

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

10/15/21

Vol 4 No. 7

Second Mediation Session Concludes with No Tentative Agreement

In mediation, both sides agree not to share specifics about the proposals and discussions that occur during the session. I can say that as an AHEM team, we are trying to be creative in approaches to both financial terms and the language items that remain on the table. Progress has been made on several fronts. It remains a challenge to find a path forward on financial terms that is acceptable to both sides.

Both sides are working with the mediator to set another date, most likely the last week in October. I have received several questions about how various dates, like the levy vote, might be affecting the larger process. My perception is that these are not having an effect on the overall process, and it has not come up in any conversation as a part of bargaining. We are moving through issues and proposals in an attempt to give ideas their due consideration as we work towards a settlement.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions to the AHEM team at ahemnegotiations@gmail.com. **Please continue to wear red every Wednesday as a sign of solidarity and unity.**

Your AHEM Negotiations Team, John Wolhaupter – Lead
Luke Amundson Mark Corcoran Traci Intihar
Jon Plotz Brandon Voss

AHEM's Contract Action Team (CAT) has met and are considering actions members can participate in. We are tired of working without a contract, and as inflation sets in, our dollars mean less and less and as covid rates escalate, our sick days mean more and more. The District needs to bring a fair settlement to the table! Please stay tuned for notices of organizing efforts. We need to show that we are unified, and will flex our power in numbers to demand a fair working agreement.

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

Jessica Patterson, School Nurse, Northdale/Pathways;
Joanna Kilpatrick, Adams Elem.
Claire Barnes, Northdale MS

What school was built on the site of a poor farm?

Answer: **Coon Rapids HS**

This week's question:

Anoka High School adopted the official mascot of "Tornadoes" in 1940. What was their previous mascot?

- a. Volunteers b. The Maroon and Gray c. Snappers d. Millers
d. None

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

Please email your answer to valerie.holthus@edmn.org



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Vote YES

on Nov. 2 for Anoka-Hennepin kids!

Question 1 will ask the community to renew an operating levy which provides stability by maintaining current school district programs, services and class size.

Question 2 will ask the community to renew a 2011 capital projects levy which provides technology support, tools and resources in Anoka-Hennepin classrooms for all students.

Question 3 proposes an operating levy that would target key areas including improving and extending mental health and social-emotional support for students, and academic interventions and support for underachieving students. Approval is contingent upon the passage of the renewal of the operating levy in question one.

Why You Need to Vote Yes:

- If the renewal of operating levy fails, the district will need to begin plans this winter to cut \$34.5 million, which is 9.3 percent of the district's operating budget. Budget cuts would likely result in higher class-sizes and student to staff ratios at all grade levels, reduced opportunities for students, and schedule changes at the secondary grade levels that would eliminate curricular choices. **If question #1 is approved, community members will see no tax increase.**
- Renewing the 2011 capital projects levy provides technology support, tools and resources in Anoka-Hennepin classrooms for all students. If the capital levy fails, the district would need to begin plans this fall to cut \$4.5 million in other areas to continue providing these resources — or no longer provide them. **If question #2 is approved, community members will see no tax increase.**
- If the third question is approved, it would ensure that Anoka-Hennepin is able to sustain mental health and academic support for students provided through one-time federal funds that the school district is scheduled to receive to address the negative impact of the pandemic. Currently, the one-time federal funding would only sustain support through the 2022-23 school year. **The tax impact of question three is approximately \$10/month for a homeowner with a \$250,000 home.**

The above post card, created through collaboration between Education Minnesota and Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota (AHM), will be sent to many community members in our district in just a few days.

There will be another post card that will be sent as a follow-up with more detailed information about the levy and the importance of its passing.

If the levy fails it will have a direct negative impact on our buildings, programming, class sizes and support for our students and staff.

Vote on November 2nd!

NEW UPDATES to Public Service Loan Forgiveness



Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

YOUR NATIONAL DUES AT WORK

US Department of Education Settles with AFT in Public Service Loan Forgiveness Suit

WASHINGTON—The American Federation of Teachers, AFT President Randi Weingarten and eight individual AFT member plaintiffs have reached a landmark settlement with the U.S. Department of Education in the case Weingarten v. DeVos, filed in July 2019 to hold the federal government accountable for its failure to manage the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

www.aft.org

YOUR STATE DUES AT WORK

Sign up for our training on the newly-revamped Public Service Loan Forgiveness program!

Our Degrees, Not Debt experts are hosting a webinar at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21 as part of our MEA conference: edmn.me/MEA2021

Meet and Confer, Wednesday, November 10, 5:30 at the ESC

YOUR LOCAL DUES AT WORK

Here is your chance to let the school board know about what you are experiencing in your classroom! In our working agreement it has been bargained that teachers have three opportunities, one each trimester, to voice concerns, give feedback, and possible solutions to issues at your site. If you would like to bring an issue to the Board, please contact Jon Kohnen, AHEM Vice President at jondavidkohnen@gmail.com.

Opportunity Available

AHEM was able to obtain a grant to pay a stipend for membership engagement coordinators at each of our buildings. Several members have already committed to becoming a membership coordinator, but there are many more spots available.

