

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

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Congratulations!



Roosevelt Middle School and McKinley Elementary are awarded the National Blue Ribbon School Distinction.



Hats off, Roosevelt Middle School Staff!

Six Minnesota schools, of 325 nationally, were recognized Tuesday as National Blue Ribbon Schools for their overall academic performance in closing achievement gaps among student groups.

The annual honor was announced by the U.S. Department of Education and applauded by state leaders.

The Minnesota Blue Ribbon Schools are Barnesville Elementary School in Barnesville, Roosevelt Middle School in Blaine, Twin Lakes Elementary in Elk River, Minnetonka West Middle School in Excelsior,



Kudos to the McKinley staff responsible for the application.

McKinley Elementary in Ham Lake and St. Croix Preparatory Academy Middle School, in Stillwater.

Congratulations!

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

Margaret Williams, ESC
Kelley Stowell, Bridges
Paula McCusker, Monroe Elem.

What school District was the first to go on strike?

St. Paul, 1946

Winners will receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

Next question is on page 3.



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

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.

Thanks!

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. 2341

91 Days Without a Contract

Negotiations Notebook

Your AHEM negotiations team has met with the district team for 10 bargaining sessions since early June, with the most recent session taking place on September 14th.

Progress has been very slow over the course of these meetings. At this point, a significant gap remains between the most recent proposals from each side. Several contract language items remain unresolved as well.

Your AHEM team has reached a critical point, and is considering several options on how to proceed. We will communicate more about next steps in the near future. We do not currently have another date set to meet with the district.

The negotiations team has a couple of requests from members in support of our ongoing efforts:

- Continue to wear Red for Ed every Wednesday as a sign of solidarity.
- Email valerie.holthus@edmn.org for a QR code to sign up for email updates.
- Stay informed about the process and further actions, both electronically and through your building representative.

In Solidarity,

Your AHEM Negotiations Team

Trivia Contest:

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

Fill in the blank: In terms of square footage, not including store fronts or sites that do not serve students, which one of our schools is the largest?

Email answer to valerie.holthus@edmn.org

Good Luck!

