

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

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FRIDAY BLAST

AHEM Gear Available!

For those who didn't order and wish they had, we are opening up the AHEM gear store again!

Use this link to the web store:

<http://www.tornadoalleysportswear.com/anoka-hennepin>

CLICK HERE FOR HOW TO ORDER

Beware of the Page Amendment

Neither party in the legislature has supported the amendment currently, but it is not going away, and the push for private school vouchers or other uses of tax dollars for non-public schools is part of a national strategy to undermine public education and educator unions.

The *Network for Public Education* researchers examined laws and regulations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to measure how well policymakers protect public funds from exploitative privatization. Most troubling were findings that expose how state laws allow charter and voucher schools to leave students behind, discriminating against the most vulnerable.

Findings include:

- Eighty-one percent of states with voucher laws allow schools to discriminate in entrance requirements based on religion. Under the guise of religious freedom, 74 percent allow discrimination.
- Nearly half (15) of all states with one or more voucher programs do not require background checks for the teachers of voucher-funded students.
- Thirty-three states either do not require that charter school students be taught by certified and licensed teachers or allow so many exceptions that any existing regulations are meaningless.
- Thirty-seven states and D.C. allow for-profit corporations to run non-profit

charter schools, including via “sweeps” contracts that allow tax dollars and control to be funneled to the for-profit that runs the day-to-day operation of the school. In five states (Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Nevada, and Ohio), for-profits run over 30% of the charter schools in the state.

- Forty-one states allow schools to contract with businesses owned by charter school board members, and in 19 states those related party transactions are not required to be disclosed.

The report notes that “the first step in stopping the privatization movement is to understand it.” *Public Schooling in America: Measuring Each States Commitment to Democratically Governed Schools* is a must read for those of us working to promote and protect our public schools from the ever increasing threat of privatization.

You can use this link to read more.

<https://networkforpubliceducation.org/public-schooling-in-america>

Volunteers Needed

In 2022, we have the power through our democracy and union to vote for public education and protect our collective bargaining rights.

But we need educators at the forefront of that movement. Please help interview or screen political candidates for possible endorsement, so we can put the candidates in office who we know will support us, our students and our profession.

Please email anokahennepinem@gmail.com to volunteer to be a screener. No experience necessary.

Legislative Updates

View our Legislative agenda online, connect with our Lobbyists on issues you care about

Education Minnesota has lobbyists who spend their time fighting for public education and educators every day. But we still want to hear from you! Contact lobbyteam@edmn.org if there is something you care about that you would like us to fight for. Education Minnesota’s legislative agenda is an overarching vision of what the organization believes the Legislature should do to ensure Minnesota has the best learning and working conditions in its public schools. Read our full legislative agenda at www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature.

Read the Capitol Connection e-newsletter

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

There are several education/pension bills on the floor right now in the MN Legislature:

[HF4016/SF3541](#) includes pension improvements, such as decreasing our pension contribution and increasing the district's contribution and increasing state aid to the pension program.

[HF4233](#): Gives special education teachers an additional hour per day to complete due process forms.

[HF3926](#): Increases teacher prep time by 50 percent.

[HF1729](#) was "laid over" this week for consideration in a larger bill in the future and includes continuing free breakfast.

[HF3773/SF3558](#): Provides 24 months of service credit for every 12 months of service for public school employees for 2020, 2021 and 2022 while

[HF3942/SF3649](#): Brings back Rule of 90. These bills appear to be dead on arrival. EdMN does not support Rule of 90 at this time, as it does not reflect current retirement needs of members. Perhaps an adjusted bill (95) or change to pension funding will be more helpful.

As always, please contact your legislators to share with them your main priorities:

[Who represents me?](#)

Aaron Balzer- Government Relations Chair

Trivia Question

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

The answer to last weeks question was:

What was the reserve clause replaced with?

b. Free Agency

Congratulations to:

Meghan Reil, Sand Creek Elem.
Shannon Gates, Adams Elem.
Nichol Michels, Riverview Early Childhood

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

The most recent round of negotiations saw a benefit for the Career and Tech Ed club advisors. Rather than splitting a \$3,000 pot of money at the end of the year, the CTE club advisors now receive a stipend starting at \$2,500.