What does a Membership Coordinator do?

They assist the building rep with membership connection by participating or facilitating organizing events, or efforts.

Attend occasional meetings with other membership coordinators, early dinner provided.

A membership coordinator will choose **one** Education Minnesota event to attend (if expenses are incurred, all expenses including meals, mileage and hotel will be paid):

Summer Seminar
Minnesota Education Academy (MEA)
Education Minnesota State Convention
Political Conference
Collective Bargaining/Organizing Conference

Attend New Teacher Orientation in August.

Have one-on-one conversations with non-members and/or new members.

Membership coordinators may purchase snacks and refreshments for their members at meetings, if they choose, and will be reimbursed by AHEM.

The stipend for large buildings is \$599, Mid-size Buildings, \$450, Small Sites, \$350.00.

Please email valerie.holthus@edmn.org if you are interested.

YOUR LOCAL DUES AT WORK

AHEM Staff Development Options to Meet Relicensure Requirements

The links to register are sent to building reps two months at a time. If you have not received the registration links, please contact Jennifer.Adriaens@edmn.org. All of October and November classes are virtual.

DATE	CLASS
11/1/2021 ~ M	English Learners
11/4/2021 ~ R	Suicide Prevention
11/9/2021 ~ T	Mental Health
11/11/2021 ~ R	Reading
December 7 ~ T	English Learners
December 9 ~ R	Suicide Prevention
December 14 ~ t	Positive Intervention
December 21 ~ T	Mental Health
January 11 ~ T	Suicide Prevention
January 13 ~ R	Reading
January 18 ~ T	Mental Health
January 27 ~ R	English Learners
February 3 ~ R	Positive Intervention
February 8 ~ T	English Learners
February 15 ~ T	Mental Health
February 17 ~ R	Suicide Prevention
March 3 ~ R	Mental Health
March 8 ~ T	Suicide Prevention
March 22 - T	English Learners
March 24 ~ R	Suicide Prevention
April 5 ~ T	Suicide Prevention
April 12 T	Mental Health

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 (763)442-7667.

Please leave your address, and a volunteer will place a sign in your yard.

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. (800) 2341

A phone bank will be held at the union office to make calls for our endorsed candidates.

There are 3 shifts still available to participate in the phone bank from 4:30 – 6:30. Calls can also be made from home. A laptop is required.

Tues., Oct. 19

Wed., Oct. 27

Thurs., Oct. 28

Please sign up using this link:

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.

Andrea Whitcomb Music Specialist, Lincoln Elem.



Hello Members,

I am excited to serve on the AHEM Executive Board as an elementary school representative!

I obtained my Bachelor of Music in Music Education at St. Olaf, and a Master's Degree from St. Mary's in Teaching and Learning.

This is my fourth year as Lincoln's building rep, and I value the support that AHEM provides for its members. Being actively involved in AHEM feels like a natural way to grow, learn, and stay informed.

Whether I'm participating in lobby days at the Capital, supporting colleagues in my building and content area, or advocating for teachers at school board meetings and Meet and Confer, I always feel valued and appreciated by members and union leadership.

We cannot do this alone, and I am confident that AHEM is working hard for us and for our students!

In Solidarity,

Andrea

Coming Up ...



After 40 years working for Education Minnesota, and 21 of those years as AHEM's secretary and jack-of-all-trades, Janie is retiring! Please email valerie.holthus@edmn.org to R.S.V.P.

- Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA) – Thursday, October 21
- AHEM Representative Assembly (Hybrid) – Mon., Oct. 18
- District Insurance Advisory, All Bargaining Units Invited, Tues., Oct. 19, ESC, 4:00 p.m.
- School Board Mtg. – Mon, Oct. 25, 6:30 pm, SEC
- AHEM Executive Board Mtg. – Mon., Oct. 25, 4:45 pm, Hybrid
- QComp Steering Committee Mtg. – Tues., Oct. 26, 4:00 p.m.
- AHEM Phone Bank – Wed., Oct. 27, 4:30 p.m. Dinner Provided
- AHEM Phone Bank – Thurs., Oct. 28, 4:30 p.m. Dinner Provided
- Anoka Halloween Festivities, 5K and Parade, Sat., Oct. 30, All Day
- **Halloween**
- AHEM PD/English Learners – Mon., Nov. 1, 4:30 pm
- Election Day, Tues., Nov. 2 **VOTE!**
- CAT (Contract Action Team) Meeting – Wed., Nov. 3, 4:30 p.m.
- AHEM PD/Suicide Prevention – Thurs., Nov. 4, 4:30 pm
- School Board Mtg. – Mon., Nov. 8, 6:30 pm
- AHEM PD/Mental Health – Tues., Nov. 9, 4:30 pm
- Meet & Confer – Wed., Nov. 10, 5:30 pm, ESC
- AHEM PD/Reading – Thurs., Nov. 11, 4:30 pm
- AHEM Representative Assembly (Hybrid) – Mon., Nov. 15, 4:45 pm
- School Board Mtg. – Mon., Nov. 22, 6:30 pm SEC