

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

4/2/2021

Vol.3 No. 26

NEGOTIATIONS NOTEBOOK

What's going on with negotiations right now?



Online Negotiations Team Meetings:

The negotiations team is holding a series of online meetings with members. Each of these sessions will include a short update from the team. Most of the time will be set aside to hear directly from you. The session for elementary-focused teachers was held Monday night, March 30, and the negotiations team heard several ideas for contract additions or changes. The next session will be focused on secondary issues and the last session is open to any grade level. Please register for whatever date works best for you.

- April 6, 5-6 pm (secondary focused) - Register by 5 pm on April 4.
- April 8, 5-6 pm - Register here by 5 pm on April 6.

Please paste this link in your browser to register:

<https://forms.gle/yLN5JdNDyfNxzqzX1A>

These meetings will be replacing building meetings that have been held in previous years. If your building, program, or group has a large number of people and would like to schedule a separate session, have your building rep contact: ahemnegotiations@gmail.com.

John Wolhaupter, Lead Negotiator

AHEM Meets with Subgroup of School Board Members

On Monday, March 29, a small delegation of AHEM members met with three school board members to discuss issues of concern. Because of the public meeting law, only three Board members are allowed to meet without a public notice.

Conversations included workload, elementary specialists concerns, awareness of SPED programs, large class sizes, and the lack of funding affecting all areas of our work environment. It was a productive session, with active listening and identifying first steps to solve issues, or, at least, to gain more information to enhance greater understanding.

Passing a Board Resolution for fully funding public education was suggested to show support and convey a unified message in order to persuade the Legislature to recognize the financial needs of our district.

Thank you to school board members Marci Anderson, Jeff Simon, Nicole Hayes, and AHEM members Kandy Schorer, Hoover; Paul Weller, Jefferson; Scott Schaefer, Sand Creek; Jon Kohnen, Sunrise; Mark Duffy, Regional HS; and Laura Bratland, AHEM Field Staff, for attending.

Val Holthus, President, AHEM



PEIP

Public Employee Insurance Program

Choices are available from different plan designs from three reputable networks including HealthPartners, Blue Cross and Preferred One.

Currently our District has what's called "self-insured" which means only district employees and their family members are part of the health care plan. Since the pool is smaller, just a few catastrophic incidents can have major impacts on your premiums. The PEIP program includes tens of thousands of insured persons, as it is a state program, all sharing the costs of health care, greatly reducing premiums. You will hear more about PEIP as an AHEM committee has formed to take charge of evaluating and invest



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

AHEM Local Contract Action Team (LCAT)

AHEM LCAT is your fellow colleagues, friends and union members who care about connecting the issues that you care about to the work of our local union more broadly. While our primary role is to build support during negotiations, we know most issues and concerns do not stop and start with negotiations.



It is our commitment to listen to you, to organize around issues that bring us together and build power, to create community through member engagement events, to invite you to share ideas and to ensure that our union is listening and adapting, creating a place for everyone to feel heard and valued. If you would like to join the team, please contact Shawna Feist or Laura Bratland at shawnafeist@comcast.net or laura.bratland@edmn.org.

Government Relations Update

The MN legislature is in recess this week before the second half of the session starts April 6th. Senate Republicans proposed \$152 million in new funding for preschools through high schools over the next two years, while House Democrats want \$722 million in new dollars. The House DFL is on par with Gov. Tim Walz's Due North plan at \$750 million.

The state house recently moved forward appropriation for summer programming (HF 1064 passes). There are many bills in hearing or laid over status at this point.

Last week, a number of bills passed from committee in an attempt to move forward from COVID-19 closures, including requiring the MCA for all school districts, pausing new education standards, opening the door to more qualified substitute teachers (SF 819 advances to floor) and ease budget pressures by allowing schools more flexibility to move money to the area it is needed most (SF 710 passes the Senate).

Here is the upcoming session timeline and schedule for Education Minnesota's issue-based lobby events and AHEM specific lobby events. All lobby events will be held virtually, and times are typically at the end of the elementary school day. Registration links will be coming soon, or contact Janie.Hemmelgarn@edmn.org for the link to register.



April 6: Education budget update

April 9: Third Committee Deadline, committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills in order for the bill to pass.

April 20: Possible Issue Lobby Event

April 22: AHEM Lobby Event

May 11: AHEM Lobby Event

May 17: Adjournment

Aaron Balzer, AHEM Government Relations

High School Senior Scholarship Available!

AHEM is offering seven scholarships that will be awarded to 2020-21 high school seniors. Students must be a child dependent of a current AHEM member and a current high school senior in any public school district. The award winners will be announced after May 3, 2021. The scholarship application link for AHEM members' dependent is below.

