

**STRONGER TOGETHER**



**ANOKA HENNEPIN**

**Valerie Holthus**

**President**

**March 11th, 2022**

**Vol 4, No. 23**

# FRIDAY BLAST

## Meet and Confer

*Last night at Meet and Confer several speakers brought forth some very crucial topics to the school board. First, Jon Kohnen, AHEM VP/Secretary and Superintendent, David Law, reviewed the progress of topics from our November meeting.*



*Next, speakers Katie Anderson (Rum River Elementary) and Krystyne Hable-Lafean (Sand Creek Elementary) discussed the importance of expanding the refund of 5 days of sick leave MOU to the beginning of the year. On the same topic, we also watched a video by Mindy Pazen, Catie Butcher and EIP staff. We learned of the Early Intervention Program's particular factors of exposure when visiting their very young students in their homes.*

*Jamie Johnson, Jodi Rife and Aleece Holmgren spoke about the social and emotional learning and behavior needs at Adams Elementary.*

*President Val Holthus relayed information for special education case managers, and their need for time in the day to work on paperwork, as they are understaffed, and having to manage student behavior throughout the day.*

*Jon Kohnen conveyed the concern of staff being pulled back from their professional development because of a lack of substitute teachers.*

*Next, Shawna Feist spoke about the opportunity to problem solve with the District by requesting monthly meetings with upper administration.*

*Finally, school board members and Superintendent Law responded to our topics and said that most of our requests, particularly adding more paras, would have a high price tag. Val Holthus ended with a comment to vote for law makers*

supportive of public education, so the District receives the funding we need.

Thanks to everyone who attended meet and confer last night!



## Trivia Question

### **Congratulations to the winners of last week's trivia question:**

Education Minnesota conducts a screening, or an interview, to help them decide which political candidate to endorse. Which one of these things is NOT a part of Education Minnesota's screening process for Governor?

#### **d. Collaboration with PELSB (Public Education Licensing Standards Board)**

#### ***Congratulations to:***

Jessica Higgins, Adams Elementary  
Jocelyn Rowe, Pathways  
Elizabeth Schmidt, Riverview Early Childhood Center

#### ***Congratulations to the correct winners of Friday 2/25. We apologize about the error:***

Michelle Hendrickson, Hoover  
Bobbie Anderson, CRMS  
Betsy Nordin, OVMS



### **This week's Question:**

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

An error occurred when, somehow, the career steps were left off from the salary schedule in the employment contract. The District refused to restore them costing veteran teachers thousands of dollars over the rest of their career. It is years before they are added back into the salary schedule. What year did this error occur?

- a. 1947
- b. 1962
- c. 1970
- d. 1983

Please email your answer to [valerie.holthus@edmn.org](mailto:valerie.holthus@edmn.org)

**Support Minneapolis Educators**



As you are aware, the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers is striking in solidarity with the Minneapolis Federation of Educational Assistants (ESP). The strike formally began on Tuesday with ongoing negotiations yielding little middle ground. Last night the AHEM Executive Board voted unanimously to approve a \$1000.00 donation to MFT 59 strike fund.

During this difficult time, your actions through AHEM are an essential source of support for our colleagues in MPS. When we all do better, we all do better.

**The Minneapolis Federation of Teachers top priorities include:**

- A living wage and affordable health care for Educational Support Professionals (ESP)
- Recruitment and retention of educators of color
- Increased staffing for mental health teams at every school including more school social workers, counselors, psychologists
- Class size limits to guarantee students gets the individual attention they deserve
- Professional planning time for ESP
- Competitive compensation for teachers and other licensed staff

Even though it is Spring Break, there are a variety of important ways you can show your support.

**Learn.** Become familiar with the issues by reading the MFT bargaining priorities [linked here](#).

**Get informed.** Follow the MFT on Facebook to get updates on rallies and picket lines [linked here](#).

**Show up.**

- There are organized pickets near every school site in Minneapolis with action happening between 7:30- 10:00 every day.
- There are additional protests planned every afternoon at various locations.
- There will be a door knocking campaign.
- Information on these events is available on the [MFT Facebook page](#).

**Donate.** Donate directly to the union through the MFT strike fund [linked here](#).

- You can also bring hand warmers, coffee, donuts, etc. to the picket lines.

**Demand Action.** Contact the MPS superintendent and school board to demand a fair contract for support staff and educators. [Here is a link to write to the board](#)  
[Here is a link to write to Superintendent Graff](#)

- **Contact your lawmakers.** One of the biggest issues in MPS is the fact that EL and Sped services are not fully funded at the federal or state level. Action here would help ALL school districts in the State of MN.

As a union, it is important to show solidarity with our colleagues in their time of need— not only because we never know when we will need to call on their support—but also because it is the just and right thing to do.

Written By Chris Baker-Raivo

# Attention: AHEM members w/ a graduating high school senior!

**Make sure you take advantage of this benefit of membership!**

**Who:** 2021 - 2022 High School Graduating Seniors

**What:** AHEM gives away 7 Scholarships

**Where:** click the link <https://forms.gle/DNrfaNZHtc5nh6A>

**When:** NOW - April 1st

***Students must be a child dependent of a current AHEM member and a current high school senior in any public school district. High school transcripts must be obtained and uploaded in the application to be considered.*** The award winners will be announced after May 3rd, 2021.

