

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

March 10, 2023

Vol 5, No.24

Friday Blast



Meet and Confer



Meet & Confer 3/8

On Wednesday night this week around 180 members filled the ESC and spoke to the School Board about concerns they are facing in their classrooms. Attending from the Board were Chair, Marci Anderson, Kacy Deschene, Erin Heers-McArdle and Jeff Simon. Absent were Matt Audette and Nicole Hayes. Nicole communicated her regrets with union leadership and the Board.



Topics discussed were:

Elementary Workload: Tom Powers, Rum River Elementary

Response to a School Board Member's Comments at the 1/9/23 School Board Meeting: Dave Evensen, Champlin Park High School

Effects of New Curriculum and Standard Based Grading on Workload: Mark Corcoran, Anoka High School

HS Math Teachers Workload, Retention and Burnout Survey Results, Tai Trinh, Champlin



Park High School

SpEd Forms, High Caseloads and other
Special Education Issues: Maren Rueckert,
Oxbow Elementary; Kelly Lund, Oxbow
Elem.; Kim Thole, QComp

Equity vs Equality in Regard to Class Size
and Elem. Recess Coverage, AHEM VP,
Jon Kohnen, Sunrise Elem.

Coon Rapids Middle School Concerns,
Building Safety, Equity Issues and Teacher
Trauma: Alissa Smith, Michelle Powers, and
Jen Secore Nelson

River Trail Learning Center: Who We Are
and What We Need: Sue Lesnar, Kim
Schrantz, Terrell Crawford, Sarah Davis,
Julie Beaufeaux

Sub Centers at the Secondary Level: Lynn
Burley, Coon Rapids High School

Thank you so very much for our eloquent
speakers and their heart-felt messages!

Message to Members

This year, we have had a few incidents of white teachers using the N-word while working with students in the context of either explaining to students that the word does not belong in an educational setting no matter what student uses it, or when pre-teaching approved literature curriculum in which the N-word is used.

AHEM does not condone teachers using the full word in an educational setting and knows the use of this word causes harm and intensifies racism and inhumanity that people of color have long endured.

We understand that moving forward with any process regarding this matter should center on race and racism, and that centering the voices and values of our members and students of color will be vitally important as we attempt to heal as a community.

We know that situations that involve the N-word can cause harm to our members. If you need a safe space to process recent events, or need help facilitating that space, please reach out to Field Staff Anna Dougherty.

PD News

Professional development resources
for Education Minnesota members



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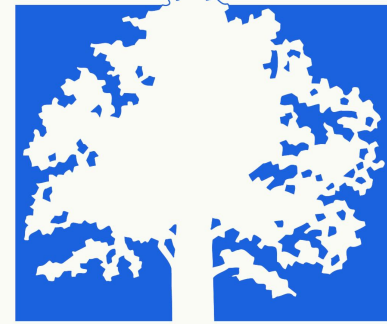
FREE PD grants from your union! Attention members!

If you forgot to apply for an Education Minnesota Foundation Professional Development Grant in the fall, there's still time to apply for the spring round of funding.

ESPs and teachers may request up to \$2,000, and higher education faculty may request up to \$3,000.

Applications are due Friday, April 7. [Visit here](#) to learn more and apply!

EDUCATION MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION



for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

[Click for more News](#)

2nd Annual Iftar

2nd Annual Education Minnesota Iftar

Hosted by Education Minnesota Racial and Equity Organizer Londel French

Saturday, April 1 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
67 8th Ave. NE, Minneapolis**

RSVP by March 28 at 5 p.m.

Please click here to register online at:

<https://cvent.me/aLzMAe>

**Any questions should be directed to
Londel French at londel.french@edmn.org**



www.educationminnesota.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. 3400



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

2023 Teacher of the Year

Teacher of the Year candidate field narrowed down to 33 semifinalists!

Congratulations:

Wendi Delmore, Anoka Hennepin Schools, McKinley Elementary School, reading and math, 2nd.

Johanna Mueller, Anoka Hennepin Schools, Hamilton Elementary School, elementary education, 4th

Lisa Neaderhiser, Anoka Hennepin Schools, Jackson Middle School, Setting III EBD (center-based) English, reading and social skills, 7th-9th.

New FAQ on Proposed Department of Children, Youth and Families and How it Affects Part C Services

The Minnesota Department of Education has released [a new FAQ](#) on the proposed new Department of Children, Youth and Families. As many of you know, this proposal has raised concern among some of our members who provide Part C services – special education for our youngest learners – regarding their future employment status and how these programs will be delivered.

