

**STRONGER TOGETHER**



**ANOKA HENNEPIN**

*Valerie Holthus*

*President*

*March 3rd, 2023*

*Vol 5, No.23*

# Friday Blast



## Legislator Meet and Greet - Tonight!

Education Minnesota will be hosting a new legislator meet & greet (with dinner) at Education MN (41 Sherburne Ave, St Paul, MN 55103) on  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 – 5:30PM.

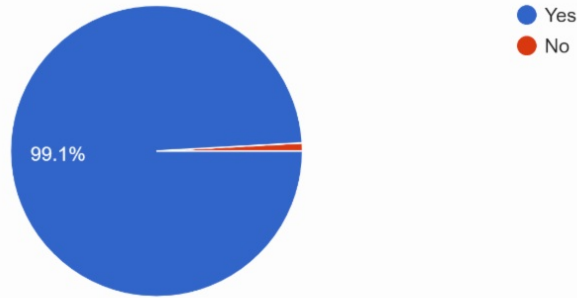
The goal of this is to have these new legislators build relationships with their locals. Newly elect 32B House Rep. Matt Norris has accepted our invitation to join us for the event.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact [Kong.Xiong@edmn.org](mailto:Kong.Xiong@edmn.org).

## 2023 Constitution and Bylaws and QComp Election Results

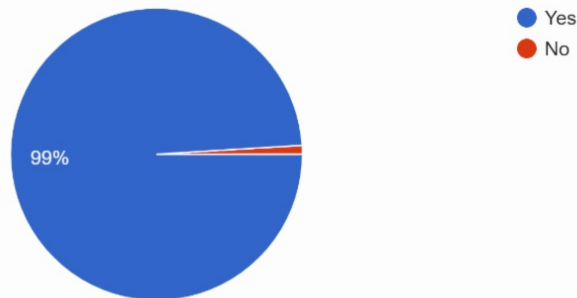
Shall the teachers of District #11 accept the QComp plan approved by the Minnesota Department of Education and negotiated between Anoka Hennepin... Minnesota (AHM) for the 2023-24 school year?

1,126 responses



Do you approve the amendments to the AHM Constitution & Bylaws

1,126 responses



## Meet and Confer Wednesday, March 8th

Please wear **RED** and join your colleagues to talk to the school board about what is happening in your classrooms.

### Some of the topics are:

- Standard Based Grading
- High School Math
- Student Behavior
- Safety for Students and Staff
- High School Sub Centers
- Special Education Workload



**Meet and Confer will be held at the ESC at 5:30 pm**

# Education Minnesota Delegate

# Nominations

The Education Minnesota Representative Convention will take place on April 28-29, 2023. Our local has been allotted 37 delegates based on the size of our membership.

Nominations for delegate positions will take place at a union meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023. You may nominate yourself or someone else, but the nominee must be a member in order to be eligible to be a delegate.

If you are interested in being nominated, please contact [Valerie.Holthus@edmn.org](mailto:Valerie.Holthus@edmn.org).

## Learn More About the TRA Board Candidates

Active members of the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association will soon choose two new Board of Trustees members. The four-year terms begin July 1, 2023. Six candidates are running, and Education Minnesota wants to provide opportunities for members to learn more about the candidates before voting.

Join us from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 for a [candidate Q&A session](#) on Zoom with the six TRA board candidates. Candidates will answer pre-selected questions on pension issues and why they are running. This event is open to all Education Minnesota members, and you can [register here](#). The meeting will also be recorded and shared with members afterward. Members can submit questions for the candidates that may be asked during the session when they register.

TRA has candidate information, as well as an election timeline, [available on its website](#).

## 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.

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

# Coins for the Community

Now collecting for Kami Daley! Reach out to your building's Head Rep. to find out how to give or drop off at the AHEM office through March 10th.

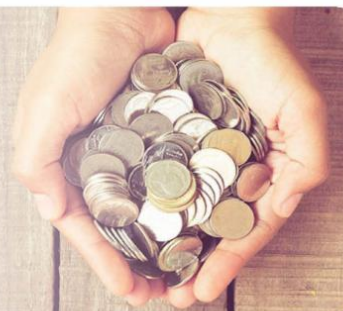
## **Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota is conducting a Coins for the Community drive for Kami Daley!**



Kami is a teacher at Wilson Elementary, who will need to be on medical leave for the rest of this school year. Life can change in a minute! The week before Thanksgiving her life was changed with the diagnosis of breast cancer. Kami will be on medical leave and has no days left in her sick leave bank.

The funds donated will help with treatment not covered by insurance and give her family a sense of some relief.

