

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

September 15, 2023

Vol 6, No. 3

Friday Blast



Contract Connection



Negotiations Update #6

Hello AHEM Members,

A couple quick notes. The AHEM and District teams meet again for our fourth bargaining session on September 20th from 1-4 pm at the ESC. We will send out an update as soon as possible after the session.

Updates with specific information about the bargaining sessions (including with information about proposals) are only being sent to home email addresses. If you did not receive the update sent out about the September 1st session in your inbox on September 5th, AHEM may not have your home email. You can contact Jennifer or Becky via email at anokahennepinem@gmail.com to update your contact information.

We are using home emails for a couple of reasons. First, using home emails allows for a more free exchange of information and discussion. Second, and more importantly, your work/district email is owned by the district. As a government entity the district must comply with the reasonable requests for information from the public for information. This potentially includes any emails in a district account.

We have reached the point in the bargaining process where rumors start to swirl. If you hear something that sounds "off" or that you question, please reach out to your building rep, the negotiations team, or the AHEM office. It takes a lot more effort to combat untrue information when it starts to spread.

If you have questions about negotiations, please use your personal email to send a message to the negotiations team at: ahemnegotiations@gmail.com

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

Meet the Staff of AHEM

Melinda Pearson, Field Staff

Melinda Pearson is excited to be joining AHEM as a member of the Anoka Hennepin community. Melinda is an alum of Champlin Park High School, and her son is a 6th grader at Northdale Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year.

Melinda spent the last 8 years at AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) Council 5, and the last 6 years serving as the State Field Director there. In that capacity, she served as lead spokesperson for both the AFSCME state employee contract and for the State Employee Group Insurance Plan (SEGIP) union coalition bargaining.



In her free time, Melinda loves to spend time with her husband, Joe, her son, Michael, and her three dogs. She is looking forward to working with educators in the Anoka Hennepin district!

Melinda.Pearson@edmn.org

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



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."

- 30 years in education, including classroom



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

- 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
- 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, collaboration, and respect between parents, community, students, and educators
 - Ethical, responsible, and shared decision making, including transparency with communication
- 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

Attention AHEM!!!

Show your support for the Anoka Hennepin Kitchen Supervisors!

The Anoka Hennepin kitchen site supervisors are in our schools from early in the morning until late in the afternoon, doing many things behind the scenes and in front of students to make sure they are fed and are ready to learn.

For you as parents, we hope that gives you piece of mind that your kids are receiving breakfast and lunch – hot, well-prepared, healthy meals, so their stomachs aren't growling and they can focus on what they need to focus on in class.

You might not even have to think about the behind-the-scenes work that your school's kitchen site supervisors does to make that process run smoothly.

Site supervisors place food orders, email with parents, work with the district, support their staff, in addition to helping prepare and distribute the meals. This is all done in the course of just one day.

Our site supervisors already go above and beyond every day. They spend countless hours – much of it outside of their contracted time – to make sure our schools are well run and everything has what they need. Our schools could not function without them.

The Anoka Hennepin kitchen site supervisors are asking the district for a fair contract that values and honors their work.

Please help support them by using this QR code to sign a petition to ask the school district to give them the pay, benefits and support they deserve.



The site supervisors do this work because it is a work of heart. But compassion and empathy don't pay the bills.

Let's show up for these essential school staff in the same way they show up for us every day.

3838

(Click picture to view larger)

MEA Update



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Register now for our 2023 MEA conference!

Get ready for the biggest educator professional development event in the state --

our 2023 MEA conference on Thursday, Oct. 19! This annual event is open to Education Minnesota members and aspiring educators only, so you can get the classes you need!

[Register Now!](#)

Registration is open until Oct. 13. Relicensure classes fill up especially fast, so sign up today!

This year's MEA conference returns to our traditional, in-person format only, at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. While no virtual conference will be offered on that day, online courses are available year-round on [Education Minnesota's MEA Online](#) for members to complete at their own pace.

MEA conference attendees can earn general continuing education credits. In addition, some sessions might help you fulfill state relicensure requirements in reading instruction, identifying early-onset mental illness in students, positive behavioral interventions, English language learners and suicide prevention. Check with your district's continuing education committee on whether you will receive credit. Other sessions being planned for this year include such topics as supporting students with disabilities, equity and social justice, and both educator and student wellness.

Free onsite childcare will also be available to attendees. You must register for childcare in advance while registering for the conference.

Note: When you register, you will receive your confirmation from our event registration system, which may be flagged by spam filters. Please check your spam and junk folders if you do not receive confirmation!

Questions? Email us at meaconference@edmn.org.



