

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

October 13, 2023

Vol 6, No. 7

Friday Blast



Meet and Confer

Wednesday, November 1, 5:30 at the ESC

Here is your chance to let the school board know about what you are experiencing in your role in the district. In our working agreement it has been bargained that our members have three opportunities, one each trimester, to voice concerns, give feedback, and possible solutions to issues at your site.

If you would like to bring an issue to the Board, please contact Jon Kohnen, AHM Vice President at jondavidkohnen@gmail.com.

Meet the AHEM Endorsed Candidates



Erin Heers-McArdle

District 1: Anoka, Ramsey, Andover, Coon Rapids

Vision: "I will continue to promote EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION by PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST and ensuring that our schools are SAFE, WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE for all."

- Experience as a current board treasurer, meets with district staff and parents weekly to hear about and discuss successes and concerns.
- Excellence in curriculum and conditions to continue to improve student outcomes.
- Focus on special education and disability advocacy due to personal experience.
- Meet students where they are by responding to each student's unique needs.
- Support mental health through adequately funded, safe, and welcoming schools.
- Fiscal responsibility



- 30 years in education, including classroom teaching, principal, associate superintendent, and superintendent, including 15 years in Anoka Hennepin
- Dedicated to excellence in outcomes for all children through improving access and opportunities to learn
- Everyone deserves to feel safe and welcome in a school
- Focus on engagement,

Dr. Michelle Langenfeld

District 5: Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Coon Rapids, Fridley

Vision: "I believe that every single child being served in our schools is most deserving of equitable access to high- quality learning experiences; provided by exceptional educators in safe, caring, and supportive leaning environments to prepare them well to succeed and thrive in the postsecondary pathway of their choice and beyond."

collaboration, and respect between parents, community, students, and educators

- Ethical, responsible, and shared decision making, including transparency with communication



Sue Witt

District 2: Blaine, Coon Rapids

Vision: "Our schools need to be kid focused, building on the perspective of all stakeholders, including staff, parents, and community members. Sue wants kids in Anoka-Hennepin to feel welcomed, respected, and belong, no matter their background, to be challenged academically, and to think critically. The language and priorities in the community about schools needs to be about kids."

- 27 years of teaching experience in Spring Lake Park
- Many years of union membership, including 8 years as local vice president
- Publicly opposes any policies that erodes collective bargaining rights
- Opposes political agendas in school decision-making
- Focus on inclusion of all students- seeing belonging as a prerequisite for learning
- Wants school conversations to be based on the needs of students
- Priority of addressing staffing shortages

Cultural Competency Training

Description of Complete 1 - 4 Series

This series is designed to deepen educators' understanding of their own frames of reference, the potential bias in these frames, and their impact on expectations for and relationships with students, students' families, and the school communities. Participants will engage in self-reflection and discussion around the

following topics: racial, cultural, and socioeconomic groups; American Indian and Alaskan native students; religion; systemic racism; gender identity, including transgender students; sexual orientation; language diversity; and individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns.

Module #1: Expanding Your Equity Lens (2 1/2 hours)

Equity work is a journey, and in this session, we will lay the foundation for centering equity work in your community. Participants will ground themselves with norms and vocabulary and develop an understanding of the importance of intercultural competency.

AHEM is offering Series 1 on October 17th and October 24th. Please only choose one, due to class size limitations. To move on to the next module and to satisfy re-licensing requirements, you must complete the previous module.

Event Timing: October 24th, 4:30 - 7 p.m.

***Event Address: 10/17 at AHEM Union Office, 3200 Main Street Suite 360,
Coon Rapids (Wells Fargo Building)***

10/24 at Coon Rapids MS Media Center, 11600 Raven St. NW

Contact us at: 763-421-9110 / anokahennepinem@gmail.com

****AHEM will be providing supper during each class. Please refer to question below with any dietary restrictions.***

Sign Up for October
24th

Educator Appreciation Night



EDUCATOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

THU, OCT 19 | 7:00 PM

PACKAGE INCLUDES

Game Ticket

Special Edition Wild/Educator branded lanyard

Donation to the

EDUCATION MINNESOTA FOUNDATION



for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE 1-7 TICKETS



Teachers deserve an A+ too! Join us for Educator Appreciation Night on Thursday, October 19 when the Wild take on the LA Kings. Ticket pack offer includes a Minnesota Wild branded educator lanyard. Additionally, a portion of each ticket purchased donated back to the Education community.



Actual item may vary from picture

FOR GROUPS OF EIGHT (8) OR MORE, CONTACT:

Wild Group Sales | 651.222.9453 | group.tickets@wild.com

Government Relations Report

Aaron Balzer
Government Relations Chair

[Who Represents Me?](#)

Early Voting: Please vote this year and every election year, your interests are represented in the outcome: [Where do I Vote? Polling Place Finder](#)

School Board Campaign: National money is pouring into our election from the opposition. They are getting a lot of yard signs out, are getting articles out in the press, and are disparaging our union. Don't let these attacks stand. Please vote, encourage others to vote, sign up to help, or grab a lawn sign!

