

Issues for this week:

### **State Legislature**

This is the last big push for getting our staff to sign the petition regarding full funding for our schools! So far we have 344 signatures from our REA members, but we would like to see more! A link was sent out through your FR yesterday which gives you all the information you need to know as to why you should sign on to this petition. Our goal is to have 95% of our staff sign this petition, but we are far short of that goal at this time. Statewide the goal is 50,000 signatures to help move our legislature along in the funding discussion. RPS is looking at making reductions in the next few years and this money is critical for future budgeting. Please consider using the link below to look at and sign the petition.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/protect-our-public-schools>

### **Meet and Confer**

Many items were discussed at Meet and Confer this year. Several of our meetings revolved around the school calendar, issues with all the different changes due to COVID and future issues with the continuation of on line learning. All of our meetings were virtual this year, but I am hoping to go back to in person meetings next year. I find it more difficult to read the room when I we don't have everyone in one place and I believe it stymies conversation. I want to thank Guy Simmons, Michelle Bacon and Phil Olson for representing the staff this year during such difficult times. They were strong advocates for our members and I truly appreciated all their work.

### **COVID Task Force**

Our group met on 5-13-21 to discuss the latest issues. As you know by now, the CDC has loosened the guidelines around masking. The districts in Minnesota will continue to mask because we are still under the Safe Learning Plan established earlier during the pandemic. At this time, I would expect that to continue until the end of the school year. There was lots of discussion regarding the B117 variant that is easily transmissible among our students. That is one of the prime issues with COVID issues during transportation of students. One of the takeaways from yesterday is that being outside is a good thing and less of an issue with COVID and transmission. End of the year type of events need to be well planned with administration to make sure it meets approval.

### **Member Rights Advocacy Training**

Education Minnesota is offering a chance for your local to have more people trained in Member Rights Advocacy. We do recommend that each building have at least one, if not two, trained Member Rights Advocates. These trainings will be held virtually. **Registration is due by June 4.**

**MRA I – Wednesday, June 16, 9:00 – 12:00**

**MRA II – Wednesday, June 30, 9:00 – 12:00**

**MRA III – Wednesday, July 14, 9:00 – 12:00**

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