

CSDB Board of Trustees

Superintendent's Report

October 2022

Interim Superintendent

- 9.22 – 9.23.22 Attended CASE conference for Superintendents (Beaver Creek, CO)
- 10.3 – 10.3.22 Attend Council of Schools and Services for the Blind and American Printing House conferences (Louisville, KY)
- 10.7.22 Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera tour
- 10.8.22 Attended the Hands & Voices Gala at the Art Hotel in Denver
- 10.14.22 White Cane Day at Acacia Park

Both Schools

- Mid-quarter reports were completed on Friday, September 16 and have been mailed out to middle and high school students who are struggling in classes.
- All students were able to attend a special "North Pole" field trip. Students from the School for the Deaf attended on September 15. Students from the School for the Blind and our Bridges to Life Program attended on September 29. This was an amazing opportunity for students (and staff). Cara Johnson and Laura Sterns were the staff that facilitated this opportunity and did the trip planning.
- Classified staff within the educational programs are learning about the new on-line NEOGOV program for performance evaluations.
- The school year is in "full-swing" and IEP meetings are underway! The support of Amy Baker as the IEP Coordinator has been amazing.
- The Lions Library is coming together! Swing through if you have a chance to check out the new assistive technology space and all the progress made for print, large print, braille, professional library books, and audio materials for the whole campus!
- CSDB Staff, Students, and Families attended the last Switchback game on September 24.

School for the Deaf

- A representative from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) came and met with high school students on Thursday, September 29.
- The School for the Deaf Alumni are working to set up history artifacts throughout the Gottlieb building. These memorabilia are specific to the School for the Deaf over the years, helping to highlight our history for students, staff, and visitors! The first window was completed recently, with more to come.

School for the Blind

- October 15 is National White Cane Day. The School for the Blind will be celebrating October 14 at Acacia Park, 10-11:30 am. All are welcome! We will have student presentations, a guest speaker, yard games, and music from our very own Bulldog Band.
- We are welcoming two more high school students to our program.
- Tera Spangler and Jamie Lugo attended Council of Schools for the Blind and the American Printing House for the Blind Conference in Kentucky.
- The Nail Bar, a new Nail Salon in Colorado Springs, came to CSDB and did complimentary polish changes for School for the Blind staff. The owner was a former Delta Gamma member. The School for the Blind has a strong partnership with the Delta Gamma Alumni.

Preschool Programs

- A representative from the state came to recertify us as a large center program.
- Staff is working the requirements for a level 3-5 QRIS rating. A full program review will happen in October.

Employability Center

- Students in the Bridges to Life (BtL) program and the Post-School Preparation (PSP) class began their work experiences. Of the 31 student workers, 48% of students are currently placed in job placements. Some examples of worksites include Nothing Bundt Cake, Which Wich Superior Sandwiches, and Crumbl Cookie.
- Career Exploration students participated in various assessments related to Career Interests/Abilities/Skills.
- Post-School Preparation students explored the application process & benefits of DVR. Ricky Wade, a Denver based DVR counselor for DHH individuals, hosted a Zoom presentation for the class. They also learned about community service through a presentation from the volunteer coordinator from Habitat for Humanity ReStore.
- Capstone students completed their proposals and submitted them for review and approval.
- Students in Independent Living Skills classes completed a unit on sensory efficiency.
- In Music classes, one student auditioned for Allstate Choir and one student auditioned for Allstate Orchestra. Also, the band performed at Family Inclusivity Day in Castle Rock.
- In PE classes, students learned about monitoring their cardio data during physical activity. Students also completed a unit on flag football.

- In art classes, BVI students created their art in preparation for white cane day, and DHH students worked on portraits and recycled weavings (a collaborations with the literacy department, they are reading *One Plastic Bag*)

