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## School Board Advocate: August 24, 2018

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## It Is About Time



In the movie "Castaway," Tom Hanks plays FedEx employee Chuck Noland. Chuck definitely drinks the company Kool-Aid as it relates to an obsession with time. In one scene, Hanks is instructing a group of new employees and shares:

*"Time rules over us without mercy. Not caring if we're healthy or ill. Hungry or drunk. Russian, American, beings from Mars. It's like a fire, it could either destroy us or it could keep us warm. That's why every FedEx office has a clock, because we live or we die by the clock. We never turn our back on it and we never ever allow ourselves the sin of losing track of time."*

His statement seems especially appropriate for the start of a new school year. There is always much to do and not enough time to do it all. Make a mistake and there is no "do-over." After all, the class of 2028 only gets one shot at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

With that in mind, it also seems appropriate to take a few moments and reflect on the great work that Colorado school boards do for their students and the communities where they live. Colorado is a better place because volunteer, locally-elected school board members are working hard to ensure that the next generation of leaders are receiving opportunities for academic success. The entire CASB staff wishes you the best for a safe and successful school year.

## Waiting Until the Last Minute



The notion of never turning your back on time reminds us of the final days of the 2018 Colorado Legislative session. While legislators are always in a rush to finish their work before the constitutionally mandated end date, 2018 seemed much more hectic than normal.

One result of this rush to finish was language added to [HB18-1306](#), "Improving Educational Stability for Foster Youth." The concern — the added language had nothing to do with the bill title and subject. Governor John Hickenlooper signed the bill into law, but not before he expressed his concerns with the new section of the bill. You can read the Governor's complete letter [HERE](#). CASB joined several school districts and individual taxpayers, along with the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), in a lawsuit asking the court to determine if the "bolted on" section, to use the Governor's words, of the bill are legal under Colorado law. Stay tuned for additional information as the process progresses.

## Last Call



The CASB Fall Delegate Assembly Conference will be held in Colorado Springs at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort on October 19th and 20th. The Conference will offer a full-day of programming geared toward helping you become a more effective leader as part of a board/superintendent team.

The Delegate Assembly is a critical element in establishing the CASB advocacy platform. Delegates from around Colorado vote on resolutions that, if approved, become part of the platform. Every CASB member board of education is encouraged to send one delegate. In order to make participation by every board more attractive, there is a new option this year to attend only the Delegate Assembly at a reduced rate. It doesn't matter if you govern a district with 150 students or 60,000, your delegate vote matters. Click [HERE](#) for specific details.

Of course, the delegates won't have anything to debate unless you submit a resolution. Resolutions can be submitted by any CASB member board on any topic that they would like to highlight. There are 10 standing resolutions that reflect foundational principals CASB always works to improve upon. Member-submitted resolutions help address issues and concerns that may require more immediate legislative and regulatory action. You can review the delegate approved 2017 resolutions [HERE](#).

Only the standing resolutions are carried over from year to year. All other resolutions are submitted annually from CASB member boards. **The deadline for districts to submit resolutions for consideration at the 2018 Delegate Assembly is Friday, August 31, 2018 no later than 5 p.m.** You may submit your resolutions online by clicking [HERE](#).

## Checking the Scorecard



The 2018 November ballot came into a little better focus following the June primary elections. This year's primary was the first ever held in Colorado where unaffiliated voters were able to cast a ballot in a partisan election. The results of the primary don't appear to have been influenced very much by the addition of unaffiliated voters, as front-running candidates Jared Polis (D) and Walker Stapleton (R) were chosen as their party's candidates to replace Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (D).

Now the question is which party will control the Colorado State Senate. For the past two years, Republicans have held a one vote majority in the Senate chamber, but at this point, many pundits believe the Colorado Senate is a toss-up or leans slightly to the Democrats. One thing is for certain, by November 6th everyone will be completely sick and tired of campaign commercials. Click [HERE](#) to view the complete list of candidates on the Colorado Secretary of State's website.

## A Crowded Ballot



The ballot that voters receive for the November election has the potential to be a long one. In addition to elections for Governor, State Senate, State House, State Board of Education, and Colorado's congressional representatives, there is the potential for as many as seven initiatives asking to change some aspect of the Colorado Constitution. The initiatives could cover everything from campaign finance reform to transportation funding. Voters won't know all of the initiatives until the Secretary of State certifies petition signatures in early September.

We do know that voters will have the opportunity to vote on increasing education funding when they take up the question of Amendment 73, which officially made the ballot. Thanks to a herculean effort by a small army of volunteers led by [Great Schools](#), [Thriving Communities](#), nearly 180,000 signatures were gathered across Colorado's 35 state Senate districts. If approved by voters, Amendment 73 would make significant changes to Colorado's tax code to benefit students. No doubt you will be hearing more in the coming weeks, but in the meantime click [HERE](#) to view how Amendment 73 would increase the funding in your local district.

## It Is Technical



Colorado school boards are firmly committed to providing Career and Technical Education (CTE) for students. In July, the United States Congress re-authorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, known in its current form as the "Career & Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act." The act was last authorized in 2006. President Trump signed the bill into law in July.

The bill provides nearly \$1.3 billion for career and technical education during the 2019 fiscal year. The new act aims to align CTE more closely with the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA). The reauthorization of the act has been a priority for the CASB Federal Relations Network (FRN) and the National School Board Association (NSBA). You can read the NSBA statement [HERE](#).

## Relating Regionally



Colorado encompasses more than 104,000 square miles, and those miles lead to plenty of wide-open places. In almost all of those wide-open places, you will find a dedicated locally elected school board working hard to support the students in their community. So, get ready to share some of the blue sky and panoramic views with your CASB staff at the annual Fall Regional Meetings, set to roll out in September and October. These meetings offer a great opportunity to meet fellow board members in your area, network and even learn a little something new. Registration and additional information is available [HERE](#).

As we wrap up this edition of the School Board Advocate, we return to where we began — with time. December will be here before you know it, so start making plans to attend the 2018 CASB Convention December 6 – 9. There are already three dynamite keynote speakers on the docket that you won't want to miss. Additional details will be coming very soon.

## CASB Advocacy Tools

### CASB Legislator Vote Tracker

**CASB Advocacy Text Alerts-** To subscribe, send a text to 52886 and type in "CASB"

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