

# AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

10/23/2020

Vol.3 No. 8

## School Nurses work with Minnesota Dept. of Health

The Anoka Hennepin School nurses are working with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) with contact tracing. This is a team effort between MDH and Anoka Hennepin School District. Contact tracing is a complex process that is completed on a case by case basis, and there are many factors that are taken into consideration that may differ in each case. When a positive case is identified, depending on timing and individual case, the Anoka Hennepin School Nurse and/or the Minnesota Department of Health contact the positive cases. Efforts to keep our fellow team members safe while maintaining your confidential health information are of the highest importance to school nurses. Please be assured that the Minnesota Department of Health is working daily with Anoka Hennepin Schools during this time. Teachers can help the Minnesota Department and Anoka Hennepin mitigate the spread of Covid-19 by social distancing, washing your hands, staying home when you are sick, wearing a mask, monitoring for signs and symptoms of covid-19 daily, and getting tested when you are ill.

Kathy Schulz MS, RN, PHN, LSN, NCSN  
Infection Control Nurse

## 11 Days

### To Election Day

Your right to vote. Your most basic freedom. Fought for by many. The basis of Democracy. Defend it. November 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Voter Guide - search by address or legislative district: <https://www.edmnvotes.org/voter-guide/>

Learn more at [EdMNVotes.org](https://www.edmnvotes.org)

Aaron Balzer  
Govt Relations Chair



**Public Employees  
Insurance Program (PEIP)  
Other than having choices  
of your health care  
provider, what else is  
good?**

PEIP offers single, family AND member +1, so you will not be required to pay for a family plan if there are just two of you.

Please contact  
[Laura.bratland@edmn.org](mailto:Laura.bratland@edmn.org) if you would like to participate on the insurance organizing committee.



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

**Recommended Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people)**  
Covid case rates have shown an increase in both counties since the last reporting period.

In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more

Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County Updated 10/22/2020

Anoka: 33.16

Hennepin County 25.25

**AHEM Issues are Important to Our National Union**



**American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President, Randi Weingarten visits Anoka-Hennepin for a Press Conference on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.**

There was an outdoor press conference at the District office to bring attention to the struggles of teaching in the Hybrid Model, as well as other Covid-related topics. The conference was a regional event, with union leaders and members from several districts attending. Thanks to Jodi Anderson-Wolhaupter, AHEM member for speaking along with speakers from the other districts. The message called the public's attention to educational issues and members' solutions, not to advocate for a specific change in instructional model.

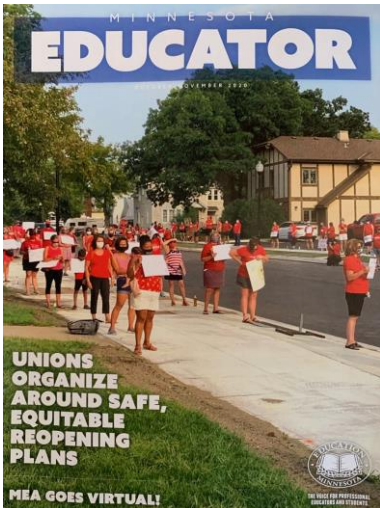
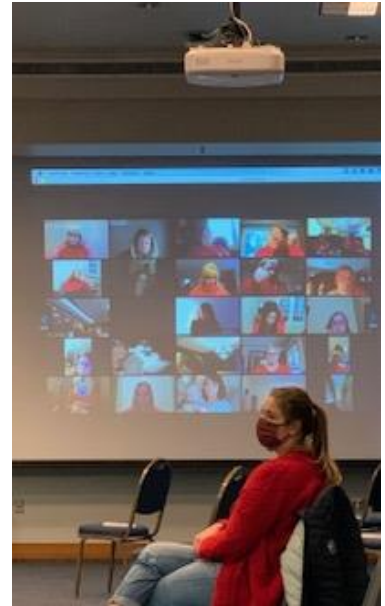
FYI: Minnesota is a merged state which means we have membership in both American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA). Many states are not merged, and don't get the same membership benefits from both. Members do not pay more in dues for dual membership; our union dues are split between the two organizations.

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# Meet and Confer: October 21<sup>st</sup>

Vice President, Jon Kohnen hosted our first combination in-person/virtual Meet and Confer. Issues of workload, equity and safety were discussed. The Board heard messages from high school, and elementary regarding the challenges of hybrid learning, and heard solution recommendations from teachers.

Also discussed were the sub shortage, cases of covid-19 notification procedures, and sick leave. There were over 400 members who participated remotely, and about a dozen members attended in person. All board members were present in person, except one who participated remotely. Thank you to our speakers Rachel Gaspar, Verna Wong, Caitlin Burns, Andrea Whitcomb, Hannah Ames, Mark Duffy, Kristin Thompson, Peter Engebretson and Jon Kohnen.



