

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

11/12/21

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Meet and Confer with the School Board

The first of three Meet and Confer meetings with the school board was held on Wednesday, November 10. An emotionally packed picture of the realities of the teacher experience was expertly communicated by Jodi Anderson-Wolhaupter. Her accurate descriptions of the challenging climate of teaching in our buildings brought a standing ovation.

Thanks to Tom Powers, Rum River Elem. and Gina Carlson, Oxbow Creek Elem. for their comments of both the value and the drawbacks of LETRS training.

Mark Duffy, Regional HS, brought attention to the inconsistencies of which buildings the district has provided building substitute teachers.

The scheduling and unreasonable working conditions elementary specialists continue to experience was brought to the board again by Paul Weller. Specialists were led to believe the number of sections were being standardized across the district. However, the same issues of overload, unreasonable hours of teaching with no break, and being pulled to sub in other rooms returned again this Fall.

Jon Kohnen spoke about the issues and challenges of large class sizes, and presented a slide show from one of our elementary schools as a revealing example of how teachers' classes also include students whose needs require more attention such as EL, SPED and those in assessment with the I-team.

Gretchen Kafer, University Elem. presented on the developmental capabilities of students and the need for social emotional learning opportunities.

Each member of the school board was in attendance, along with Superintendent David Law and several of his cabinet members. Each of the School Board members responded to the topics teachers raised, and appreciation was voiced for their attention as well as hopes of initiating some of the possible solutions that AHEM members suggested.

Thanks to **Jon Kohnen** and AHEM staff for organizing a successful event, and **special thanks** for the teachers who presented on behalf of all of us, our students and our profession.

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

Dr. Liz Keeling, Champlin Pk HS,
Kristin Stasica, Sunrise Elem.
Bobbi Anderson, Coon Rapids MS

What is the maximum lifetime matching contribution by the District in our current contract?
b. \$40,000

This week's Question: Where was this picture taken, and what does it mean?



a. Sandburg b. Franklin
c. AMSA, Fred Moore d. Lincoln



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

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.

Hello Members,

I am Mark Duffy, and I have taught at Regional/Technical (formerly Crossroads) High School for about 12 years.

I've earned a BA in Anthropology and History from Purdue University, a BS in Social Studies Education from SCSU, a BS in Math Education from Hamline University, and a MAED from Hamline University.

Being a member of our union is a way of showing I care for my students, my school, and my profession. We are better when we work towards a common goal. In this case, working to improve conditions for our students, their families, and our schools. AHEM does a great job in promoting those things in our district and our state and national affiliates do a great job of doing that as well. Without our union, many of the things we take for granted would not exist. I show my respect for those who laid down those paths for us with strong union advocacy and pushing those boundaries further. If I can see further now, it is only because I stand on the shoulders of giants. **UNION STRONG!!**

Mark



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 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.

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...

- Cancelled: AHEM Representative Assembly – Mon., Nov. 15, 4:45 pm
- Vote on Contract Electronically – Tues., Nov. 16 - All Day
- Vote on Contract Electronically – Wed., Nov. 17 - All Day
- Contract Election Results Reported to Membership and District Nov. 19
- Pay Day, Friday, Nov. 19
- School Board Mtg. – Board Votes on Working Agreement (Contract) Mon., Nov. 22, 6:30 pm SEC
- AHEM Executive Board – Mon., Nov. 22, 4:45 pm (Hybrid)
- Conference Conversion Day, Nov. 24
- Thanksgiving Break, Nov. 25-26
- End of Trimester One, Dec. 2
- Grading Day, Dec. 3
- Staff Development Day, Dec. 6
- School Board Meeting, Dec. 13, 6:30 pm SEC
- Retro Pay – December 17
- Combination Rep Assembly Executive Board Meeting – Dec. 20, 4:45 pm
- First Day of Winter – December 21
- Winter Break – December 24 – Jan. 2