[The FAQ](#) answers such questions as:

- What is the proposal and what is the timeline for the new department?
- Will Part C services move to the new agency under the proposal?
- What does this mean for current employees?
- Are there other planned changes to the implementation of Part C?

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/PartCFAQ/>

Scholarship Opportunities

Click each to find out more information about each scholarship opportunity!

- [Attention AHEM Members with Graduating Seniors: make sure you take advantage of this benefit of membership!](#)



- [The Minnesota AFL-CIO is proud to have scholarships available for union members and their dependents.](#)
- [Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship](#)

Degrees Not Debt Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Greetings!

We have some exciting news and updates for student loan borrowers -- particularly those with Parent PLUS Loans. The Biden-Harris administration continues to find ways to provide relief to the millions of Americans burdened with education debt: both their own and debt incurred by family members.

[Click to Read On!](#)

Contract Connection



Vol 2, No. 11

Welcome to Contract Connection, an email for Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota members. This email will contain the most up-to-date information on our negotiations with the district, as well as member organizing and opportunities for you to be involved in your union's bargaining process!

Negotiations Survey

If you have not yet completed the [negotiations survey](#), don't forget! It will be open for responses through the end of the day on March 10th. The survey should only take you a few minutes and it will provide the negotiations team with invaluable information on what is most important to all members as we head into the round of bargaining that starts later this spring.

Thank you!

Thank you, AHEM members, for all that you do every day! The negotiations Team has had the privilege of hearing directly from many of you over the last few months. The 2022-23 school year continues to present many challenges to

educators across the district, state, and nation. The negotiations team will do our utmost to voice your concerns and challenges to the district team to drive improvements for all.

The negotiations team can be reached anytime at ahemnegotiations@gmail.com.

In Solidarity - WE, not ME

Your AHEM Negotiations Team:

John Wolhaupter - Lead

Luke Amundson

Mark Corcoran

Traci Intihar

Jon Plotz

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

[Click for Pension Update No.18](#)

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

Trivia Time

The answer to last week's question was:

When medical expenses paid by the health plan, for a defined set of services, across a standard population is divided by all medical spending, for a defined set of services, is:

A. Actuarial Value

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!

In what year did Minneapolis teachers join the janitors strike? The strike was settled in the governor's office and the Legislature passed a punitive no-strike law for public

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Jessica Higgins, Adams Elem
Vanessa Merrill, Dayton Elem
Paul Broberg, Anoka HS

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

employees. Shortly after, the Minneapolis Superintendent prepared individual contracts to punish union members.

- A. 1939
- B. 1951
- C. 1968
- D. 1975

Government Relations

By Aaron Balzer, Government Relations Chair

MN Legislature: This week, there are hearings on a Class Size Reduction bill-SF1881, Pension Bills HF2222/SF1938, ESP Bill of Rights (paras) [sign EdMN petition here!](#) among many others. Check here for bills that interest you:
<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/billsum.aspx>,
<https://www.senate.mn/summaries/bill/2023>

Feel free to contact your legislators on any of the following topics:

1. [Full funding for public schools](#)
2. [Unemployment for hourly school workers](#)
3. [More student support personnel](#)
4. [Paid Family and Medical Leave for educators](#)
5. [Raising revenue to support schools](#)
6. [Support teachers of color](#)
7. [Better educator pensions](#)

Pensions: We are well into the legislative process with pension bills. Several have been proposed, including HF2222/SF1938, which among other things normalizes age 62 or 35 years of service as our new retirement age for those who do not qualify for Rule of 90 and double counts service during the years 2020-2022. Please continue your advocacy by contacting your legislator or LCPR members. If you've missed any of the pension updates, they are all available here: <https://educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/pensions/>

Lobby Days/ Coffee & Politics

Coffee & Politics District 35

- Rep. Stephenson (confirmed)

Caribou Coffee @ 101 West Main Street, Anoka 55303

Coffee & Politics District 32

- Rep. West (confirmed)

Caribou Coffee @ 10400 Baltimore Street NE, Blaine, 55449

Saturday, April 1st, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.

Sign Up Here:

<https://forms.gle/GxWGfWvHojdrqSbj6>

Sign Up Here:

<https://forms.gle/wAivUFHrYnHDmrmo9>

ANOKA HENNEPIN EDUCATION MINNESOTA

LOBBY DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH

5:30 - 7PM

SEN. HOFFMAN (CONFIRMED), SPEAKER HORTMAN (TENTATIVE)

VIRTUAL

SIGN UP HERE: [HTTPS://CVENT.ME/DXAQ3D](https://cvent.me/dxaq3d)

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE MEET WITH OUR LAWMAKERS FROM DISTRICT 34 TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANT TOPICS BELOW:

- Students and educators benefit from more high-quality time together.
- Healthy spaces for educators and students are a requirement for academic and professional success.
- Provide every student with access to great educators, including educators who reflect the diversity of race, place, gender and age of Minnesota.



