

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

June 3rd, 2022

Vol 4, No. 34

Last Friday Blast of

2021/2022 SY



FRIDAY BLAST

A Look Back

The end of the school year is always a time of reflection. Looking back over the last couple of years it is truly amazing what our education community has endured and has accomplished! The following is a brief timeline which exemplifies your incredible resiliency.

December, 2019: World Health Organization reports a mysterious pneumonia is sickening dozens in China.

February, 2020: Novel coronavirus renamed COVID-19, Americans begin hoarding hand sanitizer, face masks, and toilet paper. Volunteers sew 100s of face masks.

March, 2020: Gov. Walz' executive order 20-02 closes all schools for a period of two weeks, March 18-27. The CDC and Minnesota Dept. of Health warn of being in groups of over 10, and mask requirements begin.

YOU accomplish an absolute miracle and pivot to distance learning in less than 3 weeks.

2020 Census: Educational funding, and other public services are based on population counts.

Governor Walz's weekly radio updates begin. Jan Malcomb and Anthony Fauci become trusted, household names.

Districts must provide child care for parents who are 1st responders and health care workers (Tier 1 and 2 of the emergency worker list), and for educators “if space and capacity allows”.

March 13, 2020: A national emergency is declared.

Issues with Distance Learning emerge with questions of privacy, grading, 12th grade graduation and at least 100 more issues never considered before.

We learn a new term: “shelter in place” and the US leads the world in COVID-19 cases.

April, 2020: All in-person meetings are cancelled, and the alternatives for conducting meetings are Google hang-out, Google meets, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom.

On April 13, it was announced there will be no more QComp observations. School Buses distribute food for families.

May, 2020: Anoka-Hennepin’s employees experience a Health Insurance premium increase at an average of 18%.

May 25, 2020: George Floyd is killed by Mpls. police spurring protests world-wide, closing major freeways, destroying some Minneapolis neighborhoods, and exposing even more plainly the issue of racism in America.

US reaches 100,000 deaths.

Summer, 2020: Many District Level Committees are formed to plan for Fall instruction models. Pandemic aid expires for millions of Americans receiving \$600 a week in unemployment insurance.

August, 2020: 100s of AHEM members protest outside at a school board meeting demanding safe schools as they return to school. There are many unanswered questions such as masking, ventilation, ionization systems, sick leave, disinfecting classrooms, hand washing, time to transition between classrooms, and applications for accommodations to teach virtually.

September, 2020: AHEM distributes supplies such as masks and sanitizer.

October, 2020: District publishes a flow chart explaining covid related isolation, quarantine, reporting and leave guidelines, and we all become familiar with the covid dashboard, and jwolfson.shinyapps daily covid report.

October 9: Randi Weingarten, President of the AFT holds press conference at the ESC.

November 2020: Covid testing is held at the Anoka Armory and Gov. Walz proposes districts give extra prep to teachers.

January, 2021: The January 6 insurrection, domestic terrorists attack the capitol, Trump promotes the “Big Lie”, creating doubt in the election results, and injecting distrust of our election procedures, and ultimately, our democracy.

MN Safe Learning Plan is adjusted: Sports will continue, SPED Setting 3 and 4 starts as well as ECSE, EIP, DCD and RTLC, K-2 SPED in person

February 2021: Grades K – 5 and SPED in person, lunches will be served in the classroom.

Vaccinations become available. Some react with no side effects, some become very ill.

March 2021: In-person learning begins after Spring Break, with Plexiglas, social distancing and mask wearing.

Fall, 2021: School board meetings fill with angry community members who worry that teachers are teaching Critical Race Theory.

November, 2021: The Referendum Questions 1 and 2 pass, and Kacy Deschene and Matt Audette win the school board race.

Negotiations go to mediation, an agreement is reached, contract is ratified with 78% yes vote.

February, 2022: AHEM persuades the District to refund teachers 5 sick days if they had suffered from Covid during January 3 – March 11.

March, 2022: Covid sick leave reimbursement is expanded to include the entire school year.

Spring, 2022: Minneapolis Teacher's Strike.

On the outside, it would appear that everything is back to normal, but we know because of Covid, personal loss, Distance Learning or the tension of our new not-so-kind world has negatively affected student behavior. Mental health issues continue to be a significant challenge.

