

**STRONGER TOGETHER**



**ANOKA HENNEPIN**

*Valerie Holthus*

*President*

*September 29, 2023*

*Vol 6, No. 5*

# Friday Blast



## Member Rights Committee Seeks Members

The purpose of the member rights committee is to review member grievances and recommend the next course of action; we plan to schedule monthly in-person meetings. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please complete [this form](#) by October 6.

## Meet the Staff of AHM

## **Anna Dougherty,** **Field Staff**

I have been a Field Representative with Education Minnesota since 2017 and have been proudly serving both Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota and Education Minnesota St. Francis Local 1977. It has been a joy to work with educators and staff in Anoka Hennepin as I am an alumnus of Evergreen Park Elementary, Jackson Middle School and Champlin Park High School and now have family members that are currently there as well.



Prior to working as a field staff, I worked as an 8th grade Earth science teacher at Brooklyn Middle School in the Osseo school district. While employed in Osseo school district, I served in many leadership roles at the local and state level and developed my passion for unionism.

Outside of work, my hobbies include spending time with my family which consists of my husband Brian and two kids, Nora (10) and Callan (8) and our two hound dogs. I love going camping as a family and cheering on my kids at their various sporting events.

[Anna.Dougherty.edmn.org](http://Anna.Dougherty.edmn.org)

## **Meet the AHEM Endorsed Candidates**



---

**Dr. Michelle  
Langenfeld**



**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

**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 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

**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

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

- Priority of addressing staffing shortages

## Please Volunteer for AHEM's Endorsed Candidates!



**Elect**  
**LANGENFELD**  
Dr. Michelle  
For Anoka-Hennepin School Board

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30 | 10AM

# MEET & GREET

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH WITH A DOORKNOCK TO FOLLOW!  
AT THE HOME OF KATE AND JACOB LUNDQUIST, BROOKLYN PARK  
CAMPAIGN DONATIONS TO [WWW.MICHELLELANGENFELD.COM](http://WWW.MICHELLELANGENFELD.COM)

RSVP: MICHELLE LANGENFELD FACEBOOK PAGE

**COHOSTS:**

- Nicole Hayes  
Anoka Hennepin School Board- District 5
- Xp Lee  
Brooklyn Park City Council- East
- Christian Eriksen  
Brooklyn Park City Council
- Kate Lundquist, Community Member

## Government Relations Report

Aaron Balzer  
Government Relations Chair

### [Who Represents Me?](#)

**Early Voting:** The early voting window opened already last Friday, 9/22! Please exercise your power as a citizen and vote! Check here to compare your address with your polling place and representation: Where do I Vote? [Polling Place Finder](#)

**Blaine Labor BBQ Event:** Join union families in the Blaine area to network and

help build power in this critical area.

- **When:** Monday October 2nd, 4PM.
- **Location:** Teamsters Local 120, 9422 Ulysses Street NE, Blaine.
- **Special Guest:** Representative Matt Norris

**School Board Campaign:** We have a month and a half left and we have important work to do to elect our endorsed candidates. Please vote, encourage others to vote, sign up to help, or grab a lawn sign!

### **Interested in getting a catered lunch at school?**

Phone bank dates are [10/3, 10/12, 10/24, 11/6](#). [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- *it's Sunrise so far...*

#### **Details:**

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

**Lawn Signs:** There are school board campaign 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!

**Potential MN Special Session:** Governor Walz sat down with several police organizations Wednesday night to discuss the School Resource Officer (SRO) issue. It has been reported that the meeting was productive. The Attorney General's office and Governor Walz have both said that SRO's can continue to use force in schools during life-threatening situations, and that nothing has really changed. However, many police organizations have not seen it the same way. There is potential to make progress on the issue now since the sides are speaking directly.