Student Services

- Our partnership with Everything for Sight foundation continues to be a resource for students needing eye exams. Our first visit will be Tuesday October 11, and several students are attending. The appointments are coordinated by our nursing staff, and the students are accompanied by our School Psychologist.
- Our nurses in the Student Health Center are gearing up to provide flu shots for staff.
- Our campus-wide field trip to the North Pole was a blast for staff and students!
- The Mental Health Team will begin a campus wide universal social emotional screening process to provide data regarding student's needs. With the results, tiered levels of support will be provided through the year, individually and in student groups.
- Our School Psychologist in the School for the Blind will be traveling to the Anchor Center in Denver to present on child abuse prevention. This is a presentation she has created to train adults on prevention for this vulnerable population.
- The Orientation Mobility specialists have been busy planning the final details for the White Cane Day on Friday October 14 at 10:30 am.
- Our new position, IEP coordinator, has already proven to be beneficial to the campus. The IEP process is getting set up and good things are happening campuswide. In September, we had 31 completed IEP meetings.
- Our SLP's have been participating in webinars and conferences to become more proficient in the use of AAC devices for our students.
- Our motor team (OT/PT) have jumped in with both feet as new members of the CSDB staff and are collaborating with staff, and parents to meet the needs of the students. They are working in the dorms after regular school hours, to make sure there are appropriate ADA accommodations in bathrooms of students that need it, such as non-slip strips in the showers, handles, etc.

Student Life

- In athletics, both the middle school and high school girls' volleyball teams are winding down with a few weeks to go for the high school team and one week left for middle school. Both teams have improved a lot this season and we have celebrated a few wins this season. Goalball started this week, and they will be traveling to Dallas Texas October 28 for a special Goalball event hosted by the Texas School for the Blind. We also have had an increase in volunteer support from the administration

team, which is something that the students and our Student Life staff appreciate. School spirit is on the rise with Bulldogs Strong Together.

- Afterschool programs have been going well. Our popular Girls on the Run Club has been happening on Thursdays. Mondays and Wednesdays we have flag football. Special Olympics Bowling is wrapping up Saturday 10-8-22 with a regional meet in Pueblo.
- Dorm activities have included movie nights, birthday celebrations, and nutrition workshop where students can learn the fundamentals of healthy eating. Palmer Hall's BtL group continues to host their popular Deaf and Blind Karaoke for the students in the evening.
- We currently have four open positions which have been filled using our management team, some substitutes, and a lot of creative scheduling to make sure we can support the needs of our students. We have a new overnight Dorm Supervisor, Christa Young, who jumped in and was ready to work with our BtL students in Palmer. We have had to cancel programs sporadically when staffing numbers have been too low to safely transport students for off-campus activities, but Student Life continues to be flexible with these challenges and the team continues to support as many students as possible and programs as we can.
- We have had two new students join the blind high school residential dorm program.
- We have also been supporting the preschool class from 3:00 to 3:30 pm using some of our Student Life staff to cover. "Bulldogs Strong Together"

Outreach Programs including the Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

Statewide Student Registration Database & Federal Quota Census Count

The CIMC is continuing to use video conferencing to meet with teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs) from school districts across the state to review their statewide student registrations, the federal quota census process, and services available from the CIMC to their district at no cost to their administrative unit.

First Friday and Southern Region TVI/DVR Meetings

- The CIMC hosted the Southern Region TVI-DVR meeting September 20, 2022, using the Zoom video platform. Chloann Woolley, TVI for Ute Pass BOCES (and Southern region representative for the CDE Vision Coalition Meetings) co-facilitated the meeting. Agenda items included selection of this year's meeting dates and times (both virtual and in-person) as well as training topics and make-and-take sessions. An emphasis is to improve representation of all school districts at this meeting. Regional staffing changes were shared by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

(DVR) staff, TVIs and service providers from local school districts. In our region, there are staffing changes at CSDB and in El Paso County District 8, El Paso County District 11, El Paso County District 20, and Pueblo 60, online and charter schools, and multiple rural districts.

- During the morning and afternoon session of the "First Friday" CIMC Zoom meetings held September 9, 2022, new APH products were demonstrated and teachers from across the state of Colorado were able to ask questions. The next meeting will occur on the third Friday of October: October 21, 2022.

CDE/CSDB Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

- The CDE/CSDB Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic traveled to the Western Slope region Friday, September 23, 2022. Mesa County Valley 51 school district hosted the clinic in Grand Junction. Two TVIs from two administrative units each brought two students: La Plata County, Durango 9-R Schools brought two students, and Montrose County, Montrose RE-1J brought two students.
- The low vision clinic for the Southern Colorado region is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2022, on the CSDB campus, in the Jones Hall 2nd floor eye doctor's office and the conference/low vision evaluation room. Five districts have reserved evaluations: CSDB; El Paso County District 38 (Lewis Palmer); El Paso County District 8 (Fountain/Fort Carson); Fremont County RE-1 (Canon City); and Pueblo District 60. The results of each 90-minute clinic evaluation are included in a written report which are mailed to each student's parents, school district, TVI, and primary eye health care physician. Low vision devices prescribed by the eye doctor can be purchased by school districts and families at wholesale costs from the clinic team. The CIMC can provide select vision products to school districts from the CDE/CIMC repository of American Printing House for the Blind (APH) educational products for eligible students.

