

**Notes from the COSPRA Denver Metro Region Meeting**  
**December 13, 2007**  
**11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**Colorado Department of Education**

Those in attendance: Whei Wong, John Poynton, Tustin Amole, John Albright, Jessica Kinghorn, Jennifer Reeve, Melony Sandquist, Janelle Albertson, Joe Ferdani, Matt Ruggles, Mark Stevens, Georgia Duran, Margaret Rangel, Deb Haviland, Randy York, Patty Carrico, Patrick Corbett, Tanya Caughey, Diane Leiker, Peggy Gonder.

Those on conference call: Elaine Naleski, Christy McGee, Jeff Kirtland, Roger Fiedler, Jason Hackett, Rebecca Herbst, Dianne Lewis, Paula Hans.

11:30: Matt Ruggles, Denver Metro Region Vice President, kicked off the meeting and made introductions. He noted that COSPRA will host its first publications contest this year. More information will be sent to COSPRA members soon.

11:40: COSPRA President Georgia Duran welcomed everyone in attendance and those participating via conference call. She thanked all COSPRA regional VPs for their work this year and made note of the following:

- Jessica Kinghorn, past president, is chair of the awards committee. Awards will be announced soon.
- Deb Haviland and Whei Wong are chairing the conference planning committee. SAVE THE DATE: April 25 is the tentative date for the annual conference.
- Thank you to Mark Stevens and other CDE staff members for arranging today's meeting and today's conversation with Commissioner Jones.
- Information about various NSPRA products was made available to those in attendance as part of COSPRA marketing efforts.

11:45: Mark Stevens gave an update on the following:

- Encouraged COSPRA members to sign up for electronic news releases from the CDE if they haven't already; this can be done via the CDE website.
- The CDE website is currently being redesigned with a target completion date of Feb. 1.
- The CDE is currently looking at ways to eliminate redundancy in data reporting.
- No big changes in requirements for the annual report. Mark noted that the current requirement for reporting is that all parents must be given a written notice that informs them of where annual report data can be accessed and instructs them on how to do so. COSPRA members noted that districts receive inconsistent feedback from CDE accreditation staff members on what is required. Mark noted that the CDE is yet to come to agreement on this issue.
- Beginning with the release of grade 3 CSAP scores this spring, the CDE will have a process for the public/media release that will always be the same for all data releases. Mark will form a committee of communications professionals, principals, superintendents and media representatives to determine what the process will be.

Those in attendance shared the various ways they have implemented the Believe in a Better Colorado campaign in their districts.

Commissioner Dwight Jones and Deputy Commissioner Ken Turner joined the meeting. Highlights of the conversation included:

- The CDE has a “Forward Thinking” initiative, which will focus on systemic change in areas of support and service.
- Transparency is important, as is getting more input from those in the field.
- The CDE will work to change the perception about it being a silent arm of the federal government.
- Children are entitled to success
- The CDE will work to better manage its brand. Steps toward that end include an annual survey and the enlistment and aid of top national experts, which will bring balance.
- The CDE wants to cultivate a healthy interdependence with the school districts it serves.
- There will be an internal culture change geared toward attracting and keeping the best people in the field. The new culture will be responsive, consistent, cooperative, and service-oriented. There will be no power with money.

COSPRA members thanked Dr. Jones and Dr. Turner for their time and for their efforts to support Colorado’s public schools.

After this discussion, those in attendance briefly discussed anti-CSAP activity that is emerging in small parent groups.

Members agreed that COSPRA should work to have input on how CDE data is released and will request representation on the CDE’s committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.