

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

5/21/2021

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Important!

If you have been instructed to Quarantine from your job during May due to exposure to COVID-19, please contact Education Minnesota Field Staff, David Kudin (david.kudin@edmn.org) so we can assist in making sure your rights to sick leave are protected.

Public Employee Insurance Plan

You have received an email from the District regarding a comparison of PEIP and the District's health plan. The way it was presented was slanted to favor the district plan.

AHEM is looking at options to find the best health insurance for our members. Competition from any other carriers including PEIP should be considered to ensure the best value for your hard earned dollar. Any barriers restricting exploring and taking advantage of competitive plans should be eliminated.

Some points regarding PEIP:

- The District's plans have slightly lower premiums but PEIP premiums are comparable. PEIP plan costs do not typically vary from year to year, as the District's plan has.
- All PEIP plans utilize a primary care model.
- PEIP plans are different but not terribly complicated.
- Disruption would be true with any change including change for the better. It could be minimized by the choice built into PEIP plans.
- Plan design in PEIP would not be controlled by the district.
- When districts enter PEIP their initial premium is based on recent claims experience. The district would be placed in one of six different premium tiers based on their claims experience. The initial rate could be more or less than surrounding PEIP districts dependent on claims.
- Premiums in all pools will be based on claims. The larger the pool the greater the stability as risk is spread over a larger group.

PEIP would only be considered after a change in our working agreement (contract). If our contract is changed to allow insurance options, PEIP would be just one choice for the AHEM membership to bring to a vote.

You will be receiving a video of detailed information about PEIP. Please take a look.



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Celebrating Asian
American Pacific Islander
Month

In 1992, Congress passed [Public Law 102-450](#) which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843.



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

Government Relations Update

Budget deal reached, but legislative work still incomplete

The Minnesota Legislature had one job it needed to do this session – pass a state budget. Unfortunately, they didn't finish their assignment on time when session ended Monday and will have to come back this summer to finish their work.

Gov. Tim Walz and House and Senate leaders did reach an overarching budget deal that could protect most schools from devastating budget cuts and layoffs for the next two years. But the agreement doesn't provide a long-term solution to the chronic underfunding of our public schools.

"This budget should stem the tide of harmful local budget cuts, but educators throughout the state want to be able to promise their students and parents that their local school will have the resources to meet the needs of all students for years to come. We can't do that today," Education Minnesota President Denise Specht said.

Legislative leaders did agree to increase state funding for preschools through high schools by \$525 million over the next two years and \$100 million for our colleges and universities.

Senate Republicans had proposed \$152 million in new funding for E-12 education, while House Democrats and the governor wanted \$722 million and \$750 million in new dollars respectively.

Legislative committees will decide the details of how that money will be spent by May 28 and reconvene a special session in June to finish the state's two-year budget. Stay tuned for more updates!

20,000 signatures and counting!

The fight isn't over yet at the Minnesota Capitol! And that means there's still time to sign and share our petition calling for fully-funded public education.

At a We Make Minnesota rally on May 15, sponsored by Education Minnesota and other coalition partners, educators delivered the petition signatures as of that date to the office of Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka.



AHEM EARLY ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota is now offering an Early Enrollment program. If you are **not** currently an AHEM member, the Early Enrollment program is a great opportunity to pledge your membership for the 2021-2022 school year and gain access to many member benefits immediately (with full access starting Sept. 1) without paying dues until October 2021. To enroll in the program use the link below to complete the application:

<https://join.nea.org/minnesota/>

One Last Food Giveaway

FOOD SHARE LOGISTICS FOR May 22nd FOOD GIVEAWAY

Host: Wayman AME Church – 1221 7th Ave. No. Mpls. MN. 55411

Thank you so much for knowing food insecurity is a real thing and wanting to volunteer!

We are dedicated to making sure this is a safe event for everyone. This is a wear a mask covering your nose and mouth event even if you have had your shot event. If you feel ill or have had a fever or chills or even have come into contact with someone with Covid, please join us at the next event. We will have vintaged folk helping and also some who may have underlying conditions and so please do a self-health check before coming. If you need help because you are ill – please give me a call and I will make sure Working Partnerships is aware!

The day will begin at 9:00 with a truck drop off. We will have 1 forklift and driver on hand and a pallet jack. This team will be putting the food/milk into place as volunteers help set up.

At 10am we will open the lines. If we are ready prior and we have people lined up, we will begin earlier.

Each station of food/milk will need 2 people, although one robust person could handle it. We don't have to be lonely, but we do have to be careful and bringing someone you already cohabitate with, either at home or at work, is advised. If you don't mind working next to someone you don't know who is wearing a mask, please let me know.

This is a contact free event. The only person talking to the people in the car are at the front gate. They will put a post-it on the car and send them through the line. At each station, the team grabs the post-it and puts the number of boxes/milk in the automobile and shuts the trunk. The first point will be the trunk, which will be opened when they pull up. The second point the back seat. Plastic gloves, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, Lysol and plastic glasses will be available for use. Please encourage everyone to stay in their car.

The church will be open if the bathroom is needed. Here is what I have so far:

9:00am – Delivery and set-up

6 slots -

10am – **please arrive at 9:30am**

10 slots –

5 drivers -

12pm – **please arrive 11:50am**

10 slots –

5 drivers

1pm – **please arrive at 12:50pm**

10 slots -

2:30pm – Closing crew until gone– **please arrive at 2:20pm**

I am aware the slots will vary with people's availability. Don't let the time frames stop you from doing these good works!

KerryJo is your contact for this event and her number is (818) 720-7347 and her email is

kerry@minneapolisunions.org



OPEN TO EVERYONE

FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY

Saturday May 22nd, 2021
Starting at 10am (while supplies last)
Wayman AME Church
1221 North 7th St. Mpls. MN.

Presented by:



∧H

∧ AHEM Members Rally for fully funding Public Education on May 15 at the Minnesota State Capitol. Sponsored by Education Minnesota, around 300 people rallied in support of ending years of underfunding public education.



MN Department of Education’s Safe Learning Plan will expire the first week of June. There will be a different plan starting for 2021 Summer Programming.

Below is the current recommended Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people). Daily covid case rates have shown a significant decrease in the last week in case rates in both Anoka and Hennepin Counties. How decisions are made about instructional models has changed, and will now be made at the building level, rather than at the District level.

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 5/20/21

4/25 – 5/8/21: Anoka County, 46.31 Hennepin County, 28.43

Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 14-day Case Rate by County Updated 5/19/2021

Anoka: 34.9 Hennepin County 19.2

Retirement Congratulations

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



You're invited to a
Retirement Party
honoring
Andy Owens

*Come and celebrate Andy's 34 years of teaching,
30 at Mississippi Elementary!*

Tuesday, June 1st
4:15-6:00pm

Alloy Brewery

2700 Coon Rapids Blvd, NW Coon Rapids 55433
(Indoor and outdoor space open)



RSVP by Tuesday, May 25th
on Google Form ([click here](#))
or
to Melissa.Bjerke@ahschools.us



Greenhorn Food Truck Will Be at the Party !

UPCOMINGEVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

❖ Announcements:

- May 21 – 22: Education Minnesota Governing Board Meeting
- May 24: School Board Meeting, SEC, 6:30
- May 31: Memorial Day
- June 2: Local Contract Action Team Meeting, 4:30 – 5:30
- June 7: AHM Executive Board Meeting, 4:45
- June 8: AFL-CIO Midwest Regional Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- June 11: Grading Day, teachers may work from home, if possible.

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