The answer to last week's question was:

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 was the forerunner of PBS?

A. National Public Broadcasting Service

B. National Educational Television

C. American Public Television

How many tickets were sold through the AHEM *Ticket This* program?

D. American Broadcasting Service

d. 1,015

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Carol Mayer, Northdale MS
Kelly Gonnerman, Anoka HS
Blake Bodenbug, Coon Rapids HS

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

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 45

Thank you for your continued attention and energy towards educator pension reform.

During the last legislative session, over 1000 members took part in an Education Minnesota pension advocacy session to learn about how pensions work, what needs improving, and how we can fight for action.

To be able to achieve the pension improvements we need from the state, we need to stand strong and stand together. It's extremely important that we engage new educators, and educators who may not have heard of this movement yet. We are asking local leaders and pension advocates to share [this flyer](#), which can serve as an easy way to engage your colleagues.

[Read Full Article Here](#)

Pension Advisory Group Update

Education Minnesota's member led Pension Advisory Group will be meeting next week on Sept. 14, and an agenda will be posted on the [Pension Advocacy Network Facebook Page](#). This group is working to recommend legislative priorities for next session, as well as an organizing and engagement plan. Check out the notes from their last meeting [here](#).

Organizing and Action	General Information
<u>Tips for Contacting Your Legislators</u>	<u>Education Minnesota Pension Webpage</u>
<u>Find Your Legislators</u>	<u>EdMN Capitol Connection e-Newsletter</u>
<u>LCPR Members</u>	<u>TRA Document on Pension Basics</u>
<u>EdMN Pension Advocacy Network</u>	<u>PERA Member Resources</u>
	<u>Public Pension Terminology</u>

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

If you have any questions, please email 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!](#)



Join the fight for fair educator pensions

Education Minnesota is committed to ensuring a stable and fair retirement for every educator in our state. Pension reform cannot be achieved without legislative action. Help us fight for improvements by:

Showing up

Education Minnesota will host events during legislative session focused on improving educator pensions. Show up and bring your colleagues!

Speaking out

Contact your legislators. Ask for a meeting, or give a quick call or email. Your legislators are there to represent you, and they'll appreciate hearing your thoughts on educator pensions.

Leaning in

Activate your colleagues and engage with your local and state union. We're stronger together, and we can't achieve reform without everyone's voice.

Resources

Learn more on Education Minnesota's pension web page!



Join the Education Minnesota Pension Advocacy Network on Facebook!



Sign up for pension email updates!



Questions?

Email: pensions@edmn.org

www.educationminnesota.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. 3875



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

SEED Seminars Open for Registration on LMS

**SEED seminars are filling fast!
Don't miss your chance to take a deep dive into Equity and Diversity!**

- Earn 27 CEUs (Teachers and Admin)
- Earn 7 Flex PD hours (Elem and Sec)

- Earn Low-cost College Credit through St. Kate's University
- Discover how to Create Inclusive Communities
- Scholarships available to AHTOCC members

If you've taken SEED before, please tell your colleagues about your experience, including what you've gained both personally and professionally.

If you're a new teacher, know that this safe space can become a wonderful community of support as you start in A-H.

As a part of our commitment to educational equity, AHEM is again sponsoring SEED (Seeking Education Equity and Diversity) to ALL Anoka Hennepin Educators. SEED cohorts meet monthly to engage in discussions of books, articles, and films. Our speaker series enhances the cohort work. Check out the links for more info.

[St. Kate's Credit Guidelines](#), [SEED Hype Video](#)

This year we offer online, in person and hybrid cohorts. The OVMS hybrid site offers flexibility by allowing you to choose each month if coming in person or joining virtually works best for you.

“Of all of the professional development opportunities and similar experiences I have participated in as an educator in 20 years, this was by far the most comfortable, powerful, informative, and providing options for growth.”
~former SEED participant

To register please visit the learning management system (LMS) in A-H
Connect on the district's website.

Questions?

Contact SEED Coordinators Beth Heimerl (beth.heimerl@ahschools.us)
and Beth Popalisky (beth.popalisky@ahschools.us).

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

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

Coming Up

- Sept. 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month begins, Rosh Hashanah begins
- Sept. 19 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7 pm, AHEM Office
- Sept. 20 - Bargaining Session No.4, 1-4 pm, ESC
- 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
- Sept. 28 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7 pm, AHEM Office
- Oct. 3 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7 pm, AHEM Office
- Oct. 4 - Member Rights Committee Meeting, 4:45-6:45 pm, AHEM Office
- Oct. 5 - SEED, 4:30-7:30 pm, AHEM Office

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