Interested in getting a catered lunch at school?

Let's win this election! Remaining phone bank dates are 10/24, and 11/6. We may add a date or two. [Please sign up here](#) to support our campaign. The school building with the most phone bank shifts worked will have lunch catered in at your school building - Sunrise is in the lead!

Details:

1. Plan to work at least 1 hour.
2. Dinner/training will be provided, 4:45 - 5:30pm
3. Calling between 5:30 - 7pm
4. [Please bring a laptop or smartphone.](#)

Lawn Signs!

We need more lawn signs in yards and businesses. There are school board campaign lawn signs available at the union office for all school board races, Districts 1, 2, and 5. Please stop or reach out to [Val Holthus](#) or [Jennifer Adriaens](#) to get signs.

MEA Update



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Conference registration closes TODAY!

Don't forget [to register by this Friday, Oct. 13](#) to secure your spot at the state's largest educator professional development conference -- the MEA conference -- on Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

Many classes are filling up fast, so [register today!](#)

New Exhibitors featured this year

Dozens of exhibitors will display education-related products, services, and programs from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on the ballroom level of the RiverCentre. Like the rest of MEA conference, the exhibit hall is open to Education Minnesota members and aspiring educators only.

See [a list of exhibitors](#) (subject to change) who will be sharing information, discounts and freebies with educators.

You must be [registered for the conference](#) to enter the exhibit hall.

Education Minnesota member-only discount on keynote speaker Brittany Wagner's book

Education Minnesota is proud to offer our members [20 percent off paperback](#)

[copies of "Next Chance You: Tools, Tips, and Tough Love for Bringing Your A-Game to Life,"](#) the book by MEA conference keynote speaker Brittany Wagner through a partnership with local bookseller, the Red Balloon Bookshop.

[Please enter the coupon code ED24 at checkout](#) to receive the 20 percent off educator discount. Members will have the option to pick up their book at Red Balloon in St. Paul or select one of the shipping options.



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

With the NBA season starting on October 24th, which NBA player is the leading all-time point scorer for a regular season and playoffs?

- a. Lebron James*
- b. Kevin Garnet*
- c. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar*
- d. Wilt Chamberlain*

The answer to last week's question was:

When the MN Twins won the World Series in 1987 you could hear:

- c. Car horns honking*

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

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Katie Wharton, Compass
Alyssa Lane, Andover High School
Kim Eich, Oak View Middle School

Pension Updates



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

[Update No. 48](#)

LCPR Listening Session

The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement is holding a listening session on Oct. 30 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Duluth Courthouse (100 5th Ave. W., Duluth, MN). Please join if you're in the area, wear purple and advocate for teacher pension improvements! More details [here](#).

Pension Advisory Group Meeting

The member-led Pension Advisory Group had a productive all-day meeting last Saturday. They had a Q/A session with TRA Executive Director Jay Stoffel, Deputy Director Tim Maurer and Legal and Legislative Director Rachel Barth. The PAG also discussed priorities for 2024 legislation and worked on local organizing plans. Read the full notes from the meeting [here](#).

Table at MEA

Our Pension Group Members and staff are hosting a table at the Minnesota Education Academy conference on Oct. 19. Stop by and learn about our work, ask questions, and grab our new informational flyers! For printable PDF versions of our flyers, click [here](#) and [here](#). There's still time to register for this free professional development event as well. [Register here](#).

Friday Focus: Correction Misconceptions in the Pension Movement

It's important that we're all working with the same information, and we need to work together to correct some misconceptions that could slow down the movement for improvement.

- TRA and EdMN are separate entities. TRA is a state board that oversees administration of teachers defined-benefit pension. EdMN is the statewide educators' union that supports members in negotiations, organizing, legal proceedings, and advocacy on member issues like pensions, along with many more offerings that support educators in their work.

[Read On](#)

[Get caught up with past updates here!](#)

PD News

Professional development resources
for Education Minnesota members



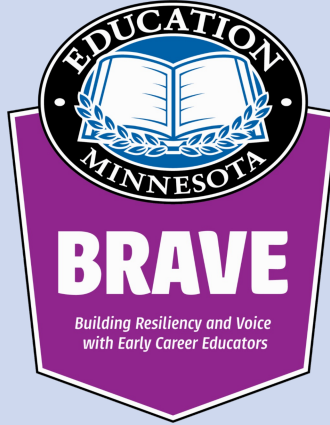
THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

**Building Resiliency
and Voice with
Early Career
Educators**

**Low-cost science
PD**

Calling all sixth grade
and high school science
teachers!

Are you an early career educator? Are you interested in strengthening your resiliency and professional voice alongside your peers?



[Register now](#) for our BRAVE (Building Resiliency and Voice and Early Career Educators) program.

Participants will receive support, mentorship and professional development in establishing work/life balance, building culturally responsive classrooms and instructional strategies, and using your voice to advocate for your students and schools.