**District 34 encompasses Dayton, Champlin, and Brooklyn Park.*

Contacting your local legislators is important. Prioritize those who represent your area, focus on positive messaging, and be sure to be accurate in your facts.

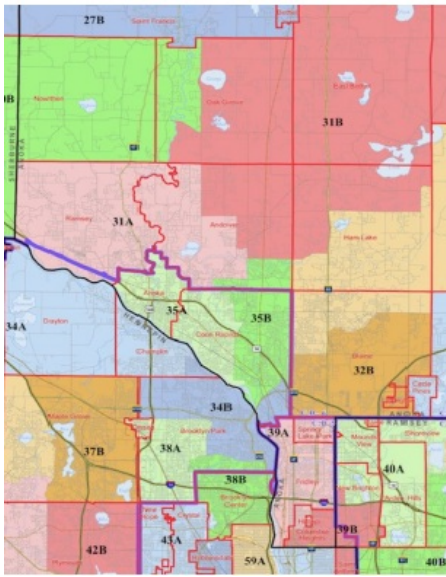
<https://www.leg.mn.gov/leg/legdir>

Use [Who Represents Me?](#), to quickly find out your local representatives:

Legislator Districts

This map indicates the legislative districts as they overlap the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Senate Districts are shown in a separate color, the House districts are shown in a red border within each color.



Each Senate District has two Representatives or Legislative Districts.

[Click here for an enlarged view of map.](#)

Senators Include:

SD 30 Eric Lucero (R)

SD 31 Cal Bahr (R)

SD 32 Michael Kreun (R)

SD 34 John Hoffman (D)

SD 35 Jim Abeler (R)

SD 38 Susan Pha (D)



Representatives Include:

Dist. 30B Paul Novotny (R) Nowthen

Dist. 31A Harry Niska (R) Ramsey, Andover

Dist. 31B Peggy Scott (R) Andover, Ham Lake

Dist. 32A Nolan West (R) Ham Lake, Blaine

Dist. 32B Matt Norris (D) Blaine

Dist. 34A Danny Nadeau (R) Dayton, Champlin

Dist. 34B Melissa Hortman (D) Brooklyn Park, Speaker of House

Dist. 35A Zach Stephenson (D) Anoka, Coon Rapids

Dist. 32B Jerry Newton (D) Andover, Coon Rapids

Dist. 38B Smantha Vang (D) Brooklyn Center



Click to Read the
Latest

Happy Birthday!!!



March 12 - March 18

Katherine Lakanen
Rodney Sandstrom
Gina Digatono
Jill Svoboda
Janel Schiferli
Breanna Smith
Lesli Skelly
Katlyn Hale
Melissa Link
Patricia Sorenson
Julie Sinner
Michelle Mortenson
Kari Heikkenen
Mikayla Bourbeau
Nicole Wahl

Casey Wiedenman
Meghan Buttweiler
Devon Mueller
Ann Stalboerger
Rebecca Schuft
Ryan Green
Lisa Kempe
Rebecca Hunter
Jana Posl
Shannon Gates
Jessica Pudlick
Madisyn Pehlke
Tiffany Carlstrom
Rachel Smith
Mary Pizano

Michael Lindahl
Rebecca Popek
Vanhtha Rasavong
Amber Donnette
Chad Damerow
Troy Mathews
Britta Otto
Lori Hansen
Amy Sinness
Leanne Howell
Todd Miller
Jill Clayton
Ishabor Makvandi
Cristina James
Molly Schlte

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

Coming Up

March 10-20 - No Students/ Spring Break
March 12 - Daylight Saving Time begins
March 17- St. Patrick's Day
March 20 - First Day of Spring
March 23 - Ramadan begins
March 27 - Executive Brd Mtg., 4:45 pm, Virtual/ School Brd Mtg, 6:30 pm, SEC

April 1 - Coffee & Politics, District 35: [Sign Up Here](#)
April 6 - MN Twins Home Opener
April 5 - Passover begins
April 7 - Good Friday
April 9 - Easter
April 10 - Rep Assembly, 4:45 pm, AHEM
April 10 - School Board WS, 5:30 pm, ESC
April 12 - LCAT Meeting, 4:30 pm, AHEM
April 13 - Passover ends / SEED Meeting, 4:30 pm, AHEM

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