

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

10/1/21

Vol 4 No. 5

Minnesota Educator Academy MEA Conference, 2021

Education Minnesota's 2021 MEA conference will be hybrid this year!

Attend in-person Oct. 21 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre or log on to watch select sessions virtually.

New relicensure courses will also be available on Education Minnesota's [MEA Online](#) for members to complete at their own pace. Courses at [MEA Online](#) are always free to active Education Minnesota members.

When: 7:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21

Where: Saint Paul RiverCentre; some live sessions will be available via webinar.

Admission: Free and open to Education Minnesota members and students only.

General session: 9-10:30 a.m.

Workshops: 10:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Exhibits: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Flu shots: 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Copy and paste this link in your browser to register:

<https://www.educationminnesota.org/resources/minnesota-educator-academy/LearnUpon>



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

Michelle Walgren,
Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Teacher, ESC

Zachary Nienaber,
Northdale Middle School

Lisa Babineau,
Hoover/Johnsville Elem.

What school is the largest in the district in terms of square footage?

Answer:

Coon Rapids High School



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

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

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 (763)442-7667. Please leave your address, and a volunteer will place a sign in your yard.

We need to support leaders who know that student success is dependent on the support of teachers and who believes in cooperation between teachers, administration and community.

98 Days Without a Contract

Negotiations Notebook

After making limited progress at the bargaining table over the last several sessions, we have made the difficult decision to file for mediation. We hope that the additional support the mediation process provides will help both sides arrive at a settlement that is agreeable to all. We are currently working with our assigned mediator to set dates for meetings.

Updates with more information have been shared via our negotiations update email list. We encourage you to sign up to receive these emails. Using communication tools that are not reliant on district resources allows for a more free sharing of information. **The easiest way to receive these updates is by using this form: <https://bit.ly/3mf91p9>**



[Negotiations Updates Sign Up](https://bit.ly/3mf91p9)

We will not be using district email or resources to provide updates about negotiations. To stay informed about the process, please complete [Type equation here](https://bit.ly/3mf91p9).

Thank you for your ongoing support as the negotiations team works to achieve a fair settlement that reflects the tremendous work you do as educators every day.

John Wolhaupter
AHM Lead Negotiator

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 **smallest**?

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.

Jinna Collins-Jwacu



I am an academic support teacher at Monroe Elementary in Brooklyn Center. For AHEM I serve as a Unity-Member Engagement Coordinator and Head Rep for Monroe Elementary in Brooklyn Center.

I became involved in the union because collective action leads to better results for teachers and students.

Our voice matters when we stand up for ourselves and our students.

-Jinna

403(b) & Pizza Party!



Please join us for an open house style meeting the 403(b) plan and enjoy dinner on us!

As one of the 403(b) vendors in the district, we are here to help you navigate saving for retirement. To get information on the 403(b) program and/or enroll in the plan, stop by the 403(b) Pizza Party at your convenience. We can also review any other investments you may have, or provide a review of your current 403(b).

When: Tuesday, October 12th, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Where: Davanni's Pizza—Coon Rapids

3430 129th Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448

If you are unable to attend, please feel free to contact us to schedule an individual appointment.

Samantha Simons

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David Wolfe

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Navigating Your Financial Future

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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
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