## **AHEM Teachers Featured on the Cover of the *Minnesota Educator***

During a school board meeting hundreds of AHEM teachers took to the streets outside while President Val Holthus spoke to the school board inside. Other school districts also held rallies including White Bear Lake and Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose, Minneapolis and St.Paul. “In Anoka-Hennepin, the concern was implementing and communicating a plan that kept all educators and students safe with many buildings and many employees, especially educators of color.”

This is an example of how a collective voice can drive awareness and change. Following the rally, several more teachers were included in safety meetings with the District. While issues around Covid continue to mount, AHEM members will not stop organizing and communicating our advocacy for ourselves and our students to the District administration and to the school board.

## **The Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

Expires on December 31 establishes two separate and temporary paid leave laws, which run from April 1 – Dec. 31: the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. These laws provide emergency paid sick leave and some partially paid parental leave protections to eligible employees who need to provide care to their children because of school and child care closures.

Contact Employee Services to access these programs.

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## **AHEM Hours Worked Beyond the Duty Day** **Survey Results**

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey which made a powerful impact to the School Board at Meet and Confer Wednesday night.

Here are the results:

700 respondents to the tracking work outside duty day survey

- In the span of a 7 day week:
  - o 40% of respondents are working outside of their duty day 6-7 days
  - o 48% of respondents are working outside of the duty day 3-5 days.
  - o That means that almost 90% of respondents are working outside the duty day at LEAST 3-5 days in a given week
- 92% of respondents are working on the weekends
- On average, educators are working an extra 13 hours outside the duty day per week, but there are vast disparities as the range was between 2-44 additional hours per week.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

# **Education Minnesota Collective Bargaining and Organizing Conference**

**Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021**

**This year's kickoff to bargaining will be virtual with  
an exciting keynote for all conference participants  
followed by smaller, instructor-led sessions.**

**Negotiators, organizers, Unity Team members and other local  
leaders will come together online and continue to learn critical  
organizing skills, build powerful local plans to unify members  
around bargaining for the common good, demand what our students  
and educators need from the legislature and prepare to bargain  
for those resources in our locals as part of our Unity 2021 work!**

## **Questions?**

Contact Maureen Foure at [mfoure@edmn.org](mailto:mfoure@edmn.org) or  
Andrea Cecconi at 651-604-7128 or [acecconi@edmn.org](mailto:acecconi@edmn.org).

[www.edmnvotes.org](http://www.edmnvotes.org)

*Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,  
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. 1409*



**FOR 100% VOTING  
FOR FULL FUNDING OUR STUDENTS DESERVE  
FOR WELCOMING SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE**

**#EDMNVOTES**

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# WHAT DOES POLITICS HAVE TO DO WITH MY CLASSROOM?

YOUR SALARY	SCHOOL BOARD, UNION
SCHOOL BUDGET	SCHOOL BOARD
CLASS SIZE/WORKLOAD	SCHOOL BOARD, STATE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR
LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR	SCHOOL BOARD, STATE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR
HEALTH BENEFITS	SCHOOL BOARD, UNION
DUE PROCESS	SCHOOL BOARD, STATE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR
RETIREMENT BENEFITS	SCHOOL BOARD, STATE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR
TESTING	FEDERAL, STATE, SCHOOL BOARD
HIRING PRACTICES	SCHOOL BOARD, STATE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR
TEACHING CREDENTIALS	FEDERAL, STATE, GOVERNOR
STANDARDS	STATE BOARD, STATE, FEDERAL
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	FEDERAL, STATE, GOVERNOR
TEXTBOOKS	STATE, SCHOOL BOARD
NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION	STATE LEGISLATURE, LOCAL UNION, GOVERNOR
HIGHER EDUCATION CREDENTIALING	GOVERNOR
CAMPUS REPAIRS AND UPGRADES	STATE LEGISLATURE

#EDMNVOTES



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Today me will live in the moment unless it's unpleasant in which case me will eat a cookie.

-Cookie Monster

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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❖ Announcements:

- ❖ • First Dues Deduction for AHEM Members – Fri., Oct. 23
- School Board Mtg. – Mon., Oct. 26, 6:30 pm, SEC
- Election Day- Tues., Nov. 3
- Staff Development Day – No K-12 Students – Tues, Nov. 3
- AHEM Executive Board – Mon., Nov. 9, 4:45 pm, Virtual
- School Board Work Session – Nov. 9, 6:30 pm (not 5:30 as usual), ESC
- American Education Week – Nov. 16-20
- AHEM Representative Assembly – Mon., Nov. 16, 4:45 pm, Virtual

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