

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

1/22/2021

Vol.3 No. 18

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota Professional Development

The professional development classes through AHEM will be announced through an email, and registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, January 29th. They have been very well received and quickly fill. AHEM members only.

If you are not able to get into the class you need to take, here are some additional opportunities:

Hoonuit is found through our Lock and Key.

Once there search “ALL TEACHERS: Professional Development for Minnesota License Renewal.” Please keep in mind you must complete the entire class. Once completed, you will receive a certificate that you will need to submit to Sonya Griffith, District CEU Committee.

MEA Online/Learn Upon You can reach this resource by going to the Education Minnesota Website and click on Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA). You may need your membership number. If you don’t know it, click on the upper right of the page where you see “member look up.” With the exception of the Suicide Prevention class, Anoka Hennepin has a 2-hour minimum for all relicensure classes. You will need to double-check the time for the classes you take. You need to have 120 minutes of course content to hit our requirements. AHEM members only.

Kristi Weidlein, AHEM PD Coordinator



The devil whispered to all teachers during the pandemic, “Your not strong enough to withstand this storm”, and the teachers simply whispered back, “You’re”



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

Recommended Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people) Covid case rates have shown a significant drop 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

MN Dept. of Health: Case Rates per 10,000, Based on 14-day Case Rate, Updated 1/14/21

12/20 – 1/2/21: Anoka County, 38.86 Hennepin County, 34.92

jwolfson.shinyapps.io: Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 14-day Case Rate by County
Updated 1/19/2021

Anoka: 38.2 Hennepin County 37.3



Travelling During Spring Break?

The Center for Disease Control has a Few Expectations

If you participated in activities such as attending large gatherings, being in crowds, going into bars or restaurants or using public transportation such as airports during your travel, do the following after travel: Get tested 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home for 7 days after travel. Even if you test negative, stay home for the full 7 days. If you don't get tested, it's safest to stay home for 10 days after travel. Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

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 Fourre at mfourre@edmn.org or
Andrea Cecconi at 651-604-7128 or acecconi@edmn.org.

www.edmnvotes.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. www.afl-cio.org 1409



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

#EDMNVOTES

The following checklist is a tool to help you determine if all required safety requirements have been met in your classroom or school. Please follow the instructions on the checklist, and if there are safety issues in your classroom, please follow the instructions near the end of the checklist to document the safety issue.

AHEM Classroom Safety Checklist

The following document is based on the Minnesota Department of Health's 2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools, and the Minnesota Department of Education's Safe Learning Plan.

Have you been trained on the masking policy?

- How to wear, when to wear, when/how to take off in specific situations
- What to do with non-compliance and how students will be trained
- Updates to student policy and staff guidance. *Note: Student mask wearing is now required during indoor physical education and the MDE strongly recommends staff to wear a mask and shield together throughout the day whenever possible.* [New 12/24/20]

Have you been provided with the following? (required unless noted)

- A cloth mask
- Extra masks for students
- Face Shield
- Additional PPE (If applicable to position)
- Clear Barrier - It should be requested immediately for situations when educators can't be 6 feet from students (small group and individual instruction). *Note: This is not required by the guidance but listed as "when possible".* (New)

Have you been trained on the use of PPE? (A cloth mask is not PPE)

- When required to work in close contact with students (service evaluations, screenings, personal cares, etc.), staff should wear personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) includes a surgical mask, N95 respirator, eye protection, disposable gloves, and a gown (disposable or cloth).

Do you have access to hand washing and/or hand sanitizer in your classroom? (Access required)

- Appropriate supplies
- Accessible by staff/students - *Note: Use of hand sanitizer by students must be supervised*
- Training on handwashing plan for students

Cleaning/Disinfecting

- Have you been trained on the difference between cleaning and disinfecting?
- Have you been trained on how and the plan to clean and disinfect? Including precautions for students
- Do you have cleaning supplies?
- Do you have disinfecting supplies?
- Have you been trained on routines of hygiene practices for students?

HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system) – *These questions address the basic levels for the classroom teacher to attempt to judge, not the standard in which the HVAC system needs to meet for a building.*

- Does the system appear to work in your room?
- Does the system provide air flow?
- Are you opening windows as much as you can safely? *Note: Confirm acceptable window usage with your admin*
- If using portable ventilation equipment like fans, are you taking steps to minimize air from them blowing from one person directly at another person?

Six foot marking

- Are hallways, areas to line up, and/or possibly congregate marked for 6 ft intervals for distancing?

Social Distancing

- Hybrid only—Are you able to ensure at least 6 feet between students in your classroom?

- In-Person only— Create as much space as possible in between students. Three feet of physical distancing or more is strongly recommended. [New 12/24/20]

Lunch settings

- For early learning and elementary students in-person: Students must be clearly separated by six feet to eat in a cafeteria or students will need to eat in their classroom. [New 12/24/20]
- Hybrid only: Ensure sufficient social distancing with at least 6 feet between people at all times when in school facilities.

Testing for educators

- Have you been notified of the procedures to take part in the optional saliva COVID testing every two weeks?