***The first 3 who can identify what the CTE clubs' acronyms stand for (DECA, Skills/USA, BPA, FCCLA, HOSA and FFA) will win a \$10 coffee gift card. (For example, CTSO stands for Career and Technical Student Organization).**



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

Teacher Recruitment and Marketing Campaign



The Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB), the state agency that oversees the issuance and renewal of teacher licenses in the state of Minnesota, is announcing the launch of an outreach campaign designed to elevate the teaching profession and actively recruit teachers, focusing specifically on individuals of color and of Indigenous descent.

<https://mn.gov/pelsb/aspiring-educators/recruitment/> .

To conduct this work, PELSB has contracted Plum Blossom Strategy LLC, led by Dr. Rose Wan-Mui Chu who is working in partnership with Collectivity, led by Scott Cole and Shehla Mushtaq, and VitaminK12 LLC, led by Chris Hoehn. Since the onset of the project in early February, the team has been planning the structure of the work, reviewing audience research, and inventorying existing resources.

There will be many opportunities to participate in the information and research phases of the project. We welcome input from all corners of the field. If you are interested in joining this work, wish to learn more, or provide other comments, please click below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ICYMI: Minnesota Statewide Virtual Job Fairs for Educators

Minnesota's public school employers are actively recruiting and hiring for immediate placement, and the 2022-2023 school year. Current and aspiring educators have multiple opportunities to meet in private, 1-on-1 conversations with administrators from more than 50 Minnesota school districts and charter schools at any of the following virtual job fairs. PELSB licensing executives will be in attendance at these events to answer participants' questions related to licensing, including application, renewal, and qualifications.

All events are virtual. Attendance is free.

All events run 3:00 to 7:00 pm CT

May 11 [Register to attend](#)

June 21 [Register to attend](#)

Member Benefit

Need a better balance?

With the seemingly unsurmountable stresses and pressures teaching involves, work-life balance may be more on the top of your mind. For time-management tips for the classroom and at home, go to www.neamb.com/better-balance

Receiving Tenure in Minnesota

In Minnesota teachers are required to teach three consecutive years in the same district (120 days minimum) and if they are hired back for a fourth year, then they will receive tenure. While a tenured teacher may only be terminated for just cause, there is no similar standard for non-renewing probationary teachers, and the discretion given to administration under Minnesota law is very broad.

This is the time of year when principals and building administrators make decisions about which probationary teachers will be non-renewed and which will be given another year of probation, or will be eligible for tenure. Teachers are typically called in by the building administration and notified that they will be proposed for termination by the School Board which will meet on Monday, March 28, 2022.

If you are one of these affected teachers, or if you know of teachers in your building who are being given this notice, which is sometimes called being “pink-slipped”, they should be encouraged to reach out to AHEM Field Staff so we can answer questions for them about this process.

David Kundin (david.kundin@edmn.org)

Anna Dougherty (anna.dougherty@edmn.org)

Coming Up

- When can I afford to Retire? [Click for April/May Schedule](#)
- April 15: Staff Development, No Students
- April 18/May 13: Secondary: Asynchronous, Elementary: Staff Planning
- April 22 - 23: Education MN Representative Convention, St. Paul River Center

- April 25: Executive Board Meeting 4:45pm & School Board Meeting 6:30pm, Sandburg
- April 26: QCOMP Steering Committee Meeting 4pm, ESC
- April 27: Administrative Professional's Day
- May 1: May Day
- May 2: Rep. Assembly, Union Meeting 4:45; All Members welcome, see your Building Rep for the Zoom link.
- May 3: Insurance Advisory Meeting 4:00pm, ESC
- May 4: Meet & Confer w/ School Board 5:30-7pm, ESC

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