

Greetings everyone! This is your weekly REA, but not from Dan, letter.

Emily Lynch and I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to those of you that have been flexible and patient as we've been trying to fill Dan's shoes. As you have probably heard, he has been with his family mourning the passing of his mother, Patricia Kuhlman, and supporting his father who is battling a breakthrough case of Covid. We know that Dan appreciates the kind words that he has received from many of you.

Emily and I also appreciate the Exec Board members who have answered questions for us when issues have come forward that we are unfamiliar with. One thing that stands out to Emily and me is the number of members that Dan communicates with and supports within a day, and we know that we are only hearing from a fraction of those that he normally supports.

This week at our Executive Board meeting there was a discussion about the fact that we would all like to help support more of our members all of the time. While you can of course always reach out to Dan and to Curt Rock, our new Education Minnesota Field Staff, you can often get your questions answered by others on the board as well. Let me take this opportunity to introduce us.

- Vice-President: Emily Lynch (Willow Creek) – emlynch@isd535.org
- Secretary: Carrie Sparks (Kellogg) – casparks@isd535.org
- Treasurer: Rich Jopp (Mayo) – rijopp@isd535.org
- Membership: Dan Devine (Mayo) – dadevine@isd535.org
- Governmental Relations: Simon Glaser (John Adams) - siglaser@isd535.org
- Professional Development: Jennifer Hennes (Pinewood) - jehennes@isd535.org
- Employees of Color Resource Group: Natalia Benjamin (Century) - nabenjamin@isd535.org and Malachi Johnson (Gage) – majohnson2@isd535.org
- Elementary Reps: Patrick Manansala (Elton Hills and Phoenix) pamanansala@isd535.org and Kristi Sanders (Jefferson) - krsanders@isd535.org
- Middle School Rep: Melanie Kulmeshkenova (John Adams) - mekulmeshkenova@isd535.org
- High School Rep: Steve Huesman (Mayo) - sthuesman@isd535.org
- Student Support Services Rep: Mo Willaert (Mayo) - mowillaert@isd535.org – This position represents special ed, social workers, school psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, SLPs, and nurses.
- Special Areas Rep: Cassidy Harmon (Mighty Oaks) - caharmon@isd535.org – This position represents early childhood special ed, early childhood family ed, adult basic ed, ALC, Middle School Right Fit, Phoenix Academy, and Rochester Online.

As we head into MEA week, remember that there are many in-person and virtual sessions that will earn you re-licensure CEUs from Education Minnesota on Thursday, October 21st. Education Minnesota also has many asynchronous offerings through MEA Online. Both in-person and virtual sessions require pre-registration. You can find more information on both programs by going to www.educationminnesota.org.

Finally, we want you to know that we appreciate how hard all of you are working to meet the needs of all of our students, whether they are sitting in the room in front of you, watching you on screen, or some combination of both. We appreciate all that you do every day. We are honored to be able to

share your stories with administration, school board members, and people from the community. Please do what you can to take care of yourselves and each other over the next week and continue to reach out to me and to Emily, or any of the Exec Board members, with your questions and concerns as Dan continues to spend time with his family as needed.

Thank you,
Carrie Sparks, REA Secretary
Emily Lynch, REA Vice-President