



ANOKA-HENNEPIN

Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

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Tell legislators to invest \$7.7 billion surplus in our schools

It's time to fully fund the schools our students deserve

We learned today that Minnesota has a historic \$7.7 billion budget surplus.

This is an unprecedented opportunity, one that should be used by the state Legislature to put a down payment on fully funding public education at a time when educators statewide are at a breaking point.

Small class sizes. Affordable health care. More support staff.

Minnesota has the resources to make systemic changes like these that will impact generations to come. Email your legislators and tell them to invest in educators and students!

Our public schools should be places where children learn the skills they will need to live and lead in the diverse and changing society they will inherit from us. Now is the time to use this surplus to invest in students and transform every school into a wonderful place to learn and work.

[Email your legislators now!](#)

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program Overhaul

Our right to learn, grow, and thrive should be based on how big we dream and how hard we work—not where we come from, what we look like, or how much money our parents have. That's why this year, we organized, petitioned, and held the leaders we elected accountable to expand student debt relief and ensure the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program works the way it was intended.

And now, we've secured a major victory: the U.S. Department of Education has announced a major overhaul of the PSLF program!

In just one month's time, over 30,000 borrowers have been awarded Public Service Loan Forgiveness under these new rules. You or someone you know might be eligible under these new guidelines!

**Text STUDENT DEBT to 48744
and we will send you resources to help you get started.**

By working together, we are making sure those who attended college and choose to serve their communities are not forever weighed down by a lifetime of crushing student debt. This major step brings us closer to ensuring everybody who wants to learn and grow can do so—without exceptions.

Find out if you or a public service worker in your life qualifies for PSLF and what you need to navigate the process. **Text STUDENT DEBT to 48744 to learn more.**

Trivia Question

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

For non-probationary teachers, how many days of service are required in a duty year(not including teachers on an hourly contract)?

Answer: C. 187

Congratulations to Paul Smothers, Johnsville Elem.; Cynthia Carlson-Paetznick, ESC; Eduardo Bautista, Coon Rapids Middle School.

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

AHEM offers professional development for CEUs and for college credit to move up on the salary schedule. SEED is a course that offers 3 college credits or 27 hours of CEUs.

Fill in the blank: What does the acronym, SEED, stand for?

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



Get to Know Your Executive Board Member

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

Mindy Pazen, Speech Language Pathologist in the Early Intervention Program (EIP)



My name is Mindy Pazen, and I am a Speech Language Pathologist in the Early Intervention Program (EIP).

My cubby is at SEC but I travel throughout the district going into daycares to service special education students.

I received my Bachelor of Science in communication disorders from Mankato State University, and I received my M.A. in communication disorders from University of Minnesota-Duluth.

I hold my Certificate of Clinical Competence in the area of Speech/Language Pathology and can work with children and adults from birth on.

I am in the union because I know there are people who will support me in my work to deliver quality special education services to my students and their families. Being part of the union also gives me a "voice" in bargaining process.

Not A Member of AHEM?

You can apply online here: <https://join.nea.org/minnesota/>

When Can I Afford to Retire? Virtual Seminar

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota with Education Minnesota ESI Member Benefits is offering:

When Can I Afford to Retire? Virtual Seminar

Hosted by David Wolfe, financial and Retirement Planning Advisor

On Tuesday, December 14th 6:00- 7:00 PM

[Click here for more information & to register](#)

New Communication Starting Soon

AHEM will begin using *Constant Contact* to send communications to avoid using the district email system. As you probably know, the district email system belongs to the district, and they have total access to our emails. Communicating through a different platform will ensure our emails remain completely confidential. You will

be asked for your personal email soon. We hope you sign up to continue receiving your union's communications and be guaranteed that your personal email address will not be shared with anyone else.

Coming Up

- School Board Meeting – Dec. 13, 6:30 pm SEC
- Combination Rep Assembly Executive Board Meeting – Dec. 20, 4:45 pm, AHEM
- First Day of Winter – December 21
- Winter Break – December 23 – Jan. 2
- Filing Opens for AHEM Officers, C&B, Q Comp, State, and National Delegates – Jan. 3
- School Board Meeting – Jan. 10, 6:30 pm SEC
- Representative Assembly – Jan. 10, 4:45pm AHEM
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Jan. 17
- Executive Board Meeting – Jan.24, 4:45pm, AHEM
- School Board Meeting – Jan. 24, 6:30pm, SEC



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