

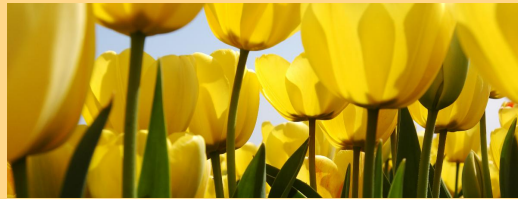
STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus
President
April 22nd, 2022
Vol 4, No. 28

FRIDAY BLAST



Meet and Confer

Meet and Confer, Wednesday, May 4, 5:30 at the ESC

Here is a chance to let the school board know about an issue or a celebration at your site. In our working agreement it has been bargained that teachers have three opportunities, one each trimester, to voice concerns, give feedback, and possible solutions to issues being experienced.

If you would like to bring an issue to the Board, please contact Jon Kohnen, AHM Vice President/secretary at Jondavidkohnen@gmail.com.

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.

Community Organizer - Summer Opportunity



Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota (AHEM) is looking for members to work as Community Organizer positions over the summer. The purpose of these positions is to begin creating relationships with parents, caregivers, and community partners who have shared values and a commitment to public education. We believe that by working together we can achieve bigger and better things for the students and educators in our communities.

For additional information or to express interest in this opportunity, email bridget.moore@edmn.org.

Legislative Updates

Walz: Governor Walz blasted the MN legislature for not making better progress this session. He's drawing a line in the sand this year... no special session. 'The Legislature is doing what the Legislature does. They're waiting until the last minute,' the DFL governor said. 'I want to be very clear, there is no special session.'

MN Legislature: Regarding the state surplus, 7.4 billion in supplemental funding is proposed by the MN House, including 1.15 billion is for education versus 30 million total by the Senate, targeting only dyslexia training. Education needs a great deal to restore 7 billion per biennium in state education funding. See the MN House vs. Senate priorities below. Contact your senators now! Click here to see [Who represents me?](#)

Aaron Balzer – AHEM Government Relations Chairperson

Minnesota House, Senate Budgets: How They Stack Up

Minnesota's \$9.25 billion surplus gives the Legislature an unprecedented opportunity to settle up with public schools that have been shortchanged for years.

The House DFL's education budget this year would be real movement to fully fund our schools. Senate Republicans offer no help and may force districts to make budget cuts and lay off staff.

MINNESOTA HOUSE

Total: \$1.15 billion

Provides funding for welcoming public schools for all
\$155 million to expand voluntary pre-K.
\$422.4 million for the special education cross subsidy.
\$104.8 million for student support staff

MINNESOTA SENATE

Total: \$32.4 million

Neglects student, educator and community needs
ZERO new dollars for early learning.
ZERO new dollars for the special education cross subsidy.
ZERO new dollars for student support

like social workers and counselors.
\$50 million for full-service community schools.
\$9 million for mental health support in intermediate school districts.
\$6 million for literacy training.
Advances racial equity in public education
\$84.3 million so students have access to more teachers of color and diverse curriculum.
\$74.1 million for English learners.
Elevates and protects educator voice
\$20.3 million for paid training for education support professionals.
\$18.2 million to give special ed teachers more time to complete due process forms.

personnel.
ZERO dollars for full-service community schools.
ZERO dollars for mental health support in intermediate school districts.
\$30.7 million for literacy training.
Ignores need for culturally responsive schools
ZERO new dollars to attract and retain teachers of color and build affirming schools.
ZERO new dollars for English learners.
Attacks educator freedoms and the profession
ZERO dollars for paid training for our ESPs.
ZERO dollars for due process prep time.

Helpful Tip from AHEM Professional Development

If you are taking a leave or retiring, please take the time to make a HARD COPY of your Learning Management System (LMS) account. Once you are out of the district access to this information is more difficult.

Anoka-Hennepin will continue to maintain your Continuing Education Units (CEUs), however, having information of your CEUs is crucial if you believe you will need proof in the future.

Please contact Kristi Weidlein, AHEM PD Chairperson, for further assistance at kristin.weidlein@ahschools.us

Trivia Question

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

The answer to last weeks question was:

DECA=Distributive Education Clubs of America
FFA=Future Farmers of America
BPA= Business Professionals of America
Skills/USA=Vocational Industrial Clubs of America
HOSA= Health Occupations Students of America

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

What year did the contract begin to allow the use of up to seven days sick leave by a father of a newborn or for an adoption?

A. 1994

Congratulations to:

Sam Woods, Virtual Academy & STEP
Mike Johnson, Adams Elem.
Jennifer Knight-Isenberg, Bridges



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

Thank You from the Torbenson Family

“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.” — Rachel Carson

Spring is a time for renewal. This month, my family was able to see the world with fresh eyes. After Neil went through 37 proton treatments (He rang *The Bell* on his 37th final proton) and the two of us being away from home for 3 months, we were ready to meet our new lives living with cancer as we headed home. April also brings us to Neil’s halfway mark of completing his chemo treatments, which has been a long journey for him.



I cannot find the words to express my gratitude to the kind, caring, thoughtful teachers who have taken time out of their own lives to reach out to us in every possible way imaginable. I want to thank all of you for donating to Coins For the Community for my family. I was overwhelmed with the outpouring of generosity from Anoka Hennepin staff members.

Neil is continuing to show his determination, strength and courage with all of the obstacles that he meets daily. His last chemo treatment is the end of July and we appreciate all of your continued prayers that we feel every day.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your generous support that went to my family. We are forever grateful and blessed to be a part of such a loving kind community of Anoka Hennepin.

Love, Lisa, Neil and Vincent Torbenson

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

AT&T Phone Bill Discount Program

As a member of NEA you can save up to \$10/line per month if you are an AT&T customer. For more information visit **NEA's website**.



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 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
- April 28: Worker's Memorial Day
- April 29: Arbor 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
- May 12: AHEM Non-Renewal Seminar - [Register Here](#)

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