Summer, 2022: Thank you, everyone for all the work you do for your students and your communities. Now it's time to take care of yourselves!! Have a wonderful, relaxing summer! No one deserves it more than YOU!

Valerie Holthus
President, Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota

Ending Gun Violence in Our Schools

As educators, our foremost priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students. We all have a professional responsibility to foster safe schools and thriving communities.

The only meaningful difference between America and other countries when it

comes to gun violence is the guns. Other countries have similar rates of mental illness, but they don't have a free flow of weapons of mass destruction.

Schools need more mental health professionals, not pistols; teachers need resources, not revolvers. We need universal background checks. We need safe storage laws. We need to provide funding for counseling for our students and our educators. The House has taken action and the Senate needs to act on these today!

The vast majority of Americans are behind these solutions – the will of the people to end gun violence should matter more than power and profit. Our union supports the Congressional Bipartisan Background Checks Act (S. 529/H.R. 8), which requires a background check for every gun sold and most transfers, as well as the Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R. 1446), which extends the initial background check review period from 3 to 10 days. We support any measure that will make it more difficult for violent people to get their hands on guns without a waiting period or background checks – and are waiting impatiently for the Senate to do anything.

Saturday, June 11, NEA is partnering with [March for Our Lives](#) to host more than [300 events across the country](#). Many of the marches across the country are being organized by high school and college students in need of support.

TICKET THIS!

AHEM Members-Only Ticket Program

In-person ticket sales will be available at the Union Office from 8:00 - 4:30
Monday - Thursday.

(Summer hours may vary, please call first to ensure someone is there to help 763-421-9110)

The logo for Valleyfair, featuring the word "Valleyfair" in a stylized, red, outlined font with a small American flag graphic at the end.

Valleyfair Ticket Savings!

Regular Admission Price:

All Ages: \$34.36

AHEM Member Price:

All Ages \$30.00 (Maximum of 5)



MN State Fair Ticket Savings!

Regular Admission Price:

Adults (13-64) \$17

Seniors (65+) and kids \$15

AHEM Member Price:

All Ages \$12 (Maximum of 5)

Children (4 and under) Free

Contract Connections #8

Open Enrollment is going on now! Know your benefits...

Health Insurance

The open enrollment period for benefits for the 2022-23 school year is going on now through June 14th. You should have [received a brochure from the district](#) outlining the process to sign up and an overview of the insurance plans being offered.

With the change from Medica to United Healthcare for next school year, all district employees must make a selection of a plan for this year. To help with decisions on what plan is right for you, the district has created [a website with more information about the plans](#). The website [includes a tool to search for the providers](#) that are covered under each plan. The district is also holding a [series of information meetings at the ESC](#) to provide more detailed information and answer questions. AHEM encourages members to take advantage of these resources as we navigate a greater level of change than has been the case recently.

[click here to full article...](#)

More links from article:

[Presentation to the school board](#)

[\(The full presentation is in the May 9th board meeting recording](#)

[District insurance department website.](#)

[Current working agreement \(contract\)](#)

[District Labor Relations and Benefits website](#)

Trivia Question

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

The answer to last week's question was:

Based on the mounts in the hallways, It looks as though Middle School Students have been going on safari, but what are these heads REALLY made of?

#2 Papermache

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

What Twin Cities recording artist wrote these lyrics?

*Hell naw, I ain't going to school
The teacher's a jerk, he must think I'm a fool
And all the kids mess with each other
always all day*

Congratulations to:
Jamie Nelson, Evergreen
Wendy Wright, Northdale MS
Kim Sieben, Roosevelt MS



*Class warfare up and down the hallways
And if you ain't popular
Nobody talks to ya, unless they mocking ya
Not even bus driver or the hall monitor
I might as well climb inside my locker huh
It's a bad day, bad week and a bad month
Don't nobody want to trade with my bag
lunch
Someday I'ma be so cool
But for now I got cheap shoes, so I keep
losing
Girls give no love to a poor man
It's a prison, the clock is warden
Man it won't get no better when I get home
So I listen to the voice in my headphones
Every day can't be the best day*

- a. Atmosphere
- b. Prince
- c. Lizzo
- d. Soul Asylum

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

Legislative Updates

Candidate Screenings: Ever wanted to actually know who you are voting for? This is easy and you can do it from your back patio on Zoom. We have 2 dates coming up on the calendar for candidate screenings: **Thursday, 6/16, 1-4:30** and **Tuesday, 6/21, 1-4:30**. It's likely to be shorter than this time frame, but allows for flexibility with scheduling. Please join me in interviewing candidates and deciding who AHEM is going to support this year!

