

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

October 18, 2023

Vol 6, No. 8

Friday Blast



School Board Rally/Food Drive for Anoka County Food Shelves



Please attend the school board meeting on Monday night, October 23, at 6pm at the Sandburg Education Center.

Wear red to show unity and support for the speakers who will let the Board know we need a fair contract. Our School District has received monumental funding from the state this past year, and in order to attract and retain teachers, we need better pay, benefits, and working conditions.

We also know food insecurity is a real concern for some families in our schools. Children learn better if they are fed appropriately, and we care about the well-being of our students. As you arrive at Sandburg, please drop a food donation in the truck that will be parked in front of the building. Thank you!!

Meet and Confer

Wednesday, November 1, 5:30 at the ESC

Here is your chance to let the school board know 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, AHEM Vice President at jondavidkohnen@gmail.com.

Contract Connection



Negotiations Update #9

Hello AHEM Members,

The AHEM and District Negotiations teams will meet for bargaining session #6 at the ESC on October 23rd.

The district team has indicated that the district chief financial officer will be present to provide an updated look at district finances. As a team over the last several months, your AHEM negotiators has taken our own look into the district's financial situation in light of the legislation passed last spring. Comparing the two

views of the districts' finances should be interesting. At the next session, it will also be the district team's "turn" to present a financial proposal for the contract.

As bargaining continues, we have a few "asks" for action for you all. While there are five members of the negotiation team at the table with our Education Minnesota field staff supporting us, it is really ALL of us that are bargaining. The union is not a separate group that we belong to, it is all of us working together to improve education for our students and as a profession. To that end, please:

1. **Make sure you are receiving bargaining updates at your home email.** If you are not getting them, check your junk folder or email Becky.Marshman@edmn.org to update your information.
2. **Continue to wear red on Wednesdays.** When everyone wears red it sends a strong message to the district that we are unified, giving our negotiations team more leverage at the table.
3. **Rally at the school board meeting.** Monday, October 23, 6:30pm at Sandburg. Wear red and come early to pick up or make a sign and donate a food item!
4. **Vote!** Elect School Board Candidates that support teachers, students, and our schools.

Some of you have reached out to ask about additional actions we can take as a local to support negotiations. Our Local Contract Action Team (LCAT) works with the negotiations team to develop a structured plan of action over time. If you are looking for a way to learn more about negotiations or have ideas on actions you would like to see us take as a local, consider joining LCAT.

*If you have questions about negotiations, please use your **personal email** to send a message to the negotiations team at ahemnegotiations@gmail.com. You can also share your thoughts with your building representative or executive board member.*

In Solidarity,
Your AHEM Negotiations Team
John Wolhaupter - Lead
Luke Amundson
Mark Corcoran
Traci Intihar
Jon Plotz
Anna Dougherty - EdMN Field Staff
Melinda Pearson - EdMN Field Staff

Come & Join Us!

Join us for an Anoka-Hennepin School Board Candidates Rally!

Bring the whole family for food, drinks, and music!



Friday, October 20th from 6-7pm

at Infinite Campus
4231 109th Avenue in Blaine

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 and 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

Government Relations Report

Aaron Balzer
Government Relations Chair

[Who Represents Me?](#)

Early Voting: Please vote this year and in every election. Your interests are represented in the outcome: [Polling Place Finder](#)

School Board Candidates: The League of Women Voters released their annual candidate forum last month, including each candidate running for the Anoka-Hennepin School Board. The LWV is a non-partisan organization who seeks to empower voters. <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area>. Click [here](#) to watch.

Interested in getting a catered lunch at school?

Let's win this election! Remaining in-person phone bank dates are 10/24, 10/26 and 11/6. New virtual dates are 10/25, 10/30, and 11/1. [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.

Details:

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

Get a lawn sign!

We need more lawn signs in yards and at 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!

Star Tribune talks School Board Elections: See [here](#) for an interesting article on how different school board candidates are seeing the role of schools.



