Hello Bulldog Community!

December is a busy month for CSDB as we work with our legislators on the FY24-25 budget needs.  I, along with other members of the Leadership team will travel to Denver to attend the Joint Budget Committee Hearing on December 12th.  CSDB has submitted 3 budget requests for additional funding to support positions that had previously been funded by ESSER and other grant funding.

The first request was to support the Preschool program and includes a request for funding for a Preschool Director, Preschool Teacher, and additional Preschool State Teacher Aide.

The second request was to support permanent funding for the Dean of Students in the School for the Deaf and the Dean of Students in the School for the Blind.

The third request was the CSDB teacher and Student Services staff salary increases.  Per statute CSDB follows the Colorado Springs District 11 salary schedule. This year will include a 5% increase to the salary schedule. Also, a one-step movement on the step system will include a 2% increase, and a 6% one-time, non-recurring compensation payment.

 On December 13th, we will be back in Denver again, this time to meet with the Capital Development Committee (CDC).  CSDB has requested funding for the West Hall renovation and addition to move the School for the Blind, and Early Education Center to West Hall.  CSDB staff will be presenting to the CDC in support of this project, which is currently ranked 4th on the CDC budget prioritization list.

This 150th anniversary story is about the Argo Dining Hall, built in 1923, which was named after the Argo family. Superintendent Argo worked in his position for 22 years, followed by his wife Belle, for a year. He had also held the position of President of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind and Vice-president of American Instructors of the Deaf.

CSDB students and faculty members were proud of Dr. Argo’s unbounded hospitality. One year, he and Mrs. Argo invited all faculty members to their home for a Christmas five-course meal. The Colorado Index reported, “Such kind thoughtfulness cannot be too cordially acknowledged.”

Check out this Then and Now photo for December. When art classes first began, like in this 1926 photo, only those who were Deaf could participate. The class was focused on teaching a trade. Of course, now, all of our students can participate in art class, such as in this photo including boys and girls who are blind/visually impaired.

**What’s Happening?**

December 1-8                         Giving Tree donations, CSDB Administration Building
December 2                            Craft Fair, CSDB Gym

December 6                            Board of Trustees meeting, 9:00am-12:00pm
December 8-10                       Roadrunner Classic Basketball Tournament at New Mexico School for the Deaf
December 11                          Middle School Home Basketball game, 4:30pm
December 13                          Middle School Home Basketball game, 4:30pm

December 13                          HS/MS Band Winter Program for parents, students, and staff
December 15                         CSDB Alumni Association Holiday Dinner
December 20                         CSDB Preschool Family Holiday Party
December 20-January 4          Winter Holiday Break