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Fall Delegate Assembly Conference Wrap-Up

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Picture It

Make sure to check [CASB's Facebook page](#) for photos from the 2016 Fall Delegate Assembly Conference.

A Visit From the Lieutenant Governor

"I don't have all the answers related to education. However, I look forward to visiting your districts and working with you to find solutions to some of those issues."

So said Colorado Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne as she kicked off the 2016 CASB Fall Delegate Assembly Conference, which brought together school board members from across the state. Lynne shared her vision of leadership and the role that locally elected school board members play in ensuring that Colorado remains a great place to live, work and raise a family. Lynne highlighted her



experience working in public health and in big-city government and how some of those experiences apply to education.



The "stereotypical" board gets grilled.



Monica, Paul and Carrie

Playing a Role

CASB Board members Carrie Warren-Gully, Monica Peloso and Paul Reich broke out their best role-playing skills to lead an interactive breakout session titled "What Does it Mean to be a Board Member?" Our intrepid band of thespians adopted the personas and attitudes of stereotypical board members to present some real-world problems and situations that arise in meetings. Then it was up to session attendees to talk and share their views. A couple of brave souls even joined in the role-playing. The session helped to define what school board service looks like when emotion, ego and the real world come into play. Reich, president of the Telluride Board of Education, enjoyed leading the session. "I loved the interaction and sharing among board members as they discussed how they do their school board work."

Times of Crisis

CASB picked the theme for this year's conference – "Leadership Lessons From 1776" – because we believe there are many things today's leaders can learn from our Founding Fathers. A key lesson highlighted at the conference was leadership during a time of crisis. Canon City's superintendent and a member of its school board shared their experiences in

dealing with an outbreak of student "sexting" that could have torn the community apart. Thanks to advanced planning, in-depth policy work and discipline in communications, the issue was dealt with in a prudent and thoughtful manner. Board member Lloyd Harwood shared his experience in working with Superintendent George Welsh to address the community's concerns. "The very first meeting we had with George, we sat down and outlined the communication protocols that would be used between the board and superintendent. Everyone knew their role and that helped us manage a really tough situation."



George Welsh and Lloyd Harwood

Lisa Weil of Great Education Colorado

Advocacy and a Call to Action

The first day of the conference wrapped up with a call to action for school board members to become the leading advocates for their school districts. Lisa Weil, executive director of Great



Education Colorado, shared her team’s story of success in building “grass roots” advocacy programs to champion investment in public education in Colorado. That struggle is very apparent in Colorado’s broken school funding system. CASB Executive Director Ken DeLay led CASB members in a discussion of the Colorado School Finance Act, and then, joined by Durango Superintendent Dan Snowberger and CASB President-Elect Carrie Warren-Gully, the group discussed the many ways that Colorado school district budgets are impacted by the confusing and often conflicting provisions of the School Finance Act. That discussion set the stage for a thoughtful debate by delegates on Saturday morning.



Tim Taplin of Ridgway speaks during the discussion of the School Finance Act.

Casting Votes

CASB Board President JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin gavelled the 2016 CASB Delegate Assembly to order bright and early Saturday. The delegates unanimously approved CASB’s standing resolutions, forwarded by CASB’s Board of Directors and the Legislative Resolutions Committee. The standing resolutions represent CASB’s core beliefs and positions.

Delegates then wasted no time debating 21 member-submitted

resolutions. Two resolutions were related to a proposed rewrite of the School Finance Act, and districts large and small had their say on the issue. All sides agreed that something must be done to begin the process of fixing funding for K-12 education. The 18 resolutions approved by the delegates will help to guide CASB’s advocacy efforts when the Colorado General Assembly convenes in January. The message CASB will take to the capitol focuses on local control, state finances and student achievement. Final resolutions will be available on the CASB website soon.

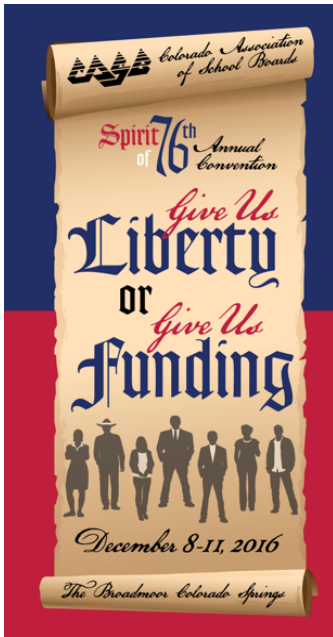


Speakers line up to discuss a rewrite of the School Finance Act.

CASB’s 76th Annual Convention

Like swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano (or penguins to the ice floe, depending on the weather), CASB members will be flocking to The Broadmoor for the 76th Annual Convention. The 2016 gathering is one week later this year, starting on Dec. 8 with the pre-convention activities and concluding on Dec. 11. This important opportunity for board member professional development will feature a number of topics important to school board advocacy. Several members of the

Colorado General Assembly will be on hand to speak about the upcoming session and, more importantly, they will be available to hear your concerns and take questions. [Here are all the details!](#)



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