Join us for a forum with Attorney General, Secretary of State and State Auditor candidates!

Candidates are required to participate in a forum with Education Minnesota members as part of the [Education Minnesota's Political Action Committee's endorsement process](#). All four candidates have been invited to participate in a candidate forum Tuesday, June 7 from 4-5:15 p.m. on Zoom. The forum will also be broadcast live on Education Minnesota's Facebook page.

Pledge to Vote: There are 2 main ways for you to protect education: 1) Show up at the polls in November. Be heard. 2) Sign up to be a Worksite Action Leader. Help your building rep with 2 Get Out the Vote events in the fall. We're offering you \$150 for your time and energy this time around. Please talk with your rep to make a difference!

MN Legislature: The good news for the surplus- the legislature and governor

agreed upon a broad spending framework- 4 billion in investments, including 1 billion for education, and 4 billion in tax cuts. However, Republicans are pushing to put this off until next session, where they are optimistic they will have more control. Governor Walz continues to be optimistic something can get done yet this month. Tell your legislators about your priorities. [State leaders, help our schools!](#)

Whether there is a special session or not will likely be decided today. While DFL lawmakers remain optimistic that a deal can be struck, GOP lawmakers have stated that they remain far apart from their counterparts and that a deal is unlikely. Special education funding was one of the biggest education issues, where the opposing sides remain \$250 million apart.

[CLICK to Tell Gov. Tim Walz and members of the education conference committee to spend the surplus NOW and help our students!](#)

Education Minnesota Summer Seminar is Back On!

In 2022, Summer Seminar is planned on being held in person, with educators gathering at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota from Monday, Aug. 1-Wednesday, Aug. 3.

All Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota members are invited to attend. AHM will pay for whichever registration option you chose; you can come for all of summer seminar or a portion of it. You can room with friends or stay in your own room.

Not only is there excellent professional development for both your career in education and in unionism, but there are lots of fun opportunities available for you and your colleagues to participate in like Bingo, Karaoke night at the legion, yoga in the park, ice cream social and more.

Check out the [Education Minnesota Summer Seminar Registration Page](#) for the agenda, course catalog and registration. **Remember, when you register, select that Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota will be paying for your registration.**

Hope to see you all there!

Union Wear Still Available

We have some extra pieces of union clothing, and if you are interested in buying one or more, please email Becky.marshman@edmn.org. You can still use your \$25 credit if you haven't done so.

Unisex Performance Full Zip: **Two** Size L \$42
Long Sleeve T-Shirt: **Two** XL \$25
Men's Soft Shell Full Zip: **One** 3 XL \$42



JUNETEENTH

Celebrating

FREEDOM DAY

Bridging the Gap

FRIDAY JUNE 17

Summer of Soul, starting at dusk
Creekview Park, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

11 AM - NOON, Parade
Sponsored by Juneteenth Community Board
NOON - 6 PM, Event
Bethune Park, 1304 N 10th Ave



PERFORMANCES BY:

Niles • Jovonta Patton • Chase & Ovation • Brooklyn Park Lions Drum & Dance
• Legacy Arts Group • Cornisha Garmon • Jerome Treadwell • DJ Dime
Free Entertainment • Eats and Treats for Purchase • Free Youth Activities

More information at www.minneapolisparks.org/juneteenth



Coming Up

- When can I afford to Retire? [Click for more details](#)
- June 6: Executive Board Meeting 4:45

- June 9: Last Day of School
- June 19: Juneteenth, the first year of a new Federal Holiday
- June 21: ICYMI Minnesota Statewide Virtual Job Fair for Educators 3-7pm, [Click here to Register](#) and [Click here for More Details](#)
- June 26 - 31: Anoka County Fair
- June 29 – July 5: NEA Convention
- July 12: Executive Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- July 13 – 17: AFT Convention
- August 15: Executive Board Meeting 10 a.m., Hybrid



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

Anoka Hennepin Education Minne | 3200 Main Street, Suite 360, 7634219110,
Coon Rapids, MN 55448 7634219110

[Unsubscribe anokahennepinem@gmail.com](mailto:unsubscribe_anokahennepinem@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by anokahennepinem@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!