

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

9/17/21

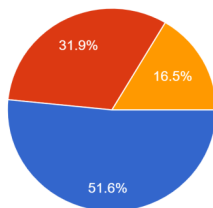
Vol.4 No.3



Results of Member Survey Regarding Masks and Vaccine Mandates

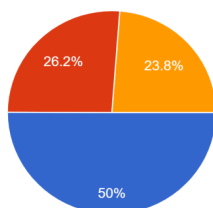


Where do you stand on requiring vaccinations for staff in Anoka Hennepin?
1,215 responses



- I would support a vaccine mandate for staff
- I do not support a vaccine mandate of any kind for staff
- I do not have an opinion on a vaccine mandate and am okay with whatever decision is reached

Where do you stand on a mask requirement for staff and students in the Anoka Hennepin School district?
1,215 responses



- I would support a mask mandate for staff and students of all ages
- I do not support a mask mandate of any kind for staff and students
- I do not have an opinion on a mask mandate and am okay with whatever decision is reached

Congratulations to the winners of last week's trivia question:

Kelly Wilson, Pathways
Dan Foss, Champlin Park High School
Mikaela Bordewick, Monroe Elem.

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?
The answer is:

e. 1973

Winners will receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card.



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Show solidarity and support your negotiations team:

Wednesday is wear **RED** day!

Vote for change!



Kacy Deschene

District 3

Vision: As a candidate for school board, my vision is focused on the school community. Our schools need to do more than impart knowledge. They need to facilitate the whole-person growth of tomorrow's leaders. They need to be safe and welcoming. They must encourage a culture of listening and learning. Our schools should ensure that all student perspectives, including those traditionally marginalized, are given a chance to speak and thrive. Our school communities should be places of open communication and inclusion

from early childhood through adulthood.

- Listens and considers the perspectives of all stakeholders.
- Views school board role as one of advocacy and service to all students, families and teachers, making sure they have what they need to succeed.
- Seeks to increase the physical safety and mental health of our students.
- Strives to represent District 3 Anoka-Hennepin at the legislature regarding vital issues including funding and safety.



Dave Dirkswager

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

Vision: 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.

- Supports whole child learning, including emotional well-being.
- Understands that student success is dependent on support of teachers
- Promotes community, administration and staff cooperation to make the best outcomes for kids.
- Focuses on fiscally sound decisions that benefit the most people



Jeff Simon

District 6

Vision: Our schools are a vital part of the community, not only for our students, but families, and the community in general. Public schools are a place where everyone should have an equal and equitable opportunity to be able to learn, achieve, and follow their dreams. Anoka-Hennepin's mission is to effectively educate all students for success, and I reflect upon that often during my service. I believe strongly in seeking out stakeholder voices, such as teachers, staff, and community. Teacher voice should always be priority when making decisions that impact the classroom,

and I have been that voice on the board.

- Supports whole child learning, including emotional well-being
- Works to close the achievement gap, with a goal of having all kids reading by 3rd grade to educate all kids for success
- Strives to represent the range of voices of the community, valuing stakeholder voices to be used as a part of decision making
- Seeks to build Anoka-Hennepin into the best place to work for all

If you would like to support one of our endorsed candidates by placing a lawn sign in your yard, please contact the union office at (763)421-9110 or text Val Holthus at (763)442-7667. Please leave your address, and a volunteer will place a sign in your yard.

In District 4 there is a well-funded candidate running against our endorsed candidate, Dave Dirkswager. His name is Matt Audette, and he has stated that during the pandemic the community's needs were ignored due to the legislature and the "demands of an over-reaching teacher's union that is increasingly out of step with our values". We must defeat this anti-union rhetoric. Instead we need to support a leader who knows that student success is dependent on the support of teachers and who believes in cooperation between teachers, administration and community. Please volunteer to distribute literature for our campaign to support Dave Dirkswager.

Vote on Tuesday, Nov. 2!

- ▶ Polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
- ▶ Find your polling place at www.mnvotes.org.

