

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

January 20, 2023

Vol 5, No.17

Friday Blast



MEA online will be down for maintenance starting Jan. 1, 2023. Please direct questions to meaonline@edmn.org

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 11 New Opportunities to Get Involved!

If you have missed any past updates, [they're available here.](#)

As we move through the legislative process, our ability to stay up to date and advocate strategically for the moment are key. Below you find updates on progress for decision-maker meeting dates, information for taking action, preparing to take action and TRA board candidate information.

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

- Dates for the [first two meetings](#) have been set! The LCPR is where we need bills heard and discussed to begin the pension reform process. We're still waiting on final commission appointments, but those should be coming soon.

Legislator introduction using Action Alert

- [Here you will find a template](#) to send a welcome note to your legislator. This is a general introduction template to start your relationship and to make

sure that your representatives know what's important to you. More specific templates on pensions will follow once bills begin to be introduced.

[Click to read on](#)

[Click here for most up to date articles](#)

TRA Board January Meeting

Cindy Palm, Jackson Middle School, and Val Holthus, President, AHEM, attended the January Teacher's Retirement Association Meeting on Wednesday, January 18. Since August of 2022 the TRA Board of Trustees have been examining provisions to provide benefit increases for active



members, a majority of whom are Tier II members. Jay Stoffel, Executive Director, mentioned that whenever the Board discusses a pension change, they must ask themselves "Who will benefit?", "Who will pay?", and "Is this fund sustainable?". The TRA Board decided not to have a public forum at this meeting as there were over 1,000 attending remotely, and 24 attending in person (the majority wearing red for solidarity). The TRA Board Chair, Marti Zins, acknowledged the large group attending and the emails she received, but did not accept the petition signed by interested individuals requesting the return of the "Rule of 90" retirement provisions, because of no public forum.

The TRA Board reviewed the following plan changes:

- Rule of 90 in the Level formula
- Rule of 90 Step formula open to post-89 hires
- Reduce normal retirement age in Tier II from age 66 to age 64
- Reduce normal retirement age in Tier II from age 66 to 62
- Full benefits at age 62 with 30 years of service
- Full benefits at age 60 with 30 years of service
- Increase formula multiplier from 1.9% to 2.0%
- Increase formula multiplier from 1.9% to 2.2%

At the conclusion of the day-long meeting, a motion was made to propose a bill for the legislature to adopt for Tiers 1 and 2, 60 years of age and 30 years of service for full retirement benefit. Several other costs associated with the proposal include a lump sum for increases in past service costs and a cost for contribution deficiency. The actual amounts for the added costs need additional

refinement if they are to be used, so they are not listed here in The Friday Blast but could be in the hundreds of millions. The bill would also include an annual increase, and caps on both employees and employer contributions for any increases. The full retirement age would be reduced from 66 to 65.

Votes on the bill are as follows:

YES

Marti Zins- President and retiree rep- she acknowledged our group and mass emails.

Luke Olson- Teacher

Kevin Lindstrom- Anoka Tech Counselor

Julie Reno- Teacher

Wendy Drugge Wuensch- Teacher and Burnsville Education Association President

NO

Joe Stencel- MN School Board Assn. Rep.

Laurena Schlottach-Ratcliff- MN Management and Budget designee

Denise Anderson- Dept. of Ed designee

It is anticipated that Education Minnesota will produce bill language for changes in pension provisions for the legislature this coming week.

Pension Advocacy Session at AHEM

Pension Advocacy

Plan Update

PRESENTATION GIVEN BY
ADAM JANIAK OF
EDUCATION MINNESOTA



WHAT WILL BE COVERED

- How the pension works
- History of pension changes
- What EdMN's advocacy plan is for the 2022-23 legislative session
- How you can get involved
- Answer any questions

EVENT DETAILS

February 7th, 4:45-6:15 p.m.
Anoka Hennepin EdMN Office
3200 Main Street NW, Ste. 360
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Light refreshments will be served.
Please submit your questions at registration.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://forms.gle/LPhVav2RCmcNAZoa7>

CONTACT US

Anna Dougherty
651-247-6255

Anna.Dougherty@EDMN.org

New SEED Leaders Wanted

Have you considered taking your SEED journey to the next level? Are you interested in helping teachers grow their equity and inclusion toolbox? If so, check out this link for New SEED leader position prerequisites and expectations, and apply here for this paid position.

[SEED Leader Application click here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact SEED Co-coordinators Beth Heimerl (bethlynn33@gmail.com) or Beth Popalisky (sweetlilyp@gmail.com, 612-940-4441)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Trivia Time

The answer to last week's question was:

How many teachers hired BEFORE 1986 are still teaching in Anoka Hennepin?

c. 2

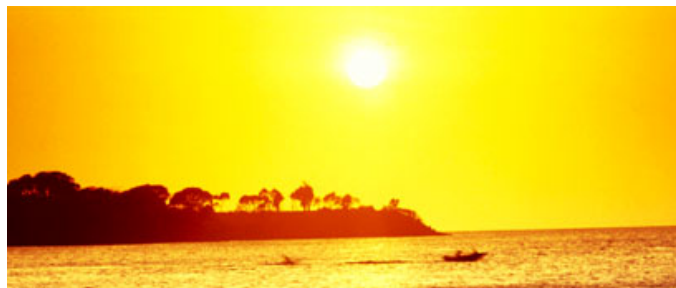
Congratulations to last week's winners:

Laura Craig, Eisenhower Elem
Juleen Adrian, Roosevelt MS
Shelley Montbriand, Blaine HS

Please reply to this email to submit your answer.
anokahennepinem@gmail.com

3 winners will be selected at random to win a coffee gift card. Submit your answer by 11:59pm Friday (day of Blast) to be entered to win!

