



## February 2014 CCSD Parent's Council Meeting Recap

### Testing...Finance...CCSD Safety and Mental Health

- **David Willman, CCSD Board Member** welcomed the membership and focused on “matters of the heart” and related events ongoing in the district. He conveyed the Board’s support of the initiative to restore educational cuts that were made in response to the recession and thanked Dr. Bull for his work on the initiative. He applauded the recent Diversity Conference hosted at CCHS, see [www.cherrycreek.diversity.org](http://www.cherrycreek.diversity.org). He mourned the recent loss of a CCSD middle school student by suicide and urged everyone to reach out to those who are troubled in our community.
- **Dr. Harry Bull, Superintendent of Schools** opened his comments by celebrating the many positive events that have occurred and will occur around the district including the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Diversity Conference, recent band and choir performances, the District Spelling Bee, CTHS’ Celebration of the Arts program, the District All-Star Celebration recognizing all-star classified employees, and the OHS-GHS unified basketball game. Special recognition goes to OHS’ unified team, which will compete at nationals this year.
  - With respect to testing, Dr. Bull discussed comments made in a recent Aurora Sentinel article related to teachers’ and parents’ views of education and the need for more testing. Dr. Bull submits that the current testing model truly supports learning and submits that, contrary to some views, additional testing will not improve education. Instead additional testing demands will decrease the amount of time available to teach.
  - With respect to school finance, he discussed comments made by the Denver Post in a recent editorial. He criticizes the article for perpetuating the idea of a battle between reformers and traditional groups, or rich v. poor districts. All districts have at-risk students and no district opposes funding for at risk students; instead funding should be the same for at-risk students. With respect to the restoration of educational funding cuts, he strongly opposes the “strings’ that certain legislators seek to impose on the restoration of those funds. When the state educational system was required to make cuts – CCSD was required to cut \$62 million – no legislative involvement occurred in the decision-making process. Each district cut in different ways, based on their particular situation. Similarly, each District should be allowed to reallocate restored funds, based on their particular needs. Moreover, restored funds should not be diverted to state oversight – the Colorado Department of Education – but instead be restored to the classroom. As a result of these ongoing legislative discussions, a group of the vast majority of public school superintendents of school districts across the state – over 95% of the 178 districts – have composed and delivered a position statement to state government officials and legislators outlining their positions and concerns. A copy will be posted on the CCSD Parents’ Council website. Dr. Bull urges all volunteers and parents to become involved in this discussion and contact their legislators and community leaders to speak out on this important issue.
- **Dr. Scott Siegfried, Associate Superintendent and the CCSD Mental Health Staff**, “Building Resiliency During Troubling Times”. Dr. Siegfried and the District’s Mental Health Staff provided a very informative presentation to parents with information to help build school-community partnerships in an effort to help students navigate through the stress and peer pressure they experience today. They offered data and information in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, social media/internet, the District’s response, suggestions on what parents can do, and the importance of protective factors (for example, family, friends, peers). Many of the materials handed out at the presentation, together with summaries will be available on the CCSD Parents’ Council website.

**Next Parents’ Council Meeting: Mon. March 10th 8:45 am SARC**

**Vendor Fair: March 5<sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm at ISF**

**CCSD Foundation Luncheon: March 14th**

**Exceptional Volunteer Event: April 24th**