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!

What year did the Education Minnesota Conference go from two days to one?

- a. 2016
- b. 2017
- c. 2018
- d. 2019

The answer to last week's question was:

The NBA player who carries the leading all-time high scorer for a regular season and playoffs is:

- a. Lebron James, who overtook the title from Kareem Abdul-Jabaar in 2022*

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

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Leah Ward, Champlin Park High School
Margaret Williams, ESC
Paul Keeney, Oak View Middle School

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

*Get caught up with past updates
here!*

PD News

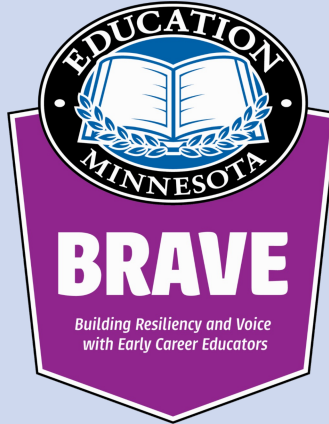
Professional development resources
for Education Minnesota members



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Building Resiliency and Voice with Early Career Educators

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](#).

Low-cost science PD

Calling all sixth grade and high school science teachers!

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

Click here for Professional Learning Links
& More

or district involved or
contact Education
Director [Lara Trubowitz](#).

2023 NCUEA Fall Conference

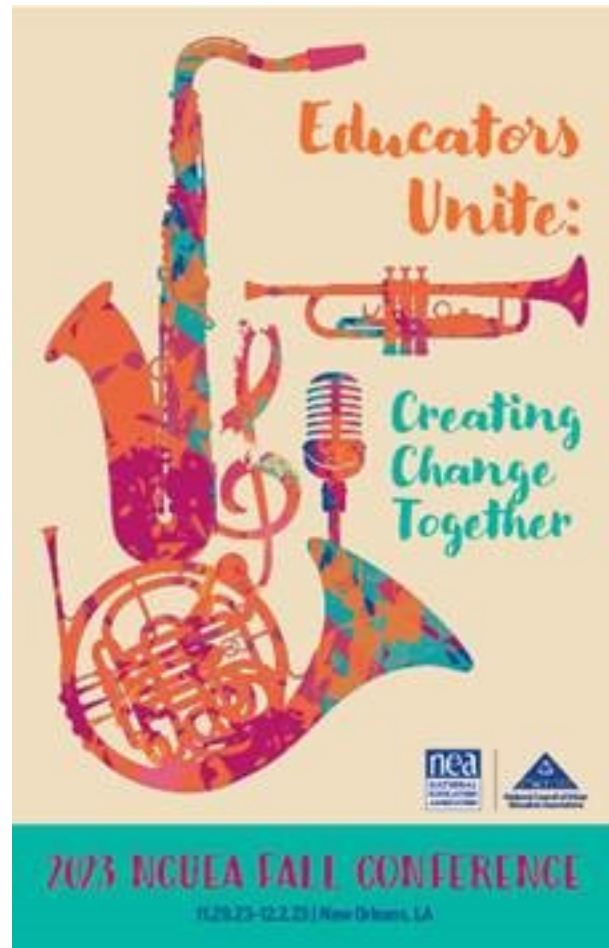
The National Council for Urban Educators Offers Grants to Attend Fall Conference in New Orleans

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 consultant with President Val Holthus directly to discuss reimbursements for expenses not outlined above.)*



Coming Up

Oct 20 - A-H School Board Candidates Rally
Oct 23 - Negotiations Bargaining, ESC
Oct 23 - Rep Assembly, 4:45 pm, AHEM Office
Oct 23 - Rally and Food Drive, 6pm, SEC
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 / Bat Appreciation Day
Nov 1 - Meet & Confer, 5:30pm, ESC
Nov 5 - Daylight Saving Time ends
Nov 6 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7pm, AHEM Office
Nov 7 - Election Day, Get out and Vote

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
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