

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

9/10/21

Vol.4 No.2



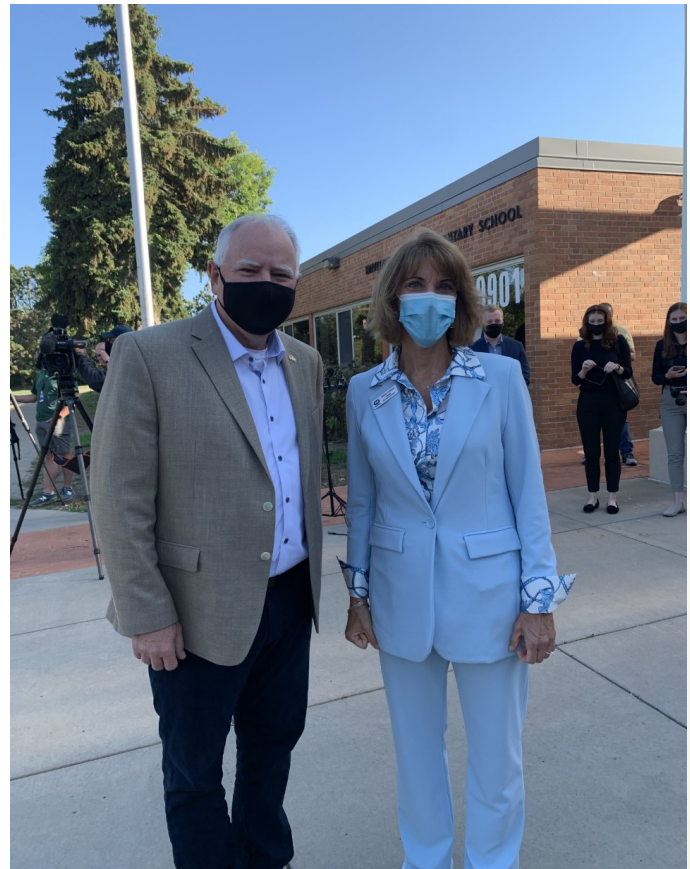
Governor Walz Visits University Avenue Elementary on the First Day of School

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Governor Walz and Education Commissioner, Heather Mueller welcomed students and staff to the beginning of the school year at University Avenue Elementary on Tuesday.

The Governor invited union leadership to the event, and President Val Holthus discussed the importance of teaching face-to-face safely, and the difficulties of synchronous instruction.

As former educators and current Education Minnesota members, Gov. Walz and Commissioner Mueller understand the challenges teachers face with the constant changes, and the extreme demands placed upon educators. They also understand the uncertainties of teaching while facing the risks of Covid and the current variant, with the danger to our students and ourselves. **Thank you, Gov. Walz and Commissioner Mueller!**



Show solidarity and support your negotiations team:

Wednesday is wear **RED** day!



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

The Education Minnesota Governing Board is a group of elected members from across the state divided into Zones and Election Districts. AHEM is allowed one member from our school district (District “S”), and there can be one member elected from Zone 8, which includes Anoka-Hennepin, Minneapolis and St. Paul. Val Holthus is the representative for Zone 8, and you have just elected Kim Thole to serve as the representative for District “S”. The results of the governing board election is: Mark Duffy, 43%, Kim Thole, 57%. Thank you to Mark and Kim for running for governing board!

Some of the roles of the Education Minnesota Governing Board include:

Adopt a budget for Education Minnesota.

Set the salaries of Education Minnesota officers and staff and approve employment contracts.

Annually set membership dues.

Determine the time and place for the Representative Convention.

Recognize new locals by a majority vote.



Meet Kacy Deschene...

The AHEM Endorsed School Board Candidate for the D3 seat (Champlin, Coon Rapids, Dayton) is an Anoka-Hennepin grad, and married with two children attending A/H schools.

In her screening interview she indicated that she wants to serve all students, their families, and teachers. She believes it is important to make sure teachers and students have what they need to succeed.

“I believe in transparent conversations and clear information sharing while building upon the strong legacy of innovation, opportunity and inclusion in the district.”

**Vote Kacy Deschene for
A/H School Board**

72 Days Without a Contract Negotiations Notebook

Greetings AHEM Members!

Our next negotiations session with the district is scheduled for the evening of September 14th at the AHEM office. The team remains committed to a settlement that includes meaningful increases in take home pay for all members.

1. Wear “Red for Ed” on Wednesdays to support our continued negotiations efforts! Joining your colleagues in wearing red on Wednesday is a powerful sign of solidarity and unity. When we go to the bargaining table, we all go together and wearing red is one way to be a part of the team.

2. To receive updates on negotiations over email, please use this form to add your name to our email list: <https://bit.ly/3tWFxyg>. The negotiations team wants to keep everyone informed while at the same time limiting our use of district resources. Sharing your home email address helps achieve both of those goals. If you have been receiving updates over the summer, you do not need to sign up again.