Now that the days are getting longer, we are seeing sunsets similar to October. The sun sets at the same time on January 19 as it does on October 31 (not considering daylight savings time). Every day has an identical day with the same time of sunset and number of minutes, except for two. What two days of the year are unlike any other day in terms of daylight?



Special Education Workload Survey

Special Education Teachers and Service Providers: Please take Education Minnesota's Special Education workload survey!

In our efforts to support Special Educators through legislation and in collective bargaining, we are gathering data on Special Educator caseloads, paperwork, and what supports might help alleviate some of the pressures of this work. We will be sharing this survey with members who are identified as Special Education

teachers or in any related services that support students with IEPs, such as school social worker, school counselor, school psychologist, physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, music therapist, and DAPE teacher.

Please complete the survey no later than Friday, January 27:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EdMNSpecialEdSurvey2023>

We will be sharing results with legislators and other education stakeholders, and our negotiations team.



This newsletter is your trusted source on education news from the State Capitol

A historic budget from the Governor's office

Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan proposed a historic, \$12 billion investment in the lives of Minnesota children, including \$6 billion for education, in their 2023 budget released yesterday. The education proposals include an increase to the general education funding formula, and while also linking it to the inflation for stability. It also includes specific funding for student mental health, reducing the special education and English learner cross subsidies, and providing free meals. We will be providing more specifics on this in the coming days. See our full press release [here](#).

A great week for committee testimony

Legislative hearings are underway with a focus on students and educators. Last Tuesday, retired school librarian Sen. Mary Kunesh invited Education Minnesota members to a the Senate Education Finance Committee to talk about our legislative priorities. Eight educators appeared both online and in-person to share real stories from their classrooms that will help lawmakers make decisions

on funding, pensions, special education, English learners, ESP working conditions, licensing and more.

If you missed it, you can watch the hearing [here](#).



[Click to read on](#)

Happy Birthday!!!



January 22 - January 28

Lauren Schlecht
Leila Youakim
Sheila Stransky
Elizabeth Breyer
Kimberley Starling
Elizabeth Kuehl
Rhonda Baccam
Blair Hull
Sonya Kuznetsov Duffy
Kristin Fritschel
Frank Butterfield
Michael Enderle

Adam Hyrkas
Corine Lagree
Barbara O'Gorman
Katelyn Plohasz
Jacquelyn Huver
Emily Lane
Susan Oelke
Patricia Grant
John Gerding
Katie Hauf
Carmen Gorecki
Stephanie Hutchens

Emily Beard
Jennifer Sacquitne
Kelsey Black
Gretchen Kuechler
Holly Groebner
Timothy Sparstad
Angela Storm
Brianna Justen
Aaron Clark
Erica Smith
Jill Gandrud
Catherine Ratelle

Sarah Zins
Andrew Maurer
Erin Schultheis
Heather Albertus
Megan Buckholt
Eleah Williams
Karen Hansen
Susan Lesnar

Holly Binger
Crystal Wollak
Erin Gunderson
Robin Bashor
Kathleen Michaelis
Tara Hoffman
Kari Hable

Joleen Munce
Anthony Procaccini
Kelly Kendrick
Karen Larrabee
Daniel Remus
Steven Tessier
Lia Orozco

**If you don't see your name and you should, please email us to let us know!*

2023 Elections

Candidate filing is now open for AHEM President, EdMN Representative Convention Delegate and NEA Representative Assembly Delegate.

The President position is a three-year term beginning July 2023. Duties of the President include representing and overseeing matters as chief executive of the Association. The position of President is a full-time position. To file for the position of President or EdMN or NEA delegate contact Becky.Marshman@edmn.org. Filing will remain open until Monday, January 30, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Voting will take place electronically on February 22 & 23 for office of President, convention delegates (if needed), changes in local Constitution and Bylaws, and renewal of Qcomp.

Coming Up

January 23- [Paraprofessional Recognition Week](#)
January 23 - Executive Board Mtg, 4:45 p.m., Virtual
January 23 - School Board Mtg, 6:30 p.m., SEC
January 30 - AHEM filings close
January 31 - NAC Meeting, 5 p.m., AHEM
February 1 - Black History Month begins
February 2 - SEED Meeting 4:40-7:30 p.m., AHEM / Groundhog Day
February 6 - Rep. Assembly Mtg, 4:45 p.m., AHEM
February 6 - School Board WS, 5:30 p.m., ESC
February 7 - Pension Advocacy Session, 4:45 p.m., AHEM
February 8 - LCAT Mtg, 4:30 p.m., AHEM

**Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
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