CSDB Outreach: 2023 Metro Denver Braille Challenge Contest

CIMC staff continues to plan the 2023 Metro Denver Braille Challenge. We hope to host an in-person event in partnership with the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB), in Littleton, sometime in January or February.

American Sign Language Team

The ASL team is currently interviewing for a vacant instructor position; we hope to identify the best candidate and extend an offer soon.

Community ASL Classes

We are offering two levels each on Tuesday and Thursday evenings: Tuesdays: Beginning I & II; Thursdays: Beginning I and III. The eight-week session is halfway

finished. Total participants: 66

Immersion for Professionals

- We have two classes (Level 1 & 2) scheduled for October 15, 2022, with seven total hours of learning.
- Total participants: 26 registered to date.
- Our next Immersion for Professionals will be February 4, 2023. Registration opens in January 2023.

Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CDLS) - Online ASL Courses for Middle and High School Students

We currently support three levels of courses: 1A, 1B, and 2A. Dana Baldiviez is the CDE-licensed Adjunct Instructor overseeing all CDLS classes. Total participants: 78

ASL Classes for CSDB Staff

With a staff vacancy, not all staff can be offered a staff ASL class currently; therefore, our priority right now is to provide classes to staff who work directly with Deaf students and/or Deaf staff.

Early Education Team

Little Language Learners

Abby Killam and Jennifer McLellan co-teach the toddler group for eight families this session; it is hard to believe four weekly classes are already complete. The toddler room looks beautiful. We want to thank everyone for making this space so fun and welcoming! Parents and children are enjoying the space as well. Thanks to our volunteers plus Janice Fowler and Cherish Martos for making the program a success! Parent education is incorporated, along with ABC and Twinkle songs through Hands Land. Children learn ASL through rhythm. Parents have their own accounts to Hands Land as well.

CO-Hears

- The CSDB CO-Hears hosted a CHIP facilitator workshop September 24, 2022. Dr. Deborah Mood presented the process of screening through intervention. We had 18 participants in attendance. We joined with Wyoming Hands and Voices for the first time. Please look for more information shared in our web story in October.
- We still have one opening for a CO-Hear in the Garfield and Mesa County area.
- Deaf+ Autism Day at the Happy Dog Ranch: Seven families and many volunteers enjoyed the activities of the day, including story time, feeding the llama and alpacas,

riding horses, and grooming the animals. Parents and volunteers spent time together with kids and kept them busy with activities--a favorite was the scavenger hunt.

- Kelly Doolittle received the Family First award from Colorado Hands and Voices October 8, 2022, at their annual gala at the ART Hotel in Denver. Congratulations to Kelly on a well-deserved honor!

Colorado Shared Reading Project

Literacy and Language Instructors (LLIs) are independent contractors who provide direct instruction to children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and their families. Three new LLIs are currently on-boarding to reduce the number of families on the wait list. Families on the wait list can participate in group classes which focus on beginning ASL, book sharing, or vocabulary.

Early Literacy (EL) Events

Five early literacy events have already occurred, which included an event at the Wishing Star Farm in Calhan. This event brought together families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and families with children who are blind or have low vision for a fun Fall Day outdoors.

REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

Finance

- Beth Oliver is the new Accountant IV-Controller and has been on the job for only two weeks. I have been able to verify the operating budget line items and produce the operating financial reports showing expenses posted through September 23, 2022 (close of Period 2). Period 3 will close on October 21. Currently analyzing and reviewing the personal service budget and vacancy savings information. I will be able to provide more complete financial reports next time. Thank you for your patience.
- The additional insurance premium of \$26,000 estimate for the liability to transport students in our state vehicles needs to be added to the current budget and future budgets as we do not have the general funds to support the unexpected annual expense. I will be working with the OSPB budget analyst for Department of Education (CDE) to make a supplemental request for this year's budget and a budget amendment for next year's budget.
- The Governor approved the \$264,899 general fund request for the CSDB teacher salary increase for FY2023-24 budget. The request is to provide staff who follow the Colorado Springs District 11 pay schedule step increases and provide an incentive for hard-to-fill positions that follow the Colorado Springs District 11 pay scale.

