

Two or more versions of the documentation of this joint meeting are included in this file.

APPOINTMENT LETTER FOR SENATE CONFIRMATION

FILE NUMBER 011

REPORTED IN THE SENATE JOURNAL 1/4/2005

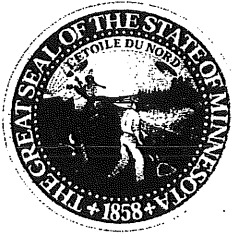
APPOINTMENT AS THE **Commissioner of the Department of Education**

APPOINTEE AND TERM:

Alice Seagren

9/1/2004-1/1/2007

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON **Education**



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

July 20, 2004

The Honorable James P. Metzen
President of the Senate
322 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Metzen:

The following appointment is hereby respectfully submitted to the Senate for confirmation as required by law:

Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education

Alice Seagren, 9730 Palmer Circle, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437, in the county of Hennepin, effective September 1, 2004, for a term that expires on January 1, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

TP/jb

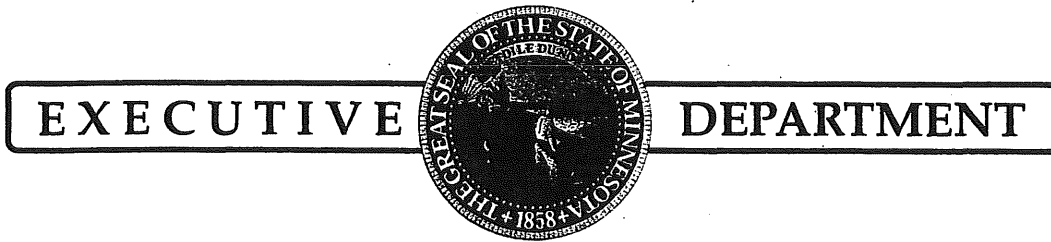
Enclosures

RECEIVED

JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate

STATE of MINNESOTA



TIM PAWLENTY
GOVERNOR

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

ALICE SEAGREN

9730 Palmer Circle
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437
County of Hennepin
Congressional District Three

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the said office of:

Commissioner

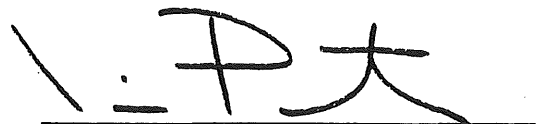
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Effective: September, 1 2004
Term Expires: January 1, 2007

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, July 20, 2004.




Governor


Secretary of State

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Replacing: Cheri Pierson Yecke

ALICE M. SEAGREN

• Current Legislative Responsibilities •

K-12 Education Finance Committee - Chair (1999 - Present)
Education Policy Committee
Ways & Means Committee
Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee
Minnesota Legislative Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee
Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy
National Council of State Legislatures Education Committee (July 1999 -
December 2002)
Chair, Education Committee, NCSL Assembly of State Issues (2002)
Vice-Chair, Education Committee, NCSL, Assembly of State Issues (July
1999 -December 2001)
National Council of State Legislatures, Task Force on School Leadership

• Past Legislative Responsibilities •

K-12 Education Finance Division Committee
Education Facilities Subcommittee
Subcommittee on Teacher Preparation
Education Policy Committee
Co-chair Education Reform Task Force
Vocational High School Planning Committee
Planning and Transition Subcommittee
Quality Initiatives Subcommittee
Housing Committee
School Funding and Property Tax Reform Task Force
Joint House/Senate Working Group on Property Tax Reform
Republican Task Force on Welfare Reform
Government Operations and Gambling Committee
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Ethics Committee
Republican Task Force on Student Achievement/Integration
Governor's Commission for Early Childhood Intervention
Judiciary Committee
Judiciary Civil Law Subcommittee
Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders in Corrections
Judicial and Legislative Branches Liaison Working Group

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JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate

• Awards •

ARC Minnesota, "Legislator of the Year" 1994
Minnesota Career & Technical Administrators, 2000
College Board, Education Excellence Award, August 14, 2001
Association of Metropolitan School Districts, "Legislator of the Year",
September, 2001
Minnesota Deaf Community's "Legislator of the Year" 2001
Association of Metropolitan School Districts' "Friend of Public Education" 2001
Region III, Association for Career and Technical Education "Award of Merit"
2000-2001
Minnesota Association of Agriculture Education – "Bellringer" Award 2002
Minnesota Association of Charter Schools "Friend of Charter Schools" 2002