Please note the deadline to apply is 4:30 pm, Friday, April 2. High school transcripts must be obtained and uploaded in the application in order to be considered.

Application Link:

<https://rb.gy/4xywxg>

Teachers Retirement Association Board Elections

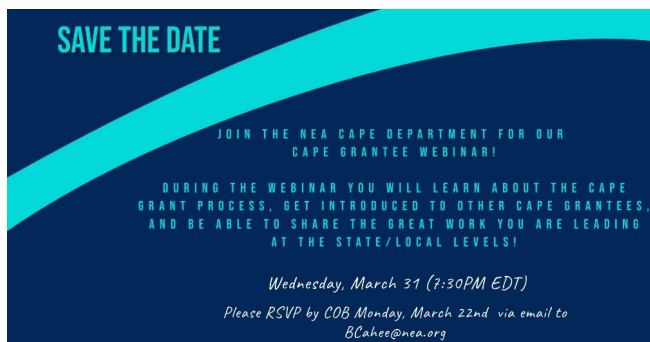
Six active TRA members and two retired members are running for seats on the Board of Trustees. The terms of one retired member and three active members expire on June 30, 2021.

Voting begins with the arrival of your ballots in the mail and ends on April 23, 2021. Election results will be certified by the Board of Trustees in June 2021 and published on the TRA website and in the summer issue of the TRIB newsletter. Only active TRA members may vote for active board representatives; only retired TRA members may vote for retired board representatives.

AHEM will not be screening the candidates for potential endorsement. I hope you have been hearing from the candidates and learning of their priorities and goals for this important board. Please review every candidate's bio video and be an educated voter! To check out videos from each candidate, please visit

<https://minnesotatra.org/board-election/>.

Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) NEA Grant Follow-up Event



The Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota SEED coordinator, Beth Popalisky was recognized in a follow-up meeting with other recipients of a National Education Association grant.

SEED is a very popular series of professional development classes about race, equity and racial justice in education. This program continues to grow, and if it were not for grant dollars from both NEA and

Education Minnesota, and partnering with the District for materials, this valuable training would no longer be available. Other grant awardees from Florida, Connecticut, California, New Jersey, Texas and Wisconsin all shared their successes with the funding of their projects, and how their school communities have benefitted.

Congratulations, Beth!

2021 NEA Convention will be held as a virtual event in 2021.

The National Education Association Representative Assembly is currently planned to be held virtually July 2-6. Last year the convention was also held virtually, and the daily commitment to be live on line was greatly reduced from when the convention was held in person. 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.

Retirement Congratulations

Correction: Kathleen Eaton, is retiring from Hoover, not Wilson, as incorrectly reported last week. Sorry, Katie!

		<u>Effective Date</u>
Lisa Stiyer	Mississippi Elem.	5/13/21
Robin Weaver	Lincoln Elem.	6/11/21
Jodi Roos	Sorteberg ECC	6/11/21
Marilyn Rota	Oxbow Creek	6/11/21
Lynn Ruff	Pathways	6/11/21
Denise Shablow	Roosevelt MS	6/11/21
Deborah Sinna	ESC	6/11/21
Suzanne Stolte	Oak View MS	6/11/21
Denise Sunderland	Coon Rapids HS	6/11/21
Ellen Surbrook	Pathways	6/11/21

Retirees: If you would like to have your retirement party announced here in the Friday Blast, please email valerie.holthus@edmn.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

❖ Announcements:

- April 5: AHEM Executive Board Meeting, 4:45 p.m.
- April 5: School Board Work Session, 5:50 p.m., ESC
- April 6: AHEM attends District Operations Committee, Fall Planning
- April 6: AHEM Contract Negotiations Planning Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- April 7: PEIP / LCAT / Negotiations Planning Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- April 8: Meeting with MN State Representative Samantha Vang, 4:30 p.m.
- April 13: AHEM attending District Insurance Advisory Comm. 4:00 p.m.
- April 13: LCAT meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- April 13: Negotiations team to meet with EdMN Metro Area Council, 5:30
- April 19: Rep Assembly, 4:45 p.m., Zoom
- April 21: Administrative Professional's Day
- April 22: AHEM Virtual Lobby Event
- April 24: Education Minnesota Representative Convention
- April 26: School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., SEC
- May 11: AHEM Virtual Lobby Event
- May 12: Unemployment Seminar, with Liz McLoone, MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), 4:30 p.m., Zoom
- May 17: Legislative Session Ends

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota Local 7007
3200 Main St. Suite 360
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
(763)421-9110