Personnel

- To date, 16 positions have been filled for the 2022-2023 school year. Since July 1, 2022, there have been nine employee separations. Currently, there are 26 total vacancies: five vacancies for non-Classified positions; 21 vacancies for Classified positions. Note: there are 17 vacancies in Student Life Programs; there are no immediate plans to fill 13 positions due to the number of students currently residing in the dorms (39 students).
- Human Resources interviewed Tuesday, October 11, 2022, for the Program Assistant I vacancy. Full referral of six candidates.
- Accounting will be interviewing the week of October 17, 2022, for the Accounting Technician III vacancy. Full referral of 6 candidates.
- School for the Blind is interviewing Friday, October 14, 2022, for the vacant State Teacher Aide. One qualified applicant.
- Dining Services IV will be posted Friday, October 14, 2022.
- Student Life Programs Health Care Technician I job announcement closes on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, interviews will take place the week of October 17, 2022.
- Currently accepting application for the Transition Teacher, ASL Instructor, CO-Hear (Grand Junction location), and Library Teacher / Coach.

Facilities/IT

Facilities:

- Coordinating a formal furniture purchase process and policy
- Coordinating furniture purchase for Lions Hall
- Completed all initial Performance Evaluations
- Hosted CityServe event September 30, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm; 15 volunteers completed O&M and landscaping improvements across campus
- Coordinating Stone & Industrial equipment surplus turn-in by the end of October
- Participating in the required water/lead testing for Pre-school-5th Grade; new State law under House Bill 22-1358
 - Supplies, guidance & funding for testing will be available in October
- Climate Survey Action Plan; focusing on Morale & Recognition

IT:

- Completed all initial Performance Evaluations
- Coordinating E-Sports requirements (February timeframe)
- Working w/Jennifer Thompson and DocuSign stakeholders to explore transition/cost savings w/Google Forms
- Climate Survey Action Plan; focusing on morale & recognition

Projects:

- Awarded the Argo Roof Replacement project to Central States Roofing – start June 2023
- Awarded Admin Building Rehab project to Art Klein – start in October 2022
- Certified Emergency Manager Assessment scheduled for November 7-9, 2022.
- Working w/consultant to address West roof replacement and Industrial roof repair summer 2023
- Gym Renovation (Phase 1 & 2) design almost complete; expect to advertise in October, construction to begin summer 2023

Media:

September

Hands and Voices enews – Early Literacy events

Website:

Staff continue to improve the website. Added to the front page are the Quick Links section, What's New, and easy access to the programs "Discover Our Programs," and an events section rather than a typical calendar. Each program page includes a "What's Happening" section and Facilities has a presence to share information about current/upcoming construction projects. The Careers section is strengthened through pages about staff clubs and activities, community resources and testimonials from CSDB stakeholders.

Events:

- Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera requested a tour of CSDB during Disability Awareness month. She and members of her staff stayed twice as long as expected and enjoyed programs within the School for the Deaf, School for the Blind, Employability Center, and Outreach.
- Flight for Sight, Kaiya Armstrong, blind pilot event was cancelled due to poor weather.

Media Production Team:

- Interim Superintendent Spangler's biweekly videos, with the current events messages and the new Bulldog Buzz section, goes to staff, families, and the public via the CSDB website and social media channels. The response has been positive.
- Broadcasts of middle school and high school volleyball games continue in October. The live broadcasts on the CSDB YouTube channels provided a way for stakeholders, who cannot attend in person, to watch athletic events.

Social Media

- See the monthly social media report along with the PR report to the Superintendent.

- Created short informal videos for social media to highlight activities on campus:
 - September 26 Promo video – White Cane Day coming soon
 - October 3 Girls on the Run
 - October 10 Blind Pilot in Colorado Springs
 - (extra) Lt. Gov Primavera visits CSDB
 - October 17 White Cane Day

STUDENT ENROLLMENT
 As of October 4, 2022

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide	705
Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2022.....	170
Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment	166

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool.....	9
K-5 th	29
6-8 th	19
9-12 th	25
Bridges to Life	13
Total	95

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool	7
K-5 th	18
6 th -8 th	13
9-12 th	21
Bridges to Life.....	12
Total	71

Day Students.....	129
Residential Students.....	37
Parent Option.....	20
District Option.....	146
Teacher/Student Ratio	1:4
CHIP (Deaf)	365
CHIP (Deafblind)	18
Blind: Birth – 3 yrs.	24
Direct Outreach.....	132
ELDI Programs.....	82