

**STRONGER TOGETHER**



**ANOKA HENNEPIN**

*Valerie Holthus*

*President*

*September 1, 2023*

*Vol 6, No. 1*

# Friday Blast



## Contract Connection



### **Negotiations Update #3**

Welcome back AHEM Members!

The two teams have met for two bargaining sessions and will meet again this Friday, September 1st at 8 a.m. at the AHEM office. Yes, this is fewer summer meetings than have taken place in the past. The legislature in the spring passed many measures that are affecting bargaining this round. These were both policy and financial in nature. Both teams needed the time to determine the effects these legislative changes would have to the proposal that would be made in bargaining. For context, as of this writing, no other large/metro locals have reached settlements. In conversations with their teams over the summer, most locals are at a similar place in the process as we are in Anoka-Hennepin.

As another perspective, over the last year we heard from members across the district that shared ideas for things that would improve their working conditions.

While salary and benefit improvements are the most noticeable result of negotiations, changes to the contract language can also have profound impacts on the daily life of members. Over the spring and summer, the AHEM team spent many hours crafting language proposals to address the concerns brought forward by members. This process is intentional and can be time-consuming as the team discussed the costs and benefits of each proposal and ensures that the language being proposed accomplishes the goal without unintended consequences.

Finally, a few people have asked about work actions or a time for them. For the time being, our primary work action remains wearing red on Wednesday. The negotiations team will work with the AHEM CAT team to develop a timeline for other actions that might be necessary should progress in negotiations not meet our expectations.

We have heard from people that they do not feel like wearing red is productive or useful. We have shared many times in the past that when we bargain, all of you go to the bargaining table with us. Wearing red is a show of solidarity as a group, not just as a sign of supporting bargaining. Thinking about it in other settings, wearing a Vikings shirt on game day probably doesn't have a direct effect on the outcome of the game, but it does build unity among fans. Many of you participate in theme days at your school (even pajama day). Similarly, wearing red is a way to show we are on the same team, both to each other and to the district.

As always, reach out to the negotiations team with any questions at [ahemnegotiations@gmail.com](mailto:ahemnegotiations@gmail.com)

In Solidarity,  
Your AHEM Negotiations Team  
John Wolhaupter - Lead  
Luke Amundson  
Mark Corcoran  
Traci Intihar  
Jon Plotz

## NEA Member Benefits

# STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT BEGINS AGAIN OCTOBER 2023



October 2023 marks the end of the student loan repayment freeze, which means payments will be due for the first time since early on in the pandemic. As an NEA member, we want you to know that you have no-cost access to the [\*\*NEA® Student Debt Navigator powered by Savi\*\*](#) that can help reduce or eliminate student loan debt. How exactly does this tool help?

1. Determine your eligibility for federal programs
2. Get guidance from student loan debt experts
3. Access the tool for one year at no cost

Over 38,000 members have reduced or eliminated their student debt with an average of over \$36,000 of debt forgiven.

[Try the  
Tool](#)

## Aspiring Educators Rebate 2023-2024

**Were you an NEA  
Aspiring Educator  
member in college?**

**You may be eligible for a dues rebate!**

Click here for more info: [nea.org/aerebate](https://nea.org/aerebate)



[Click here for  
Form](#)

## **SEED Seminars Open for Registration on LMS**

**Earn Lo-cost College Credit and CEUs**

As part of our commitment to educational equity, AHEM is again sponsoring

SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) to all Anoka Hennepin educators. SEED cohorts meet monthly throughout the school year to take a deeper dive into equity and diversity issues through book studies, articles and films, guest speaker presentations, guided reflections, and intentional discussions. SEED offers a safe space to deepen our understanding of equity, and to build community around making our schools more inclusive and welcoming for all students and their families.

This year there are in person, hybrid and online sessions. CEU's and college credit through St. Catherine's University are available. Scholarships available to AHTOCC members. To learn more, please check out the [SEED Hype Video](#).

**To register please visit the learning management system (LMS)** in A-H Connect on the district's website. Last year, cohorts filled up quickly, so register soon. Questions? Contact SEED Coordinators Beth Heimerl ([beth.heimerl@ahschools.us](mailto:beth.heimerl@ahschools.us)) and Beth Popalisky ([beth.popalisky@ahschools.us](mailto:beth.popalisky@ahschools.us)).



**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!**

The negotiations team is negotiating with the District today (9/1/23). How many contract language items is AHEM proposing to the District, not including salary or insurance contributions?

1. 18
2. 27
3. 32
4. 41

**Please reply to this email to submit your answer:**  
[anokahennepinem@gmail.com](mailto:anokahennepinem@gmail.com)

**You're  
Invited**



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

## ***Greetings, educators!***

This fall, Education Minnesota is providing two paid leadership opportunities for members to help support the growing number of early career educators within our union.

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

Facilitators with our BRAVE program receive training, materials and resources to help lead a monthly professional development seminar focused on building educators' resiliency and voice in our profession.

**Application website:** <https://edmn.me/brave-facilitator>

**Compensation:** \$2,000 stipend, CEUs and 1 graduate credit from the Minnesota State University, Mankato School of Education

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, Oct. 27

**Contact:** Melissa DelRosario

Education Issues Specialist

[melissa.delrosario@edmn.org](mailto:melissa.delrosario@edmn.org)

# **Pension Updates: Pension Advisory Group meetings; Resources; TRA Board meeting**

## **Education Minnesota Pension Advocacy Network**

We invite all Education Minnesota members who are interested in educator pension advocacy to join our [Facebook group](#). This is a place where members can connect, chat with the Pension Advisory Group, have productive conversations about pension solutions, and have staff answer questions. The Pension Advisory Group will also be sharing meeting notes, asking questions, giving updates and promoting upcoming events in this Facebook group.

### **Pension Advisory Group**

The new member-led Pension Advisory Group includes two AHEM members: Dr. Elizabeth Keeling and Don Foss.

You can find notes from the group's first meeting [here](#).

Group members and staff can be contacted at [pensions@edmn.org](mailto:pensions@edmn.org).

### **Resources**

Review Education Minnesota's previous Pension Advocacy Plan [here](#).  
Confused about what passed during the 2023 legislative session? Review all legislative educator pension changes [here](#).

**If you've missed any past updates, they're [available on our website](#).**

If you have any questions, please email [pensions@edmn.org](mailto:pensions@edmn.org).

Keep organizing, sharing and talking to your colleagues about our plan. [Sign up and forward this Education Minnesota Pension Updates signup today or use the QR code below!](#)



## Coming Up

- Sept. 1 - Bargaining Meeting, AHEM office
- Sept. 4 - Labor Day, AHEM office closed, State Fair ends
- Sept. 5 - First Day of School
- Sept. 8 - International Literacy Day
- Sept. 11 - Executive Board & Rep Assembly Mtg, 4:45p.m., AHEM Office
- Sept. 11 - School Board WS, 5:30p.m., ESC
- Sept. 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month begins, Rosh Hashanah begins
- Sept. 19 - EIP PLC 1/2 day
- Sept. 20 - Contract Action Team Meeting, 4:45p.m., AHEM Office
- Sept. 21 - International Day of Peace
- Sept. 23 - First Day of Autumn
- Sept. 24 - Yom Kippur begins
- Sept. 25 - School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., SEC

**Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota**  
**3200 Main Street, Suite 360**  
**Coon Rapids, MN 55448**

Anoka Hennepin Education Minne | 3200 Main Street, Suite 360, 7634219110,  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448 7634219110

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by anokahennepinem@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!