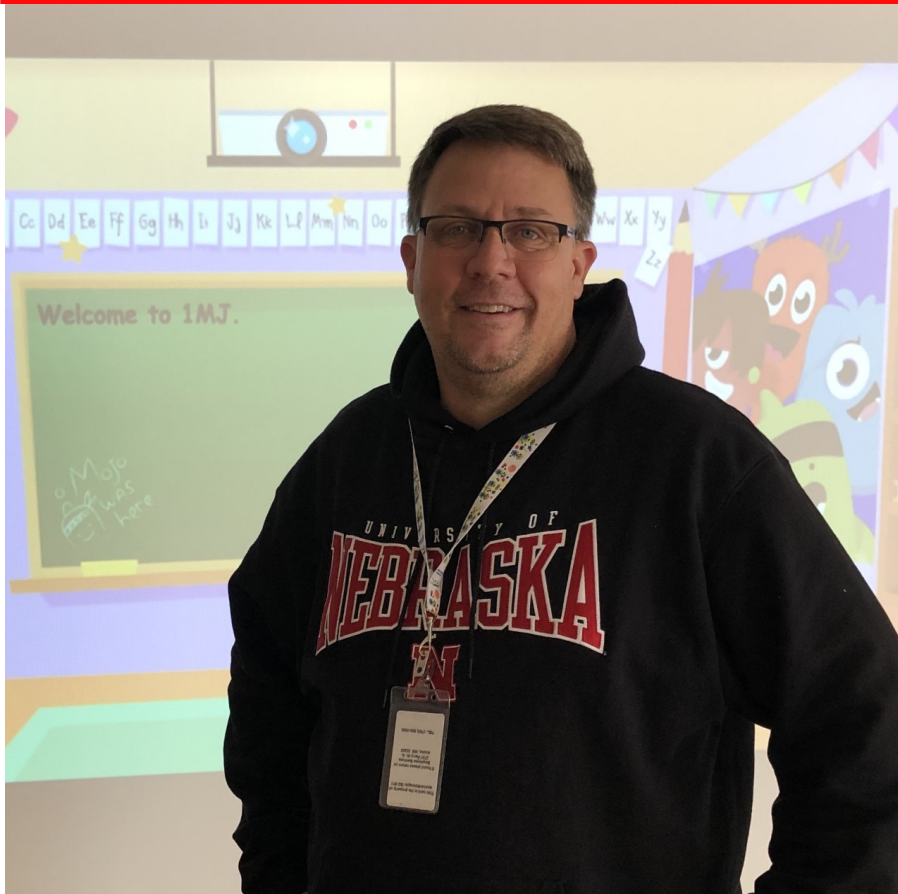
Meet Your Executive Board Members

The AHEM Executive Board is the leadership group that makes recommendations to the Representative Assembly, and has responsibility for fiduciary accountability, policy implementation and management of the activities of Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota.

Representation on the Executive Board includes the officers, eight members from elementary, four middle school, four high school, one pre-kindergarten, two at-large and one Education Minnesota Governing Board member.

Michael Johnson

First Grade Instructor
Adams Elementary



I believe that our union makes a difference and I'm glad to be a part of that. I enjoy helping others understand what their rights are and how the union can help them. As Aesop stated: United we stand, divided we fall. I believe that we have one of the strongest unions and I am proud to be a part of it.

I have been a building representative for two different buildings over the years. This is my first year as an executive board member. I have attended school board meetings, representative meetings, and represent our members during staff meetings and meetings with administration.

Message from Education Minnesota President, Denise Specht:

I'm happy to share the news that some of the most prominent groups in public education have joined Education Minnesota in a public statement of support of education equity in the face of the well-organized disruptions happening in school districts throughout the state.

You may see mentions of it on social media with the hashtag #HonestyInEducation.

This statement was signed by the presidents or executive directors of:

AMSD: Association of Metropolitan School Districts

MASE: Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

Education Minnesota

MASBO: Minnesota Association of School Business Officials

MSBA: Minnesota School Boards Association

MASPP: Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

MASA: Minnesota Association of School Administrators

MESPA: Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

The intent of the statement is to show our school communities that our organizations will continue to support and expand efforts to make schools more safe, welcoming and effective for all students.

We want to set the record straight about what education equity really means and why it's valuable to all students. It's not what people are hearing in the misleading national campaign around so-called "critical race theory."

We also know that the many teachers, education support professionals, faculty, principals, superintendents, school board members, etc., feel like they're under siege right now. The organizations that signed want their members to know that we have their backs when they're doing the hard work of expanding racial and gender equity during these difficult times.

Finally, there was a shared desire to show our organizations are willing to stand up to attacks on racial equity in schools, even though we know there will be some blowback. We ask parents, especially parents of color, to put their trust in us every day. With them in mind, we cannot remain silent in this moment.

**Denise Specht,
President, Education Minnesota**



Election Day is just a few weeks away, and we are asking members to help with our actions to elect AHEM's endorsed candidates.

Please choose an activity that works for you!

1. Copy and paste this link to sign up for a phone bank. You have the option to work from home or to work from the union office while making calls. This is NOT cold-calling. The list of numbers you will be given are union members within the Anoka-Hennepin election district.

Dates are Oct. 4-5, 13-14, 18-19, 27-28, from 4:30 – 6:30

Time commitment: 2 hours

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daead2ba0fac34-ahem>

2. Copy and paste the following link to sign up to help pass out flyers to parents as they pick up their elementary students.

Andover Elem., 9/28, 3:50 – 4:30;

Rum River Elem. 10/5, 3:50 – 4:30

Crooked Lake Elem., 10/14, 3:20–4:00

Ramsey Elem. 10/19, 3:50–4:30

Brookside Elem., 10/28, 3:50 – 4:30

Time Commitment: 1 hour or less

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daead2ba0fac34-ahschool>

SEED is Back!

Earn Low-Cost College Credit toward a Lane Change Sign up in LMS

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