## AHEM Scholarship Committee

Love to hear about the really cool things our seniors are up to? Love to give away money? Join us on the AHEM Scholarship Committee!

### Requirements:

- One virtual planning meeting on 3/31 at 4:30
- One in-person meeting on 4/28 at 5:00 at the AHEM office - dinner is included!
- A few hours of your time in April to read and judge scholarship essays based on a provided rubric
- You cannot be the parent of a graduating senior who plans to apply for this scholarship



The time commitment is small, but the impact is huge! If you are interested, please contact Allison Hackenmiller at [allison.hackenmiller@ahschools.us](mailto:allison.hackenmiller@ahschools.us).

## Member Benefit

This week we are highlighting for you *Small Interest – Free Loans*

As a member of Education Minnesota you have access to small, **interest free** loans to purchase things like furniture, electronics, appliances, toys, jewelry and more. Shop and pay over time, interest free.

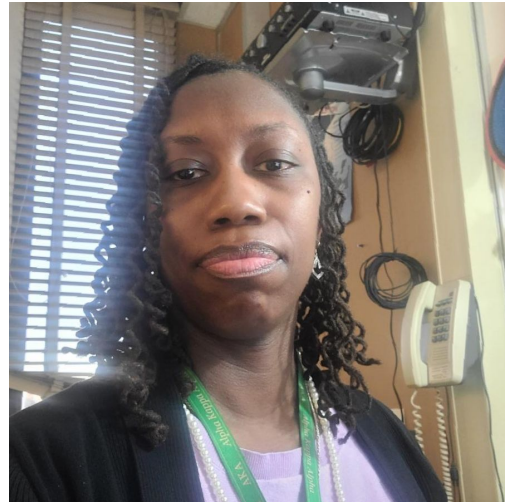
To learn more, or take advantage of interest free shopping check out the website:  
<https://zebit.com/edmn>



# "Get to Know Your Executive Board Member"

I have been teaching 9th grade English at Anoka High School since 2009. I started teaching in the fall of 2006. I graduated in 1999 from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a BS in Family Social Science.

After working with children and families for a few years, I returned to school to become a teacher in 2002. Taking a few years to get settled into a permanent teaching position, I finally finished my MA in Teaching from Hamline University in 2014.



I am currently one of the Building Representatives at Anoka High School. I also serve on the Anoka Education Minnesota Executive Board, as a High Representative and AHTOCC Co-Chair.

Natasha Brown-Guhin

## **Virtual Lobby Day**

Make your voice be heard!

Log on to Virtual Lobby Day! It's simple, easy, and rewarding.

**District 35**  
**Tuesday, March 22 6:00 p.m.**

**Let your legislators know about your classroom!**

**School funding**

**Working conditions**

**Safe schools**

**Keep public dollars in public**

## **Coffee & Politics**

District 36 – Where you live!

Please join us on Saturday morning for coffee (even the fancy ones) and breakfast to chat with your lawmakers about what is going on in your classroom and what is important to you and your students.

**March 26, 9:00am**  
**Caribou Coffee in**  
**Brooklyn Park**

(8559 Edinburgh Centre Dr.  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443)

[schools](#)

Use this link to register:  
<https://cvent.me/DX420A>

Use this link to register:\_  
<https://forms.gle/yzm8hieJwKnyY5tJ8>

# RC 2022 Update

*News for the 2022 Representative Convention*



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

## Important information about the 2022 RC

The Representative Convention is our highest governing body, with more than 600 elected delegates meeting annually to set policy for the union.

The **2022 Representative Convention** is scheduled for Friday, April 22, through Saturday, April 23, at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. The convention will begin at 7 p.m. Friday and end Saturday when all business of the convention has concluded.

All three officers (President, Vice President and Treasurer) are up for election this year. It is a very important for you to attend, as you will elect the leaders for our state union. There could also be changes to our constitution and bylaws on the ballot as well as decisions of several business items.

**After two years of virtual conventions, we are planning for an in-person event. Each attendee will be able to have their own hotel room, which will allow you to bring family if you would like.**

We are optimistic that we will be able to be together April 22-23, but we must remain flexible in the event pandemic conditions this spring force us to change. We will keep you up-to-date here with any and all decisions, including COVID-19 safety and mitigation measures and all requirements that will be in place at the convention as these decisions are being made.

If you are interested in attending,  
please email  
[jennifer.adriaens@edmn.org](mailto:jennifer.adriaens@edmn.org).



Coming Up

- Spring Break - Mar. 14 - 18
- St. Patrick's Day - Mar. 17
- First Day of Spring - Mar. 20
- No Students, PLC/ Staff Day - Mar. 21
- Lobby Days - Virtual - Mar. 22
- Coffee & Politics - 9am - Mar. 26
- School Board Meeting, 6:30pm, SEC - Mar. 28
- Executive Board, 4:45pm, AHEM - Mar. 28
- When can I afford to Retire?, April 5, Virtual Apple Valley



**Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota**

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