This material is prepared and paid for by Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota, 3200 Main Street, Suite 360, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 in support of the above-named candidates. This material is not approved by the above-named candidates nor are the above-named candidates responsible for it. www.mnvotes.org 2341

77 Days Without a Contract Negotiations Notebook

The Organizer

To achieve a timely settlement that recognizes the valuable contributions of AHEM members

A publication by the AHEM Negotiations & CAT Committees

Issue Number 1 • Sept. 15, 2021

Negotiations Chair:
John Wolhaupter, ESC

Negotiations Members:
Luke Amundson, Wilson
Mark Corcoran, Anoka HS
Traci Intihar, Madison ES
Jonathon Plotz, Anoka HS
Brandon Voss, Andover HS

CAT Chair:
Shawna Feist, Mississippi ES



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EDUCATION MINNESOTA

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STAY INFORMED! BE INVOLVED!

Sign up for our negotiations update:



SCAN ME

Wear Red **EVERY** Wednesday to show your support.

77 Days

WITHOUT A CONTRACT

Watch for future issues of *The Organizer*. We are **United!**

The negotiations team has met for 10 sessions with the Anoka Hennepin School District. Nearly every session the school district has come unprepared resulting in very little time at those meetings being spent actually negotiating.

As other metro districts begin to reach settlements, the offers the Anoka Hennepin district made have not come close to being competitive with the agreements reached in other metro districts. The Anoka Hennepin district is on solid financial footing between their strong fund balance, and emergency funding from the state and federal legislators such as ESSER and Enrollment Mitigation funding. A fair settlement is achievable with your help. We are all the union, and it will take all of us working in unity and solidarity to continue moving the district towards a settlement that recognizes the work that you do every day.

Trivia Contest:

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

The first teacher's strike in the United States happened in Minnesota. Which school district was it?

a. Duluth b. Rochester c. St. Paul d. Minneapolis e. Stillwater f. Worthington

Extra Credit: What Year?

Email answer to valerie.holthus@edmn.org

Good Luck!

Don't be Fooled

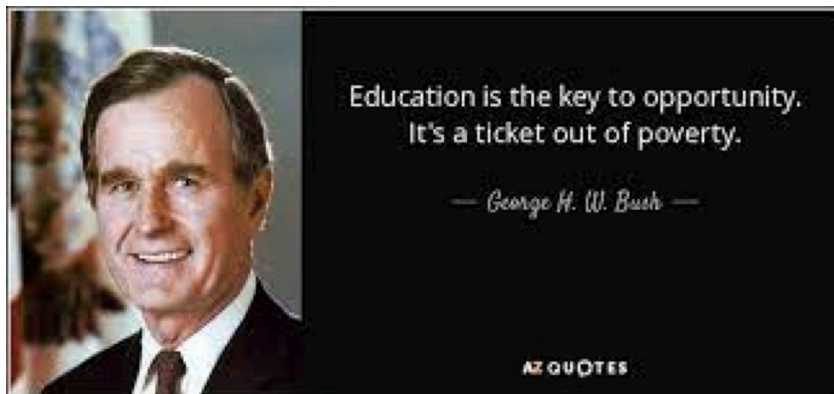
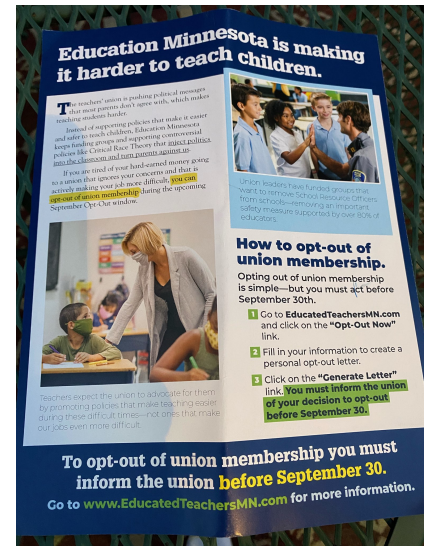
The Center for the American Experiment, operating under the pseudonym of “ Educated Teachers”, has been sending this elementary-level-written literature to our members attempting to convince us that our union is making their work harder, which couldn't be further from the truth.

