



JAN 2026 -VOL.50-NO. 4

THE VOICE

FOR ISD622 EDUCATORS



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

I hope you all had a great, LONG break and are refreshed for the second half of the year. Reminder, if you are planning on retiring at the end of this year OR during next school year AND want to receive the insurance benefit, you have to submit your retirement date by JANUARY 15th to HR. Please connect with me if you have any questions. Check out the picture of all the toys we collected for the North St. Paul Toy Shelf! It was the most toys we have ever collected! Please consider volunteering for the Food Shelf on January 10th. Bring family and friends!

Together,

Tim Kappes



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Community Service Project

December was gently used or new toys. Pictured below is what was collected. They were donated to the North St. Paul Toy Shelf.

January is volunteering at the North St. Paul Food Shelf on Saturday January 10th from noon until 2:00 p.m. or from 2-4 p.m.

[Volunteer Sign-up](#)



Executive Board Meeting

You're invited!
Monday, January 12, 2026
4:15 p.m.

Cowern Elementary Library
Park in the back parking lot
off of South Ave and enter
through door 4W.

Important

Phone Numbers

*Tim Kappes (President)

Cell: 701-640-3177

*Jody Murphy (Vice President)

Cell: 651-353-2554

*Katie Semmerling (Treasurer)

Cell: 715-897-2221

*Mary Glagavs (Secretary)

School: 651-748-6876

Cell: 651-249-6292

*Katrina Geske (Membership)

Cell: 715-456-8920

*Jill Mueke (Membership)

Cell: 612-515-5686

Member Rights

*Tim Kappes (Chair)

Cell: 701-640-3177

*Kent Gordon

School: 651-702-8685

*Annie Hodges

Cell: 952-250-6637

*Rob Murphy

Cell: 651-497-0260

Relicensure Committee Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- Thursday, April 23, 2026
- Friday, May 29, 2026

Contract Corner

Welcome to a brand new 2026!! One of the new things happening this year is paid family or medical leave administered through the Minnesota State government. Below is a snapshot of the general information regarding paid leave. To see more information or to apply for a leave, you should access paidleave.mn.gov. Our district does not determine if you qualify for the leave or pay the benefit. You must apply through the website.

You can take paid leave to care for your own serious health condition, or to care for someone else. To take paid leave, you need to have a qualifying event that lasts at least seven days. These days do not need to be in a row. For example, if you experience chronic migraines or need to attend regular medical appointments that total at least seven days, you could get payments for the days or hours you were out on leave.

Medical leave is used to care for your own serious health condition. Pregnancy and childbirth, a surgery, a chronic condition, injury or other health needs certified by your doctor are examples of medical leave. A family leave is taken to care for others. Family leave can include bonding time with a child, caring for a family member with a serious health condition, or supporting active duty family members. Family leave can also be used to respond to certain personal safety issues such as domestic violence or stalking. You can apply to take 12 weeks for family leave and 12 weeks for medical leave but if you need both types of leave in the same benefit year you can only take up to 20 weeks. Your benefit year starts the first day you take leave and is not based on a calendar year. Paid leave can be taken in a few ways. First, it can be taken continuously in one block of time. It can also be taken intermittently on a set schedule, for things like a weekly or monthly appointment. In addition, it can be taken as you need it. An example would be taking a day or two due to a chronic condition.

Paid leave pays part of your normal pay. Most people will receive between 55% and 90% of their regular wages while on leave, with a maximum amount set at the state's average wage. Right now, this is \$1,423 per week.

Contract Corner Continued-

One thing to remember is that paid leave affects your pension and years of service. During the time you are on paid leave, money will not be deposited in your TRA. The time you are off will not count towards your years of service for retirement. You may take paid leave during the summer if you qualify for medical or family leave. This information sheet is specifically for teachers. [Paid Leave for Educators](#)

Heartfelt Messages and Quotes for Teachers

- "Happy New Year! Thank you for guiding our learning journey and inspiring us to reach for our best. May your year be as bright as the future you help us build."
- "Wishing you a New Year filled with the same joy, passion, and dedication you bring to our classroom every day. Your impact is invaluable!"
- "May this fresh year bring you abundant happiness, good luck, and rewarding moments. I promise to put into practice all you've taught me!"
- "To my favorite teacher, Happy New Year! Your patience and wisdom are a guiding light. May your year be full of success and pride."
- "Here's to a year of new opportunities, growth, and creative teaching moments. Thank you for nurturing the leaders of tomorrow!"



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