Illness in the classroom

- Have you been trained about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?
- Have you been trained on what the procedures to respond to a student with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in your building?
- Do you know who your building level COVID-19 program coordinator is?
- Do you know where to find the dedicated space for symptomatic people waiting to go home?

Actions for educators to take:

- If any of the above safety requirements and/or the HVAC questions are not in place or satisfactory:
 - Immediately address the situation with your administration/COVID-19 program coordinator to attempt most efficient resolution.
 - Document - Send communications via email so they are time-and-date stamped and save the communications. Include a request for an anticipated timeline to resolution. Take these actions immediately. Copy Valerie.Holthus@edmn.org
- If there is no resolution within 24 hours:
 - Request an update from the administration/COVID-19 program coordinator or consider asking for a response or resolution by a particular date or time.
- If resolution timeline is insufficient, unknown or if there is no obvious action toward immediate resolution:
 - Contact your local president, Valerie Holthus.
 - File a complaint to OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):
 - Complaints from employees and their representatives are taken seriously by OSHA, but they will ask how you attempted to resolve the issue with your employer.
 - Complainants have the right to request their names not be revealed to their employers.
 - AHEM will support the needs for addressing the issue and if unresolved will consider additional actions.
 - Legal protections for employees who report or refuse to work in dangerous conditions (seek guidance from Field Staff and/or local leadership before leaving or refusing to attend work)

Common Law and MN State Law Whistleblower Protection	OSHA-Protected Refusal to Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection against wrongful discharge for a refusal to participate in an activity. When the employee believes in good faith that the activity or conditions under which it is being performed violates state or federal rule or regulation. An employer's violation of recommendations or requirements from agencies that are not formal regulations or executive orders may not be sufficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good faith reasonable belief that work assignment involves exposure to COVID-19. Must request employer to correct hazardous conditions, including non-compliance with a mandate from the MDH or the presence of COVID in the workplace. Good faith refusal to work protected if employer does not correct conditions. Back pay only per MNOSHA finding.

Disclaimer: This publication is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for specific legal or other professional advice. If you have questions about you or your local's rights or legal options in a specific situation, please contact your Education Minnesota Field Staff, at Laura.bratland@edmn.org

Education Minnesota ESI's When Can I Afford to Retire?

For union members covered by a TRA defined benefit pension plan

Thur., Jan. 28

Virtual session

6 – 7 p.m.

*For members serviced out of the
Education Minnesota – Coon Rapids Field Office*

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Pension education

- Learn how benefits are calculated
- Understand defined benefit pension plans

Financial planning

- What can you expect from Social Security?
- Tax-deferred and tax-free savings
- Asset allocation and asset management / diversification / performance and fees
- 403(b) match and severance payment options



Presented by: EFS Advisors

[Click here to register](#)

A Zoom link will be emailed to you the day before the session.

If you are unable to join the virtual session and would like to meet with a financial advisor please contact Deborah Skog at 651-292-4856 or Deborah.skog@edmn.org.

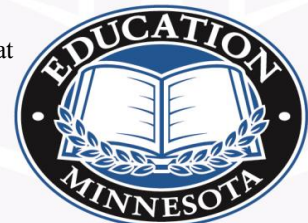
Your request will be sent to a financial advisor in your area.

41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103
651-292-4856 800-642-4624 Fax 651-292-4815

esi.educationminnesota.org

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Paid for by ESI, not by dues. ESI is self-supporting; revenues provide benefits, service and consumer education for members.



ESI
Member Benefits

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

AHEM Elections Timeline:

7:00 a.m. Feb. 24	Online voting for Treasurer, changes to Constitution and Bylaws and QComp opens. Via A-H email before or after duty day, or during duty-free lunch.
6:00 p.m. Feb. 25	Online voting closes.
February 26	Unofficial results via email or Friday Blast.
March 1	Rep. Assembly meeting, election results certified.

2021 NEA Convention will be held in the Mile-High City of Denver

The National Education Association Representative Assembly is currently planned to be held in person July 2-6 in Denver if safety can be maintained. AHEM has budgeted to send some of our members, all expenses paid. If you are interested in attending, please email valerie.holthus@edmn.org.

National Education Association Conference is the primary legislative and policymaking body of the Association and derives its powers from, and is responsible to, the membership. The Representative Assembly adopts the strategic plan and budget, resolutions, the Legislative Program, and other policies of the Association. Delegates vote by secret ballot on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Those delegates with full voting rights elect the executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors.

AHEM Government Relations 2021 Legislative Plan Proposal Minnesota 92nd Legislative Session

Background and Rationale

This year's session is the first year of the two-year biennium and will be marked by redistricting per results of the US census. After the elections of 2020, Democrats maintained control over the House with a 69-64 majority. Melissa Hortman remains the Speaker of the House. The majority leader is Ryan Winkler, while the minority leader is Kurt Daudt. In the Senate, Republicans maintained a narrow 34-31 majority, plus 2 independents. Paul Gazelka remains the majority leader, while minority leader is Susan Kent. Gubernatorial control is held by Governor Tim Walz, who is a Democrat.