In Solidarity,

Your AHEM Negotiations Team

John Wolhaupter - Lead

Luke Amundson

Mark Corcoran

Traci Intihar

Jon Plotz

Brandon Voss

Trivia Contest:

The first three members to answer the following question correctly will win a Starbuck’s gift card.

What year did the union file a grievance when principals were told they could not allow a teacher to continue working past three months of her pregnancy?

a. 1933 b. 1945 c. 1954 d. 1965 e. 1973 f. 1981

Email answer to valerie.holthus@edmn.org

Good Luck!

Announcing



Mortgage interest rates

For 30 year fixed mortgages, rates are at their lowest level of the year!

ESI
Member Benefits

Interest rates have just dropped AGAIN! This may provide an opportunity to dramatically improve your existing mortgage situation. Here are current rates:

- 30-year Fixed: 2.75% (2.875% APR)
- 15-year Fixed: 2.25% (2.375% APR)

It may be possible to:

- Lower your payment
- Shorten the term on your existing 30 year mortgage loan to 15 or 20 years – without increasing your monthly payment
- Take cash out for home improvements
- Consolidate high interest credit cards or other outstanding bills
- Fix in your Adjustable Rate Mortgage
- Purchase a new home with a low interest rate

Inquire about a "NO COST" refinance (you can exchange interest points for the opportunity to close without paying any closing costs)

Act now, as these low interest rates may not be available for very long.

To inquire about the opportunity to improve your financial situation, contact:
Tradition Mortgage (Education Minnesota ESI sponsored mortgage provider)
952-252-4679

www.mneducatorshomes.com

A loan officer is available to provide you with a "no cost, no obligation" mortgage analysis.

Message from Education Minnesota President Denise Specht:

*"I know first-hand the quality of service and expertise Tradition Mortgage provides.
You can trust them with your mother. I did!" -Denise Specht, President, Education Minnesota*

*Interest rates available for those who qualify and are subject to change. APR means annual percentage rate. **No closing costs includes lending funding fee, appraisal fee, credit report, title fees, and recording fees. Does not include homeowner's insurance, taxes, or interim interest.

Tradition Mortgage NMLS #286998
"Proudly serving Education Minnesota"
16995 Brandtjen Farm Drive #300 Lakeville, MN 55044
952-252-4679

TRADITION
MORTGAGE



Print Date 10/16/19

Vote for change!



Elect **Dave Dirkswager** to the Anoka-Hennepin School Board.

District 4 – Andover, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey

Anoka-Hennepin educators support Dave because our kids and our schools need positive leaders who seek to bring people together and are willing to listen to all points of view and go forward. Communities are built by uniting us and building upon our strengths rather than dividing us. Using his experience as the Regional Manager for Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, Dave excels at listening to people's needs and balancing that with budgetary resources. He takes great pride in helping the citizens of Anoka County. Dave is a good problem solver, caring, organized and understands that our kid's education is the backbone of society.

Dave supports whole child learning, including emotional well-being. He understands that student success is dependent on support of teachers. As the husband of outgoing board member, Anna Dirkswager, he has a perspective on the role of a school board member and completely understands the commitment and dedication required to represent the staff, students and parents. A father of two elementary students, Dave also promotes community, administration and staff cooperation to make the best outcomes for kids. Dave focuses on fiscally sound decisions that benefit the most people.

Dave's opponent, Matt Audette, refused an interview with us.

If you live in District 4 and would like a lawn sign, or would like to help passing out flyers, please call the union office at (763)421-9110. Staff are not typically in the office, so if you don't get an answer, please leave a voicemail.

SEED is Back!

SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) is back for our 30th year, thanks to collaborations between Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota and the district! We have amazing speakers this year and new facilitators who come with new ideas and lots of energy. We are excited to work with you!

Through book studies, articles and films, guest speaker presentations, guided reflections, and intentional discussions, SEED seminars offer Anoka-Hennepin teachers and staff a monthly professional development opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives as it relates to facilitating an equitable education for all students. We will explore the intersectionalities of race, culture, identities, and monitor our own personal and professional growth.

Earn CEUs (27) for no charge.

Earn college credits through St. Catherine University

Please register online through LMS (under Lock and Key) , go to course catalog and type SEED in the search box.

There are **6 seminar cohorts** to choose from for **20-21: Four in person and two online**

- Champlin Park HS - Facilitators: Colleen Godfrey & Meghan Witchger
- Oak View MS - Facilitators: Beth Heimerl & Emily King
- Union Office - Facilitators: Jan Flavion & Mary Jo Merrick-Lockett
- University Avenue - Facilitators: Peder Engebretson & Kate Watson
- ONLINE - Facilitators: Colleen Godfrey
- ONLINE - Facilitators: Kari Xiong-Carlson & Beth Popalisky

If you have general questions, please contact Beth Popalisky. If you have questions about a specific cohort, you may contact the facilitator of your group directly.

Beth Popalisky

French/Intro to World Languages Teacher

pronouns: she/her/hers

chulapop@hotmail.com