



**ANOKA HENNEPIN
LOCAL 7007**

FRIDAY BLAST

Valerie Holthus, President

March 4th, 2022 Vol 4 No. 22

Meet & Confer

Do you have an issue and/or an idea for the school board? Do you have suggestions on how things could be improved or made more efficient? Here is your chance to bring your idea forward.

Please contact valerie.holthus@edmn.org if you would like to have your topic on the agenda.

SUPPORT MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL EDUCATORS



Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and St.

MFT Petition:

[Support MPS Students and Educators for Safe and Stable Schools - Action Network](#)

SPFE Petition:

[Imagine the Schools St. Paul Students Deserve!](#)
[\(google.com\)](#)

MFT Bargaining Microsite:

<https://www.safeandstableschools.org/#time>

Paul Federation of Educators are fighting for safe schools, better pay, smaller class sizes and services for their students. They are leading the way for us all! Please show your support for our union brothers and sisters by signing their petitions!

The links include multiple ways for individuals and locals to support the MFT and SPFE in their bargaining work, as well as to learn more about the issues at the bargaining table.



SPFE:

[The Time is Now – SPFE28](#)

MFT:

- Share the [MFT Bargaining Demands](#).
- [Individual Sign Up Form](#).
- [Organizational Sign Up Form](#).
- Sign up for our MFT Family Email List [here](#).
- Send a letter to Ed Graff by filling this out [here](#).
- Sign and share our petition [here](#).
- Pledge to support our strike fund [here](#).
- Support our bargaining team in mediation by providing food, coffee, words of support, etc. Sign up [here](#).
- Learn more by visiting safeandstableschools.org

Contract Connections #4

STRIKE!

As explained through action steps

Work Actions and Negotiations by John Wolhaupter, AHM Lead Negotiator

With the possible strikes in St. Paul and Minneapolis in the news, this week's Contract Connections takes a step away from contract language and turns an eye towards how we work together as a union to reach a contract settlement. The actions that members may be asked to be a part of exist on a continuum that escalates from unifying actions, like wearing red on particular days, to actions that withhold labor, like a strike. Go [*here*](#) to fully understand how our union could end up on strike.

NEA Organizing Fellowship Academy: 2022 -2023

The Fellowship is a yearlong opportunity during which the member works fulltime for their state affiliate. The member must secure a leave of absence from their employer. There is no guarantee of future employment, but the

goals of the program are to prepare participants to be successful in applying for opportunities that develop and to assist state affiliates in diversifying the pipeline into field staff employment. **Applications are due on March 25, 2022.**

[View the flyer here.](#)

Interested member activists can go to www.nea.org/nofa for more information. They can click on the link below to apply:

**SUBMIT A
FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION
APPLICATIONS
MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 25, 2022.
APPLICATIONS
SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

*All NEA Organizing Fellowship Academy candidates will be notified on Friday, May 6, 2022 if they were accepted or not into the program.

**Successful candidates must secure a leave of absence by June 10, 2022, to participate in the program.

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.

QComp Vote Results

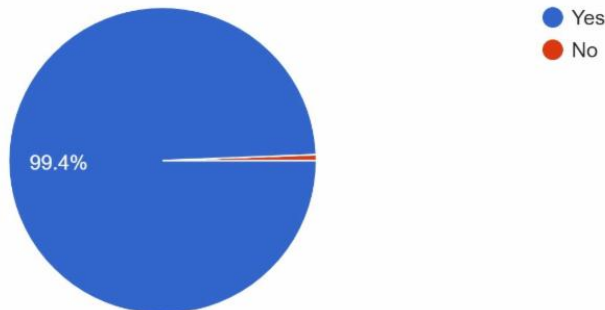
-Every District in the State of Minnesota, by law, must have a Teacher Development and Evaluation (TD&E) Plan. Anoka-Hennepin has met this

requirement through a quality compensation (QComp) plan presented to the MN Dept. of Education. Some Districts do not have QComp, and do not earn the compensation that we do, yet they are still required to go through steps of evaluation. Part of the QComp Plan requires the teachers to vote on the plan each year, and **you have voted to pass this year's Q Comp plan with a 99.4% majority yes vote.**

The pie chart below represents the QComp voting results.

- 802 people voted
- 797 of them voted yes
- 5 voted no

Shall the teachers of District #11 accept the QComp plan approved by the Minnesota Department of Education and negotiated between Anoka Henne... Minnesota (AHM) for the 2022-23 school year?
802 responses



NEA Foundation Application Deadlines Extended

PROMOTING THE
ABSOLUTE BEST
IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Application Deadlines Extended!

Grants to Educators: February 25, 2022

Global Learning Fellowship: April 1, 2022

THE NEA
FOUNDATION

The NEA Foundation has extended deadlines for both our Grants to Educators and Global Learning Fellowship opportunities. Educators can apply for Student Success, Learning & Leadership, and Envision Equity grants until February 25, 2022, and applications for the Global Learning Fellowship program are open until April 1, 2022.

