

## **CSB Chairman Christa Hazel's Back To School Rally speech – 8.28.14**

As a mother of two, back to school has been eagerly anticipated in our house – mostly by me. As a friend to many teachers and staff, I know there is also some sadness because the unscheduled days of summer are behind us and we know that cooler, more hectic days are about to begin.

Instead of a few inspirational quotes, or a few jokes, I wanted my comments at the Back To School breakfast this morning to be honest and supportive.

I think it is safe to say that we all wish a contract were in place before the school year started and that negotiations were behind us. I can assure you that our district will continue to work things out. We are all in this together and as the School Board team and CEA leadership move forward to mediation, that process is a tool to continue negotiating so we may find common ground.

I've been asked about the status of contract negotiations from many concerned parents. They ask, "What does this mean for my child?"

I am unwavering in my assurance: "School will start on time. Our teachers are professionals and they place the interest of the student above all else. Your child is going to have a great school year. "

I believe this isn't an opinion, but fact based on a track record. We are a resilient and strong school district.

Just as you see in a large family, one where two figureheads, each equally passionate in their love for the family, have a disagreement. Life doesn't stop and wait. There isn't a time-out while disagreement is resolved. The family carries on. Eventually, things work out. I believe this will be true for us.

So let's focus on what makes us great – we have the talent and passion to make this school year an inspirational one for all our students and families.

I wish for all of us a fantastic school year and I appreciated the opportunity this morning to wish our staff well. As a mother, I thank the teachers and staff for educating our children. We have a great school district and it's because of their efforts throughout the year we can say this. I am proud of our district family and I believe we are all committed to shared-success. Best of luck to the staff of the CdA School District and our community in the coming year.