**Donations collected at the buildings should be returned to AHEM by March 10th.**



3200 Main St., Suite 360, Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
763-421-9110 Fax 763-421-3806  
ahem.mn.aft.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. 2600



## **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/>

## Where are Unions Flexing Their Muscle?



- Over the weekend Teamsters 120 members of Eureka Recycling voted to authorize a strike!
- SEIU 284 Hastings Food Service Workers are on the line. Workers are taking it to the school board once more. Hastings Middle School – 1000 11<sup>th</sup> St. W. Hastings, MN Wednesday 5pm – 6:30pm
- SEIU HEALTHCARE MN&IA – members at Allina Health are having an informational picket, Wednesday, 2pm -6pm, for higher pay and improved PTO. Abbott Campus - Mercy Campus - Unity Campus
- The OPEIU Local 12 Minneapolis Institute of Art museum workers are fighting for a raise. After cutting folks because of the pandemic, they had a record year as things smoothed out and paid top level staff but held back raises for our OPEIU folk. **No MONEY? No MONET!** March 4-5, 1pm-2pm, MIA – 2400 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave So. Mpls.

## Scholarship Opportunities

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

- [Attention AHM 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 Connections

Vol 2, No. 10

First, if you have not completed the [negotiations survey](#), don't forget! It will be open for responses through March 10th.

### Conferences

The negotiations team gets a lot of questions about conference time, so this week we dive into the world of parent/guardian-educator conferences. Hang on, this is going to get a bit long and convoluted.

#### Conference Time

The contract has very little to say directly about conferences. Article VI clearly states we have 187 duty days, but if you count the days, you actually only come into work for 183 days. The "missing" 4 days are allocated as conference time. Those days work out to 28 hours and 40 minutes per year. Members that do not have conferencing responsibilities as part of their work typically "make up" that time by working on days that others do not, most often during the summer.

So, why is there only one "conference conversion day" on the calendar? [This](#)

[version of the district calendar is the teacher duty day calendar.](#) If you look at the "conference conversion day" on November 23rd, you can see a small 59, indicating that it is counted as a duty even though bargaining unit members did not work that day. On that same day there is also a +1 and Monday, November 28th picks up as duty day 61. So, November 23rd this year actually counted as two duty days even though we didn't work at all that day. Similarly, if you look ahead to May 5th, it is duty day 162 with another +1. Monday May 8th picks up as duty day 164. March 10th is the same. So, educators came to work those two days, but in the duty day count, they equal two days each.

That is how the district calendar gets us to the 187 duty days even though we only come to work 183 days. It is also where the 4 days worth of time for conferences are counted. The extra days could really put anywhere on the calendar. It might be more straight forward if more conversion days were added to the calendar in the form of "days off" like November 23rd instead of the more hidden "+1" days on the calendar, but it would likely extend the school year further into June.

[Click to Read on about Conference Flexibility](#)



## Negotiations Survey

[Here is the link to the Negotiations Survey for the upcoming round of bargaining.](#)

The survey will be open for responses from **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th until FRIDAY, MARCH 10th.**

This year's survey is shorter than in the past and is designed to give the negotiations team more context to the information we have already gathered from meetings with members. The survey is another aspect of the process that the negotiations team is following to incorporate member voices into bargaining the 2023-25 contract. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. The team will use the information to develop goals and priorities for the upcoming round of bargaining. These goals and priorities will be shared with members later this spring.

# Pension Updates



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EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

[Click for Pension Update No.](#)

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

## Pension Advocacy Tip Sheet

Fighting to improve our pensions is a heavy lift this year. The union office was full of members last Tuesday, ready to advocate for improvements.

Guest presenter Adam Janiak from EdMN presented on:

- *How our pension works*
- *What EdMN plans for advocacy*
- *How you can get involved*

A version of this presentation is available to you online, in three parts, at MEA Online:

<https://educationminnesota.org/resources/professional-development/mea-online/>

**Learn. Share. Fight for improvement!**

# Trivia Time

**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!**

Negotiators must closely review the district's financial status as well as employee benefits. Computations are continually happening, and the following question is related to one item negotiators examine:

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:

- Actuarial Value
- Aggregate Value
- Premium Indicator
- Defined Benefit



Please reply to this email to submit your answer.

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

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**The answer to last week's question was:**

**A3, B4, C2, D5, E1**

**A.** Henrietta Lacks succumbed from a fast growing cancer in 1951, and her cancer cells were taken for research without her consent. Many breakthroughs in cancer treatment were developed because of this research, and they even helped develop the polio vaccine in the 1950s. Her cancer cells continue to reproduce in laboratories world-wide to this day.

**B.** Mari Copeny also known as Little Miss Flint, is a youth activist from Flint, Michigan. She is best known for raising awareness about the Flint water crisis and for fundraising to support underprivileged children in her community and across the country.

**C.** Rose Parks, refused to give up her seat when whites were standing in the aisle. On November 13, 1956, the U.S Supreme Court upheld a lower court's decision declaring Montgomery's segregated bus seating unconstitutional, and a court order to integrate the buses was served on December 20; the boycott ended the following day. For her role in igniting the successful campaign, Parks became known as the "mother of the civil rights movement."

