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Update No. 43

Education Minnesota Pension Advocacy Network

We invite all Education Minnesota members who are interested in educator pension advocacy to join our [Facebook group](#). This is a place where members can connect, chat with the Pension Advisory Group, have productive conversations about pension solutions, and have staff answer questions. The Pension Advisory Group will also be sharing meeting notes, asking questions, giving updates and promoting upcoming events in this Facebook group.

Pension Advisory Group

The new member-led Pension Advisory Group had a great first meeting last week for an hour and a half on Zoom. The group reviewed its charge and purpose, discussed the work and recommendations from the 2022 task force, and laid groundwork for a common understanding of where we are now.

ZONE	NAME	LOCAL
1	Brian Cole	Moorhead
1	Doyle Turner	Bemidji
2	Bridget Peterson	Esko
2	Michael Sievert	Nashwauk-Keewatin
3	David Leom	Milaca
3	Jenn Roos	Fergus Falls
4	Andrea Sitzmann	Jackson County Central
4	Brenda Kellen	Marshall
5	Scott Lyke	Rochester
5	Craig Brenden	Waseca

6	Joseph Wollersheim	DCUE
6	Heidi Simons	Bloomington
7	Todd Richter	Roseville
7	Kim Hannan	OSSEO
8	Dan Foss	Anoka Hennepin
8	Elizabeth Keeling	Anoka Hennepin
Gov Brd	Ryan Fiereck, Chair	St. Francis
Gov Brd	Lisa Olson, Vice Chair	Elk River
Gov Brd	Marty Fridgen	South Washington County
Retired	Jeannie Brown-Kruesel	Faribault, EdMN Retired
Retired	David Esposito	Robbinsdale, EdMN Retired
Officer	Monica Byron	EdMN Vice President
Officer	Rodney Rowe	EdMN Secretary-Treasurer

You can find notes from the group's July 28 meeting [here](#).

The group's next meeting is Thursday, Aug. 10. This meeting will be longer and in-person. An agenda will be shared on the EdMN Facebook group beforehand, and minutes will be shared after.

Group members and staff can be contacted at pensions@edmn.org.

Resources

Review Education Minnesota's previous Pension Advocacy Plan [here](#).

Confused about what passed during the 2023 legislative session? Review all legislative educator pension changes [here](#).

TRA Board meeting

The Teachers Retirement Association Board will hold a public meeting on Aug. 16 starting at 9:30 a.m. at their office, 60 Empire Drive, St. Paul. This will be the first official meeting for new TRA board members Dave Rondstvedt and Kathy Oellerich, who are both EdMN members and Tier 2 teachers.

Those who manage educator pension plans, board members and staff, are key players on the road to pension plan improvements and flexibility. TRA members should do their best to attend these meetings, for updates and insight, and can share their thoughts, questions and experiences with the board during the public comment portion.

Attend the meeting in person if possible, or virtually if not. Virtual registration will be available on the TRA website a few days prior to the meeting.

Invite your colleagues and share our [Facebook event](#).

Calling St. Paul educators

Legislative town halls are a great way for educators to speak up on issues that matter to them, including fair pensions.

Do you live in the St. Paul Senate District 64? Do you want to advocate for pension reform and public education? Please attend the town hall at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8 to share your thoughts with Rep. Dave Pinto, Sen. Erin Murphy, and Rep. Kaohly Her (Chair of the Pension Commission).

Find out if you live in the district [here](#).

RSVP for the town hall and submit questions in advance [here](#).

Talk to your colleagues!

Now that you've joined the EdMN Facebook group to learn about pensions, take the next step by talking with union activists, leaders and the teachers next door to discuss what steps your local union can take to make pension reform action a priority. You can ask things such as, "[Who in our local will be the lead for pension work?](#)" "[How can our local support pension actions?](#)" "[How can I be the leader in the local around pension reform actions?](#)" It will take all of us to get this work done!

If you've missed any past updates, they're [available on our website](#).

If you have any questions, please email pensions@edmn.org.

Keep organizing, sharing and talking to your colleagues about our plan. [Sign up and forward this Education Minnesota Pension Updates signup today or use the QR code below!](#)

