of the information you need is available on the CASB [website](#).

"Leave It Better Than You Found It"

School board members know better than most the difficult job that school administrators face. This is especially true in rural school districts, where superintendents and principals are often required to "jump in" and perform any number of tasks to keep the school running. Now, you have an opportunity to recognize these administrators' hard work.

The Demont Award is a program established to recognize administrators who will "leave it better than they found it," in districts of 1,500 or fewer students.

Demont Award recipients have been recognized for demonstrating exceptional leadership in Colorado's rural and small schools. Their high moral character, compassion for children and positive contributions to education sets an example for administrators throughout the state.

If you would like to recommend an administrator for the Demont Award, please contact Jim Wilson. His contact information is:

E-mail: therunningw@bresnan.net

Phone: 719-221-8383

The deadline for submitting applications is October 31, so do not procrastinate!

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