



ANOKA HENNEPIN LOCAL 7007

Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

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A Message to our Members

Dear AHEM Members:

As your AHEM leadership team continues to meet with district representatives in the hopes of driving changes that address your day-to-day challenges as an educator, we also wanted to respond to a few concerns we are hearing from members. Please know your help may be necessary in order to drive collective action and apply pressure to the district.

Many of you have reached out about being required to take sick days due to positive test results even though you are not displaying symptoms. Commonly people ask why it is not possible to work remotely on days like these rather than taking sick time. First, know that this was a concern that was brought forth in bargaining several times this past round without success. The district has made a determination that no one from any bargaining group can work remotely in these situations whether they be principals, teachers, or paras. As a consequence of this district decision, some of you have been asked to complete parts of your job while also being required to use sick leave. When you are using sick leave, you should not be required to attend meetings or complete other job-related duties.

The grave substitute shortage that we are all grappling with every day is another common concern among members. This affects members differently depending on your particular building or position in the district. Many of you are being asked to sub during your prep period. Article X, Section 11, Subdivision 3 of the Working Agreement makes clear that subbing during a prep period must be agreed to by the teacher. During these times, the pressure is intense to help out colleagues. While the recent MOU raising pay for teachers subbing during prep time is helpful, also recognize that in these situations you can say, "No." AHEM leadership realizes that there are many members in classrooms and positions that this provision does not provide relief. This may be because you are in a situation where students are split between classrooms or because you are in a

position that does not have prep time. **We will continue to advocate for your needs as we continue to meet with the district.**

In the event you are asked to complete job duties while on sick leave or are compelled to sub on your prep, start by asking if you are being directed to do so. If the answer is yes, you should comply with what is asked of you and then reach out to the AHEM office to talk to the field staff about possible next steps.

In Solidarity,
Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
Local 7007

Trivia Question

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

What is the percentage of current AHEM members who indicate they are female?

Answer: 78%, There are: 1,977 females, 569 males, 212 who do not indicate gender

The question was written with a leading statement, which was a little unfair, so everyone who submitted an answer will also get a \$5 coffee gift card.

Congratulations to Jessica Leighton, *Northdale Middle School*; Jolanda Dranchak, *Anoka Middle School for the Arts*

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

When a grievance is filed, it is commonly resolved in a couple of steps, but if a grievance is not settled, what is the maximum number of steps that a grievance could take before it is resolved?

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 6
- d. 7

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

The Page-Kashkari Amendment Will Harm Minnesota Students

Page and Kashkari claim their proposed amendment would "put K-12 education in the hands of parents, where it belongs." In fact, **it would put K-12 policy and funding in the hands of MN judges.**

Education Minnesota is opposed to a proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that would remove the explicit obligation on the state to fund a uniform system of public education for every child. This strategy paves the way for taxpayer-funded vouchers for private schools, which may discriminate against certain students.

The amendment proposed by Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari, and former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page creates a situation in which any parent could bring a lawsuit against the state and their school.

Research done by the MN Senate reveals that "evidence from other states demonstrates it would open a Pandora's box of lawsuits, massively increase expenses, and erode democratic control of education with little or no academic improvement to show for it."

Supporters of the amendment cite Florida and Louisiana's amendments, but the variable that reduced the gap in these states was not the constitutional amendment. Florida's success was the innovative k-12 policies initiated by a reform-minded governor, and Louisiana's gains were due to unique circumstances and funding related to Hurricane Katrina.

"This amendment favors parents who can afford to hire attorneys to advocate for their own children, probably at the expense of families with fewer resources. That is the opposite of education equity," Education Minnesota President, Denise Specht said. "Minnesota schools are failing too many students of color and students in poverty. Educators have solutions ready and waiting for funding. The Legislature needs to fully fund public education. It needs to do it right now."

Education Minnesota 11/2/21, 9:16 AM Education Minnesota - News releases
MN Senate, 2019-2020/3104 Committee on E-12 Finance and Policy/Page-Kashkari

Accommodations and Modifications Relicensure Class Available Through AHM

Teachers in need of the relicensure class, Accommodations and Modifications, have had difficulty finding a way to take the class, so AHM stepped in and is offering it seven times online. Registration links have been sent, and to maximize equity to members across the district, these classes will open at 7:30 on January 21.

PLEASE only sign up for this class ONLY IF your license is expiring in JUNE of 2022.

All classes will be closed ONE WEEK before they occur, so membership checks can be made. Participants must be members of Education Minnesota or retired AHM members to attend, and classes begin at 4:30 and last 2 hours - these are virtual classes that will be open to 75 people.

New Communication Method

AHEM will begin using *Constant Contact* to send communications with our members instead of relying on the District e-mail system. Communicating through this platform should improve confidentiality of our messaging and allow us to communicate more effectively with you, our membership.

Coming Up

- Member Rights Advocacy Training – Jan. 22, 9am-Noon
- Executive Board Meeting – Jan.24, 4:45pm, AHEM
- School Board Meeting – Jan. 24, 6:30pm, SEC
- AHEM Officer filings Close – Jan. 25
- Pay Day – Jan. 28
- Education Minnesota Virtual Political Conference [**Register Here**](#) – Jan. 29
- Pay Day – Feb. 11



Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
3200 Main Street, Suite 360
Coon Rapids, MN 55448