BLAINE LABOR

# BBQ *Picnic*



*Food & Solidarity*

**MONDAY, OCT 2 | 4 TO 5:30 PM**

**TEAMSTERS LOCAL 120: 9422 ULYSSES ST. NE, BLAINE**

**SPECIAL GUEST: REPRESENTATIVE MATT NORRIS**

## Why Not Hire Attorneys to Negotiate our Contract?

Occasionally I've been asked this question. AHEM has members and professional negotiators serving on our negotiations team. There are five members that represent secondary and elementary teacher positions and two professional negotiators that are employees of Education Minnesota. One is a former teacher, Anna Dougherty, but is legally trained in contract negotiation, and the other, Melinda Pearson, also legally trained, has successfully negotiated contracts for very large groups of public employees, far larger than our group. They both attend all of the negotiation sessions. Their names are not on communications as

members of the negotiations team, because we feel it is important to recognize our member negotiators for all the work they do, and our members know there are negotiators that understand what goes on in the trenches.

We also have an attorney from Education Minnesota that is assigned to AHEM, who works out of the St. Paul office. She is part of a legal team who often work together.

If an attorney was hired just for AHEM, he or she would not have the experience of the world of academia to formulate language items, understand what is important to us, and have the depth and understanding of the nuances of the Anoka-Hennepin School District. In addition, our union dues would have to increase to pay the higher cost of a private attorney.

I am very pleased with the strong team of negotiators we currently have working for us. Other groups in Anoka Hennepin have hired an attorney, and, from what I've heard, the expense didn't outweigh the gains. One group decided that affiliating with Education Minnesota would be the best for their group, and, ironically, it was their hired attorney that made the suggestion.

*Valerie Holthus*

## 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 17th, 4:30 - 7 p.m.

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

**Contact us at:** 763-421-9110 / [anokahennepinem@gmail.com](mailto:anokahennepinem@gmail.com)

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

Sign Up for October  
17th

Sign Up for October  
24th



The answer to last week's question  
was:

**Quote**

1. "Listen, you didn't come into this life just to sit in the dugout, did ya?"
  - **The Bad News Bears**
1. "If you build it, he will come."
  - **Field of Dreams**
1. "There's no crying in baseball."
  - **A League of Thier Own**
1. "Wild thing, you make my heart sing. You walk everything."
  - **Major League**

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 internet had been around for roughly twenty years, largely used by government, the military and research universities, but it wasn't until 19xx that American Online began offering internet services.

What year did AOL offer internet services?

- a. 1988
- b. 1989
- c. 1990
- d.1991

---

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

Jean Delarco, AMS - Fred Moore  
Victoria Carlson, Madison  
Elementary  
Betsy Nordin, Oak View MS

---

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

---



# Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

*Get caught up with past updates here!*

## 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](mailto:pensions@edmn.org)**

[www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org)

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. 800.368.3875



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

# Committee Members Wanted

Education Minnesota is looking for members to fill committee openings.

**Climate Justice Forum:** (8 openings on a 10-member committee)

- This task force will discuss climate justice for our school, unions, and communities, and will meet until April 2024 and may continue based on interest.

**Professional Advocacy (ProAC):** (1 opening for our part of the metro)

- The long-standing committee will consider and recommend policies and programs related to professional growth opportunities for members. In 2023-24 the committee will discuss and make recommendations around a teacher apprenticeship program.

**Legislative Action:** (1 opening for our part of the metro)

- This committee will consider and recommend legislative positions, changes, or additions to Education Minnesota's legislative platform, and may recommend task forces and ad hoc committees for additional study as needed.

AHEM compensates their members \$1,000.00 per year to serve on a State-wide committee. The committees typically meet once per quarter.

## Coming Up

Now - Oct.13th - MEA, [Register Here!](#)  
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  
Oct. 9 - Executive Board Mtg, 4:45 pm, AHEM Office  
Oct. 9 - School Board WS, 5:30 pm, ESC  
Oct. 9 - Indigenous Peoples Day  
Oct 11 - CAT Mtg, 4:45 pm, AHEM Office  
Oct 12 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7 pm, AHEM Office  
Oct 17 - Cultural Comp Training, 4:45-7pm, AHEM Office [Register Here!](#)  
Oct 19 - 20th - 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, Location TBD [Register Here!](#)  
Oct 24 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7pm, AHEM Office  
Oct 31 - Halloween

**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:anokahennepinem@gmail.com)

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

Sent by anokahennepinem@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!