Visit www.neafoundation.org for additional information and links to the applications.

Trivia Question

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

Since improved nutrition standards for school meals were put into action across the United States during the Obama era, children – especially those from low-income households – have been eating healthier school lunches with better overall nutritional quality.

What was removed from our cafeterias to abide by the revised school lunch guidelines?

c. Fryers

Congratulations to Matthew Thompson, ESC, Lindsay King, Sunrise Elementary, Tim Quigley, QComp, Peer Evaluator



This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

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?

- a. Member Forum
- b. 1/2 day School Visit
- c. Questionnaire
- d. Collaboration with PELSB (Public Education Licensing Standards Board)

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

"Get to Know Your Executive Board Member"

My name is Justin Bushard and I'm a 4th grade teacher at Wilson Elementary where I have taught for the last 12 years. I also taught at Washington Elementary for 11 years.

I am a graduate of Coon Rapids High School, have a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from Saint Cloud State University, and a Masters

of Arts in Education from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

I started my involvement with the Union during my first year of teaching when I filled in for my head building rep a few times at Representative Assembly meetings. I became the head building rep at Washington a few years later. When Washington El. was closed, I transferred to Wilson El. and became the head building rep.

For the last five years I have served as an elementary representative on the AHEM Executive Board. I also serve on the Exec. Board Budget Committee and as Wilson's LCAT rep.



Being involved in AHEM helps everyone stay informed on the issues Anoka-Hennepin teachers are facing. Your involvement could range from attending a Meet & Confer, to having a conversation with your building rep about what you'd like to see in our next contract, to running for AHEM president. Make your involvement in our union fit you.

In Solidarity,
Justin Bushard

Two AHEM members are semi-finalists for Minnesota Teacher of the Year!



Mary Betland

An English Teacher at Jackson



Megan Rafferty

An ESL Teacher at Mississippi

This year's program will name the 58th Minnesota Teacher of the Year. The program celebrates the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota.

An independent panel of leaders in the fields of education, business, government, nonprofit and philanthropy will read candidates' portfolios over the next few weeks and narrow the list to a group of ten.

Organized and underwritten by Education Minnesota, the Minnesota Teacher of the Year program receives support from Education Minnesota ESI, Educators Lifetime Solutions, EFS Advisors, Harvard Club of Minnesota Foundation, SMART Technologies, and Expedition Credit Union.

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.



ATTENTION: Grade K-2 teachers, and LETRS Grade 3 teachers

You have received a LETRS Professional Development OPTIONAL Summer training notice. Please know that this is not required, and you cannot be held responsible for not knowing the information given in an OPTIONAL training.

Sick Leave Reimbursement Steps

The link below is to be used by an employee who is requesting reimbursement of sick days as a result of testing positive and being diagnosed with COVID-19 between January 3 and March 11, 2022. The employee may be eligible to be reimbursed for up to 5 days time off due to required COVID-19 quarantine. To be eligible, the employee must first enter their absence(s) as personal illness (sick leave).

Submission of this form will be reviewed by Human Resources (Labor Relations & Benefits/Employee Services' departments) and confirmed with the employee's supervisor.

Review and processing will take place mid-April. For leave requested after February 4, the employee should maintain a copy of their lab confirmed test result as it may be requested for confirmation.

All applications must be submitted by March 25, 2022.

<https://forms.gle/g5FhQqvJyTexdo1e6>

No Cost Member Benefit

This week we are highlighting for you, your free member benefit called "PerksConnect".

Through this benefit you can access discounted gift cards, event tickets, travel accommodations and more!

We hear lots of great stories from our members who use this service from saving \$10 on their meal at their local restaurant to hundreds of dollars when they order their new kitchen appliance package through this member benefit. The deals are endless, and it is not too late to use the website to save on accommodations and activities on your upcoming spring break vacation.

edmn.perksconnection.com

Click on: "Activate Your Account Now."

Use group code EDMN12

Stay Connected

Get easy-to-read legislative updates on what's happening with education at the Legislature.

Every Monday during the legislative session, Education Minnesota sends an e-newsletter called Capitol Connection to all members. Capitol Connection summarizes the most recent actions affecting public education at the Legislature and looks ahead to upcoming activities. If you're a member and don't receive Capitol Connection but would like to,

contact webmaster@edmn.org and put "*Capitol Connection*" in the subject line.

Coming Up

- Campaign Leadership Conference, 10 - Noon - Mar. 5
- National School Breakfast Week - Mar. 7
- School Board Workshop, 5:30 - Mar. 7
- Rep. Assembly, 4:45pm, AHEM - Mar. 7
- QComp Peer Evaluator Interviews - Mar. 8
- Meet & Confer, 5:30pm, ESC - Mar. 10
- End of Trimester 2 - Mar. 10
- No Students, Staff Planning/Grading - Mar. 11
- 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



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