They also say our union supports policies that “inject politics into the classroom”. The Center for the American Experiment is actually a think tank that pushes the agenda of its corporate donors, a few ultra-wealthy who want to defund our classrooms and spend public money on private-school vouchers.

They're attempting to mislead us about the lessons we teach about history, sociology and government. Instead of supporting a more honest and complete education, they hope to divide us, so we don't join together to demand the quality education all our students need.

We can't let the prejudices of a few billionaires, and the politics they pay for, deny the next generation the education they will need to bring Minnesotans together to make a state where everyone can thrive.

They know without an educated public, their manipulations will keep them on top, and us on the bottom with an ever increasing economic divide.



Message from Education Minnesota President, Denise Specht:

Last Friday, Governor Walz allocated \$29million in federal COVID relief money to cover enrollment loss for school districts for last year. We fought hard for this, and I wanted to make sure that you knew that we won. More important, due to the unprecedented push that our members made last spring, every single one of our funding priorities got financial support last session!

This is big - and it wouldn't have happened without your vision and leadership. While we have a long road ahead to get all of the resources - the full funding - that our students and members deserve, we made big progress:

- Funding formula: 2.45, 2% increases this year and next
- \$29million enrollment loss funding offset
- \$16million for educator of color recruitment and retention
- \$14million in additional funding for EL and Special Education
- Over \$1million for trauma-informed learning
- Support for full service community schools

The hundred-plus legislator lobby days, over 20,000 who signed the petition or called legislators, shutting down key Senators' voicemails - all of that activism made a real difference in the outcome. Thank you for your leadership in these efforts! There is much more to do, but we have to take a pause on the progress we make to celebrate.

Together,

Denise Specht,
President, Education Minnesota

Anoka Hennepin Teachers of Color Coalition

We are a committee under Anoka-Hennepin Education Minnesota (AHM) that supports BIPOC member voices. Natasha and I are the co-chairs of Anoka-Hennepin Teachers of Color Coalition (AHTOCC), though there are many who have joined and been a part of our leadership team over the years. Below are a few updates I wanted to share:

- **Our AHTOCC website** has been updated with info about our history and work. Feel free to share with others.
- **If there are self-identified teachers in your school** that would like to be a part of AHTOCC this year, **send them OUR CONTACT FORM** to complete or send me their name to be included in our listserv.
- **Our fall gathering will be held outdoors at River Park on Thursday, September 30th. To RSVP, click HERE.**
- If you didn't get a chance to read our **last newsletter** from June, it will give you an idea of some of the work we accomplished together, even in a hectic year. I hope it reminds you of the support we have all built in each other and with our allies.

Finally, there have been concerns/questions brought up to AHM and AHTOCC about teacher retention among BIPOC teachers in A-H over this last year. **On Monday, 8/30 Val Holthus (AHM President) sent an email to Superintendent Law and Sarah Kriewall asking for a follow-up on this matter. If this is something you would like me to keep you updated on as the conversation continues, let me know.** I will send emails to those interested

I (Verna) will be on sabbatical this year, but will continue AHTOCC duties through our meetings and communicating with members. Therefore, if you need anything feel free to reach out to Natasha (natasha.brownguhin@ahschools.us) or myself (wong.vp@gmail.com).

I hope you are carving out time for yourself and holding on to the friends and family around you who will keep you grounded this year. Sending you the best as you welcome students back.

Sincerely,
Verna Wong and Natasha Brown-Guhin

SEED is Back!

Earn Low-Cost College Credit toward a Lane Change

AHEM has committed itself to educational equity and justice. Part of that commitment is our sponsorship of SEED. SEED is a great opportunity to build professional networks around a priority we all share: making Anoka Hennepin the best it can be for all students. SEED's processes nurture critical personal and interpersonal reflection and growth. As we come out of the pandemic SEED groups create safe spaces for teachers to build trust and a shared vision for how to make equity and justice real for students and families. It's also a chance for experienced staff to mentor new teachers, and graduate credit is available. There are still open slots but time is short. Please take advantage of this opportunity by checking in LMS for opportunities to register.

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