

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

April 8th, 2022

Vol 4, No. 26

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

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 for last week's question was:

Solve for x: $2(x+7) - 3(2x-4) = -18$

B. $x=11$

Congratulations to:

Tami Jo Manthey, Anoka HS
Lindsay Paulson, Morris Bye Elem.
Ashley Brown, Champlin Park HS

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

Baseball Season starts this week!

Marvin Miller, American union leader who, as head of the MLB Players Association, drove successful efforts to improve ballplayers' labor rights. In 1976 he brought forth the end of the reserve clause, which required players to sit out a season before they were eligible to sign with another club. What was the reserve clause replaced with?

- Player Draft
- Free Agency



- c. Waivers
- d. Arbitration

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

Education Minnesota Credit Card

Most of us use credit cards, why not use one that offers the lowest rates with the most benefits. As a member of Education Minnesota, you have access to one of the best credit cards around.

Earn rewards with every purchase.

Choose a card that earns cash back with the Education Minnesota Customized Cash Rewards Credit Card.

Toll-free 888-758-7946/group code GAAM

For information about rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of this credit card, call the number listed above. This credit card program is issued and administered by Bank of America, N.A.

Coffee & Politics

District 31 – 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.

April 9th, 10:00am
Bridge Street Coffee in Oak Grove
(3122 Viking Blvd.)

Use this link to register:

<https://forms.gle/mFYcEmLvzdj4bxS9>

COVID SICK DAYS UPDATE

When We Fight, We Win!

AHEM has been advocating for our members needs all year regarding COVID and other difficult stressors our educators have had to deal with this school year. One of the items that we fought for was getting all of our members reimbursed sick days if they were ill with Covid. While we were successful at getting an MOU to reimburse 5 sick days to members who had been ill with COVID Jan. 3 – March. 11, we heard from our membership that, that was not good enough.

AHEM then went back to the table with the district and asked for the MOU to be reconsidered and all members that were impacted during the 2021-22 school year be reimbursed the 5 sick days. AHEM members also organized; they showed up in mass and spoke at Meet and Confer. Because of those efforts the district has agreed to extend the MOU so that all staff who were ill with COVID during the 2021-22 school year will be reimbursed 5 sick days.

The MOU States:

The District will provide one week (up to 40 hours or part-time employee's one week equivalent) of paid sick time to employees for the following COVID-19 qualifying reason:

The employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 through a lab verified test and can provide the District with a copy of the test showing a positive COVID-19 diagnosis for the employee.

- An employee who used paid sick time due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis prior to February 4, 2022, will not be required to submit a lab verified test. The benefit will be effective from **July 1, 2021 – June 10, 2022**. Employees must contact their direct supervisor if they believe they are eligible for this benefit. The benefit shall cease on **June 11, 2022**.

The District hopes to have the changes entered prior to April 22nd. Please be patient as they attempt to process all of the requests.

As in the first round, employees will apply for the benefit using a Google form. Detailed information about applying for the benefit will be included in the April 8th edition of the "In the Know" newsletter.

We are powerful when we work together in union. Thank you for the work you do with our students and for each other.

Thank you,

Anna Dougherty
Field Staff, EdMN
651.247.6255

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 9: Coffee and Politics with Rep. Cal Bahr, 10am **Link to register:** <https://forms.gle/mFYcEmLsVzdj4bxS9>
- April 11: School Board Work Session - 5:30pm, ESC
- April 12: Insurance Advisory Meeting - 5:30pm, ESC Rm #145
- April 14: SEED Class - 4:30pm
- April 14: Modifications/Accommodations PD Class - 4:30pm
- 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

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