



THE VOICE

FOR ISD622 EDUCATORS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Everyone!!

Quality Steering Committee

I hope all is going well with your school year. You all do such great work and your dedication is at the highest level. Thank you all for everything you did during the big snow storm. It made me proud how all our members pulled together to make sure everyone was safe. You are the best! Spring staffing is starting earlier this year than in past years. We will be reviewing staffing with the district on Wednesday February 21, 2018. Postings will come out shortly after that. The bidding timeline has been shortened also. If you have any questions about the bidding process, please ask me or a Member Rights committee person. Remember to call me at [651-246-8769](tel:651-246-8769) or email me at rsanders@nspmoea.org anytime you need anything.

Together in Solidarity,

Rory Sanders

The committee met on January 25, 2018.

Julie Coffey reported the numbers for absences between November 1-January 17. There were 2,559 teacher absences during that time frame. The district is going to form a task force to try to come up with some solutions to help alleviate the substitute problem.

Christine Osorio shared a facilities report that she presented to the board on January 23. She explained funding, options and future levy opportunities.

There was discussion about rotating start times for elementary buildings. This led to a discussion about our 4 tier bus system. The district will be looking into making the bus system more efficient which could change start times possibly for 2019-20 school year.

Important

Phone Numbers

Officers

**Rory Sanders (President)*

Cell: 651-246-8769

**Tim Kappes (Vice President)*

Cell: 701-640-3177

School: 651-702-8320

**Jody Murphy (Treasurer)*

School: 651-748-6164

Cell: 651-353-2554

**Mary Glagavs (Secretary)*

School: 651-748-6876

Cell: 651-249-6292

**Delene Sanders (Membership)*

School: 651-621-1925

Cell: 651-246-8751

Member Rights

**Ann Schultz (Chair)*

School: 651-748-6720

Cell: 612-327-0744

**Kent Gordon (High School)*

School: 651-702-8685

**Barb Ives (Middle School)*

School: 651-748-6615

**Tim Kappes (Special Education)*

Cell: 701-640-3177

School: 651-702-8320

**Catherine Cranston (Elementary School)*

School: 651-748-7166

**Mary Jo Walker (Pre-school/Elementary)*

School 651-748-6616

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Executive Board Meeting

You're invited!

Monday Feb. 5, 2018

4:15 p.m.

American Legion
2678 7th Ave. E.
N. St. Paul

Contract Corner

The official seniority list was recently sent out to staff. Please check the list for accuracy. When bidding comes around this spring you want to be in the best position you can be. Also, be sure and check to make sure your college credits are listed correctly.

The contract states: Each teacher shall seniority based on total experience in the District from the first day of contracted services. Contract service, including part-time contract service, during the school year shall be counted and service in summer school, drive training, curriculum work, or extra-curricular activities, adult education covered under article V I (Salary Schedule and Placement). Section 18 Adult Education does NOT count. If substitute teaching exceeds 79 days and was performed immediately preceding contractual services that WILL count towards seniority.

In addition, Time spent on approved leaves of absences from which the teacher returns to service the District WILL count. Teachers who accept positions in District 622 shall retain their seniority credit for up to one year.

CREDITS are important for Probationary teachers because they do effect seniority status. Teachers with lesser college credits beyond the Bachelor's degree as approved and completed and properly reported to the HR office will be placed on unrequested leave before those with more credits. If there is a tie in seniority years and credits the teacher or teachers to be placed on unrequested leave shall be those having the higher State Department file folder number.

TEACHING

Faced with shortages, Minnesota takes exactly the wrong approach. I am proud to be a teacher in the midst of my 24th year of educating students. I was not surprised to [read](#) (Dec. 31) that all 50 states started the year short on teachers, and not just in hard-to-staff areas like science, math and special education, but also in other areas that haven't had shortages before, like kindergarten. Currently the Minnesota Department of Education lists 31 areas of shortage within our public schools. An earlier [article](#) ("More teachers calling it quits," Feb. 3, 2017) highlighted how 25 percent of new teachers leave the profession within three years. Minnesota's reaction to its growing shortage was to make it easier to become a teacher by lowering the bar to get a license. Some teacher areas no longer require a bachelor's degree, and the new tiered license system makes it possible to become a teacher without ever getting a teaching certificate. We are short doctors, nurses and dentists, but you don't hear politicians talking about how to lower standards to make it possible to become a doctor without ever going to medical school or having a license to practice medicine. We could solve this problem like we do all things in a capitalistic society: improve pay, benefits and working conditions in order to give a greater incentive for becoming a teacher, and/or lower the cost of college so people can afford to get a teaching certificate (instead of making it possible to get a license without one). It was sad to read how Minnesota was specifically identified in this national study as a place where standards are being lowered to increase the teacher pool, while states like Idaho and Oklahoma are looking to increase pay and benefits to attract teachers. Twenty-four years ago, we were a national leader in education, and now we are leading a race to the bottom.

Marc Doepner-Hove, Mound

This was published as a letter to the editor in the Star and Tribune.



Is this your scrambled email?
leblew
If so, email
mglagavs@isd622.org
to claim your \$10 prize!!