

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

9/3/21

Vol.4 No.1



AHEM is here to help your school year get off to a good start. If you have any questions, please feel free and give us a call at (763)421-9110. Your field staff, David Kundin and Anna Dougherty, are here to help you with any issues that arise. You can also talk to your building representative. If you don't know who they are, or how to reach them, please call and we will get you connected.

Welcome Back!



Enjoy Your Labor Day Weekend...

Labor Day is a day meant to honor workers and to recognize their contributions to society.

Union labor was integral to the formation of the holiday, and for their work in fighting for a 5-day workweek, paid vacation, health care benefits, paid sick time and many other benefits. Society benefits from the tough battles unions have fought in the past, and continue to fight for increased pay and improved well-being.

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, similar to senate districts, and Election Districts, similar to the house of representatives. AHEM, Minneapolis and St. Paul in are Zone 8 and AHEM has our own District, District “S”. A recent resignation created an opening on the Education Minnesota Governing Board for District “S”, and two members are running for this vacancy. Their biographical information is below.

All AHEM members can vote in this election (that includes YOU). Voting will be at the union office, 3200 Main St., Coon Rapids Suite 360, by Riverdale Menards and Costco in the Wells Fargo Bldg. **Tuesday, September 7th, Wednesday, September 8th and Thursday, September, 9th from 2:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

2021 Education Minnesota Special Election Voters Guide for District S

Education Minnesota is your organization. Be sure to vote.

Members of Education Minnesota set policy and determine organizational goals—at the local, state and national level. Voting in district elections is a way for you to have an active voice in our organization.

Members will be electing one Governing Board Representative for Election District S due to a vacancy. The district-level election will be conducted Wednesday, September 1 through Monday, September 13.

Listed on this page are candidates running for the Governing Board Election District S position. All candidates had the opportunity to submit a 300-character statement and/or photograph. The statements of candidates who chose to submit them are listed on this page. If the candidate did not submit a statement or photograph, we have included his/her name and local.

If you have questions, contact the Education Minnesota Elections Committee via email at elections.committee@edmn.org.

Education Minnesota Governing Board for District S

Mark Duffy

**Anoka Hennepin
Education Minnesota**

As a member of the governing board, I would continue my strong advocacy of our policies and work to build our union. As a leader in our Local, my track record shows my union commitment.



Kim Thole

**Anoka Hennepin
Education Minnesota**

I am dedicated to making sure our members are represented by our union in any way needed. It would be an honor to serve on the EdMN Governing Board representing all AHEM members.



65 Days Without a Contract Negotiations Update

August 30, 2021

The negotiations team hopes your return to work this fall, whether it was several weeks ago or just today, goes smoothly.

This is where things stand after our **9th** bargaining meeting with the district on August 27th.

The super-quick update is that, no, we have not reached a tentative agreement yet.

Before diving into information more specific to where we are at, just a quick reminder of where we started. The budget bill passed by the Minnesota legislature in June provided an increase of 2.45% and 2% in funding for education over the next two years. In the District's initial proposal to AHEM, however, the district placed 0% and 1% on many places on the salary schedule.

Your negotiations team is looking for increases in salary, step and lane movement, health insurance contributions, and 403(b) matches, which are all funded from the additional funding from the state. Currently the District and AHEM are millions apart in a total package.

In terms of language items, we have agreed on several items that are largely corrections or clarifications to existing parts of the contract. The district has been reluctant to agree to anything that would impact what they see as their managerial rights. Your negotiators will continue to present proposal alternatives based on the issues you all brought forward to us; we still consider most proposals open for inclusion in a final agreement.

The next bargaining date with the district is September 14th.

Please wear red on Wednesdays, as a sign of solidarity and unity. A sea of red in your buildings will help send a strong message that we are united in the goal of a settlement that recognizes the work we all do for students.

Feel free to reach out with any questions to the AHEM team or sign up for updates at ahemnegotiations@gmail.com.

Your AHEM Negotiations Team:

John Wolhaupter - Lead

Luke Amundson

Mark Corcoran

Traci Intihar

Jon Plotz

Brandon Voss

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.

The AHM Government Relations candidate screening team as been busy interviewing the school board candidates running this Fall.

The first candidate the team endorsed was Dave Dirkswager.

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, declined our invitation for an interview.

If you live in District 4 and would like a lawn sign, or would like to help dropping literature, please call the union office at (763)421-9110.

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

1) \$375 due at the end of October to AHEM

2) An additional payment to St. Kate's due in May. You may choose:

- \$375 for 4 semester (6 quarter) credits OR
- \$200 for 2 semester (3 quarter) credits

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.

We look forward to working with you!

Beth

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Beth Popalisky

French/Intro to World Languages Teacher

pronouns: she/her/hers

chulapop@hotmail.com