***Congratulations to last week's winners:***

Bobbi Anderson, Coon Rapids MS

Melissa Bienias, Coon Rapids MS

Angela Quick, Crooked Lake Elem

**D.** Katherine Johnson was a mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. spaceflights, and whose experience was highlighted in the 2016 movie, "Hidden Figures."

**E.** Mae Johnson became the first black woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992.

## Government Relations

By Aaron Balzer, Government Relations Chair

**MN Legislature:** As always, there are innumerable bills to track. This week, there are hearings on Full-Service Community Schools, increasing salary for unlicensed school personnel, reducing paperwork for child protective services, requiring a personal finance class in high school, 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>

**Budget:** As usual, the two parties are far apart on tax cuts. The governor is calling for 5.8 billion in cuts this biennium, including 85% of ongoing cuts to kids and families. Republicans are calling for 13 billion instead, including 3.5 billion for a one-time child tax credit, and 5 billion for rebate checks, eliminating the Social

Security tax (most of which would go to wealthier Minnesotans), and reducing tax rates for lower income families.

**Mental Health:** The Mental Health Legislative Network (MHLN) is working to present 18 bills to the legislature this session. In a recent press conference, they shared their aim to change the major roadblocks, including workforce shortages, closures of programs and hospitals, inequities in funding, lack of health coverage, and poor reimbursement rates resulting in a very fragile system that is not available statewide.

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## **Lobby Days/ Coffee & Politics**

### **Save the dates:**

- Possible District 35 Lobby Day either 3/28 or 3/29 on Zoom
- Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>- Coffee and Politics District 35- Stephenson confirmed at Caribou Coffee- Anoka Main and Ferry
- Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm Lobby Day w/ District 34 – Sen. Hoffman confirmed on Zoom.
- Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am Coffee & Politics w/ District 32 – Nolan West confirmed at Caribou Coffee- 10400 Baltimore St. NE

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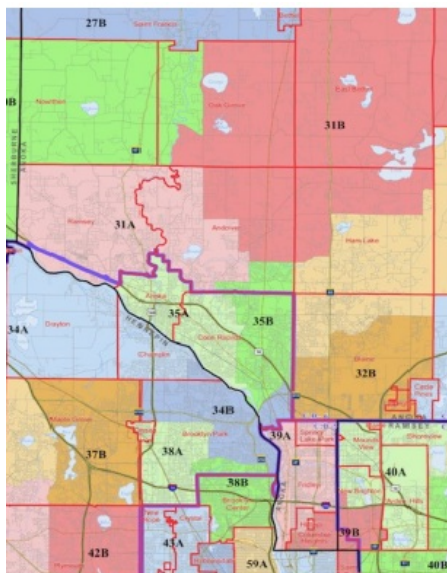
Contacting your local legislators is important. Prioritize those who represent your area, focus on positive messaging, and be sure to be accurate in your facts.

<https://www.leg.mn.gov/leg/legdir>  
Use [Who Represents Me?](#), to quickly find out your local representatives:

Education Minnesota is encouraging us to advocate with legislators not just for one-time education money but for long-term sustainability. Budgeting bills will be coming in the next couple weeks, so say your piece now! [Click here](#) for a starting template.

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## **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:**

**Representatives 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)



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

# Capitol Connection



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
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WELCOME TO  
SESSION



[Click to Read the Latest](#)

Happy Birthday!!!



## March 5 - March 11

Penny Freberg  
Paul Becker  
Melissa Kaiser Crust  
Melyssa Carlson  
Catherine Cocker  
Marylou Bentley  
Stacey Groebner  
Gavae Piner  
Alison Almos  
Sara Chartier  
Gail Goss  
Jennifer Kramer  
Emily Christensen  
Kara Ekman  
Kimberly Lund  
Kevin Molohon  
Rebecca Johnson  
Cora Reidenbach  
Chris Miller

Mark Cotter  
Trent Kerkow  
Jessica Kersten  
Reina Weir  
Jacquelyn Kubitschek  
Tessa Lindquist  
Christopher Majcin  
Terran Henke  
Michelle Sharon  
Jessica Rowles  
Staci Ban  
Toby Ban  
Michele Zuercher  
Meghann Witchger  
Holly Fenwick  
Jill Wolfe  
Chad Libby  
Laura Shull-Stenberg

Dawn Roesler  
Lindsey Frasz  
Jessica Breneman  
Matthew Henderson  
Kristy Riggs  
Francis Kratochvill  
Nhat Tai  
Jennifer Graber  
M Noreen  
Cherry Wright  
Kelly Foss  
Gracious Msuya  
Nicole Gross  
William Rehfuss  
Amanda Hoffman Towle  
Jennifer Juergens  
Amy Sorensen  
Alyssa Arend

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

## Coming Up

March 6 - Rep Assembly, 4:45 pm, Virtual/ School Board WS, 5:30pm, ESC  
March 8 - Meet and Confer, 5:30pm, ESC  
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 Board Mtg., 4:45 pm, Virtual/ School Brd Mtg, 6:30 pm, SEC

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