Targeted Legislators

The following are the legislators in our district:

SD31	Michele Benson (R)	35B	Peggy Scott (R)	SD40	Chris Eaton (D)
31A	Kurt Daudt (R)	SD36	John Hoffman (D)	40B	Samantha Vang (D)
31B	Calvin Bahr (R)	36A	Zack Stephenson (D)		
SD34	Warren Limmer (R)	36B	Melissa Hortman (D)		
34A	Kristin Robbins (R)	SD37	Jerry Newton (D)		
SD35	Jim Abeler (R)	37A	Erin Koegel (D)		
35A	John Heinrich (R)	37B	Nolan West (R)		

AHEM 2021 Legislative Priorities

Minnesota's schools cannot achieve their goal of training the world's best workforce without effective, professional educators who are supported throughout their careers.

- Support Education Minnesota's efforts related to ESSA.
- Provide additional funding to guarantee lower class sizes.
- Increase access to quality early childhood programs taught by licensed professionals.
- Providing an inflationary increase to the basic per-pupil funding formula.
- Reduce caseloads and paperwork for educators who work with students with special needs.
- Create a funding stream to maintain Q-Comp.
- Support educators and their families by reducing the cost of health insurance.
- Create incentives for districts that negotiate and ratify contracts in a timely manner.
- Reduce the burden of standardized testing in line with ESSA.
- Ensure all students have access to Art, Music, Physical Education, Vocational Education and Languages.
- Participate in the Quick Response Network.
- Promote predictable and equitable funding for all students statewide in order to receive a quality education.
- Advocate for Student and Teacher Safety.
- Advocate for continued bargaining at the local level in relation to dues collection through Payroll deduction.

Lobbying Activities

Legislative Events

Promote and attend events planned by legislators themselves, such as town hall meetings or special events. These meetings will give us a chance for increased access and visibility.

Lobby Days

Members take a day and meet with legislators to discuss current issues. There are three planned lobby days, with a fourth day planned for any hot button issues that may pop up near the end of the session. We will ask for member contacts around these days to reinforce the messages of our visit.

Local Lobby Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays - members of the AHEM only. These are the same as our past lobby days, except they will be held virtually. President Val Holthus, field staff David Kundin and

Laura Bratlund, along with EdMN staff will schedule and coordinate zoom lobby day, including set up and monitoring the zoom. When AHEM has decided on dates, members will participate in a briefing. The briefing will be for 45 minutes before legislators log onto the zoom. EdMN will have the regular materials available, such as the legislative agenda, issue briefs, etc.

Issue-themed Lobby Days: 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout session – all members will be invited to these, and each week will focus on a different topic. We plan to start issue-themed lobby days this month, and will send a schedule soon.

Targeted Legislator Lobby Days: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays – we are in the process of identifying legislators based on committee assignments and campaign targets. PA staff will be coordinating these events.

Voting Records

Highlight legislators' records on key votes with letters to the editor, communication with our legislators, communications with our members or press releases. Thus, we can keep our issues in the public eye and provide an incentive for good education votes. Communication with members can include the Update, weekly email updates, social media and building bulletin boards.

Other Tentative- Lobbying Opportunities: Coffee & Politics or Government and Growlers

Casual meetings with legislators so we can get to know each other better and highlight issues close to home. Focus on members that are the legislator's constituents and schedule as early in the session as possible. All of our targeted legislators will be contacted to determine their interest in discussion.

Local Governmental Involvement

Levy Campaign

AHEM will support the district levy renewal campaign in one or more of the following ways: phone banking, personalized postcard distribution, and direct mailings. As the current levy renewal is a tech levy, our involvement will be limited this time around. The work in levy campaigns is accomplished through cooperation with Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation.

Calendar

<i>January 4, 2021</i>	<i>Beginning of the 2018 Legislative Session</i>
<i>February 23, 2021</i>	<i>First Local Lobby Day</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Coffee & Politics/Government and Growlers</i>
<i>March 15 – 19, 2021</i>	<i>Anoka Hennepin Spring Break</i>
<i>March 25, 2021</i>	<i>Second AHEM Lobby Day</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Meet and Confer</i>
<i>April 20, 2021</i>	<i>Third AHEM Lobby Day</i>
<i>May 11, 2021</i>	<i>Final AHEM Lobby Day, if needed</i>

Additional

<i>Wednesdays @4:00</i>	<i>Weekly Issue-Themed Lobby Days</i>
<i>T & Th @ 4:00</i>	<i>Targeted Legislator lobby days</i>

**When you're in a dark place, you sometimes tend to think you're buried.
Perhaps you've been planted.**

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

❖ Announcements:

- AHEM Executive Board Meeting, Monday, January 25, 4:45
- School Board Meeting, Monday, January 25, 4:45
- Filings Close for AHEM, Tuesday, January 26
- Grades 3-5 proposed to return to in-person learning, Monday, February 1
- AHEM Representative Assembly, Monday, February 1, 4:45
- AHEM Executive Board Meeting, Monday, February 8, 4:45
- School Board Work Session, Monday, February 8, 5:30
- Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14 ... Spread the Love
- President's Day, Monday, February 15, No School ... Wear your aviators!

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