Connect with other early career educators in this five-session, cohort-based program.

[Register by Friday, Nov. 10.](#)

Questions? Contact [Melissa DelRosario.](#)

New Mental Health Trainings

Sign up now for a new suicide prevention and mental health trainings.



The Minnesota Dept. of Health and Minnesota Dept. of Education of Education have partnered with Kognito to offer trainings free to all MN school staff and students in grade 6-12.

Kognito provides practice-based digital learning for educators and students to improve mental health and well-being in schools. For more information or to sign up, [click here.](#)

[Click here for Professional Learning Links & More](#)

The Earth Science Teachers Education Project offers low-cost PD opportunities to help you get up to speed on the new state science standards.

Registration for spring and summer online courses opens on Oct. 16th.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

No Place for Hate

Hate has no place in our schools.

During the 2022-23 school year, close to 2,000 schools were designated as a No Place for Hate - reaching more than 1.5 million students.

Created by the Anti-Defamation League, No Place for Hate is a free school-climate improvement initiative that fits each school's unique culture and needs.

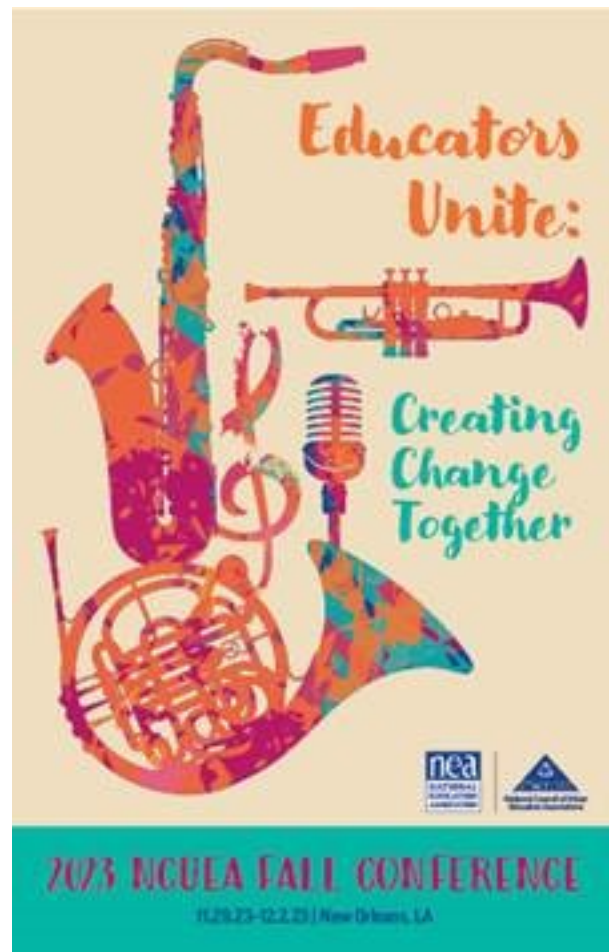
[Click here](#) to find out how to get your school or district involved or contact Education Director [Lara Trubowitz.](#)

2023 NCUEA Fall Conference

The National Council for Urban Educators Offers Grants to Attend Fall Conference in New Orleans

NCUEA created a program called Discovery Grants to promote ethnic and racial diversity at our [Fall Conferences](#). The program hopes to encourage and strengthen the involvement of ethnic minority members in the activities and leadership of NCUEA. We have allocated funds to send new ethnic minority participants to the Fall Conference.

The Fall conference provides new leaders with the opportunity to connect to one another, learn best practices related to organizing and advocacy, as well as receive high-quality professional practice development.



NCUEA awards grants only to first-time ethnic and racial minority conference participants to attend its 2023 Fall Conference. Individuals can submit their applications [here](#). The application deadline is **October 27, 2023**. NCUEA will notify all accepted applications no later than **Friday, November 3, 2023**. *NCUEA will only consider one grant for AHEM.*

The grant will cover the registration fee, travel expenses (airfare or mileage), and hotel costs for three nights. All other expenses will be the responsibility of the local association or grant awardee. *(Please consult with President Val Holthus directly to discuss reimbursements for expenses not outlined above.)*

Coming Up

- Oct.13 - MEA, [Register Here!](#)
- Oct 17 - Cultural Comp Training, 4:45-7pm, AHEM Office [Register Here!](#)
- Oct 19 - Educator Appreciation Night, 7 pm,
- Oct 19 - Education MN MEA Conference
- Oct 19 -20: No Students, MEA Break
- Oct 23 - Negotiations Bargaining, ESC
- Oct 23 - Rep Assembly, 4:45 pm, AHEM Office
- Oct 23 - School Board Mtg, 6:30 pm, SEC

Oct 24 - Cultural Comp Training, 4:45-7pm, Coon Rapids MS [Register Here!](#)
Oct 24 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7pm, AHEM Office
Oct 31 - Halloween

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
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