• Legislation Highlights •

Legislation establishing Residential Academies for at risk children.
Legislation establishing educational services for children birth to 3 years of age.
Charter School legislation to advance educational choices for parents.
"Safe Haven for Newborns Act"
Legislation to fund battered women's shelter in Bloomington.
Bonding money for Science and Education wings at Normandale Community
College, Bloomington
Legislation establishing teacher "pay for performance" pilot program

• Current Civic Activities •

Member, Normandale Community College Foundation Board
Member, Wells Fargo Bank Community Board
Member, Edina Chamber of Commerce
Member, Bloomington Baptist Church
Corporate Member, Fraser Community Services

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JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate

• Past Leadership •

Member, Center of the American Experiment Workforce & Human Rights Task Force

Director, Bloomington School Board

Director, Hennepin Technical College/Special Education District 287

Board Member, Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Delegate, Minnesota School Board Association

Chairperson, Special Education Community Advisory Committee

Member, Disability Services Advisory Board

Task Forces:

Graduation Requirements

Alternative Scheduling

Weighted Grades

Facility Use

Advocacy:

Member, Gifted and Talented Council

Member, Bloomington Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities

• Past Community Leadership •

Director, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, 1991-1992

Leadership Bloomington Graduate, 1989

Leadership Bloomington Program

Committee Member, Urban Hope Board

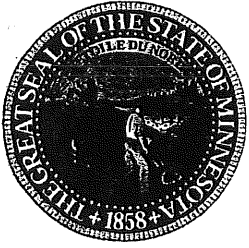
Member, House Nezerka & Froelich CPA Advisory Board

Member, BCAV (Bloomington Coalition Against Violence)

RECEIVED

JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR TIM PAWLENTY
130 State Capitol ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155 ♦ (651) 296-0001

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 20, 2004

Contact: Daniel Wolter
(651) 296-0001

GOVERNOR PAWLENTY NAMES ALICE SEAGREN COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Saint Paul – Governor Tim Pawlenty today named State Representative Alice Seagren as the new commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. Seagren, currently the Chair of the Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Education Finance, has served as a legislator since 1992. The Governor said Representative Seagren has the experience and vision to continue to focus the Department of Education on its core mission of increasing student achievement, while still working towards innovation and reform.

“We have made great strides in the last year and a half towards improving Minnesota schools and instituting more accountability measures,” said Governor Pawlenty. “Alice Seagren will continue the work of Cheri Pierson Yecke in moving toward the goal of making our state a leader in improved student achievement. She has been a key legislative ally and will help this Administration move forward in implementing more education innovations and reforms.”

As a legislator, Seagren worked on a variety of education-related reforms. Some of her biggest legislative accomplishments include providing more alternative compensation opportunities for Minnesota teachers; collaborating with other legislators and education stakeholders to develop Minnesota’s Academic Standards; serving on the No Child Left Behind Stakeholders group that developed Minnesota’s plan; working to establish Residential Academies for at risk children; working towards a more value-added testing system as a measure of student achievement; and promoting and enhancing the opportunities for charter schools in Minnesota. She is also noted for her extensive work on special education issues.

The Governor noted that in addition to her legislative work, Seagren currently serves as a member of a variety of civic organizations, including the Normandale Community College Foundation Board, the Wells Fargo Bank Community Board, Edina Chamber of Commerce, Bloomington Baptist Church, and as a Corporate Board Member for Fraser Community Services. She is also involved in the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) Education Committee, and has received a number of awards from various organizations for her legislative accomplishments.

RECEIVED

--more--

JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate

“Minnesota has gone through a period of change and transition in education, due to the federal No Child Left Behind Act and the new Minnesota Academic Standards,” said Seagren. “I look forward to working with Governor Pawlenty to continue to make Minnesota a leader in education.”

The Minnesota Department of Education assists schools, families and other education providers with services that result in high academic achievement for all students, pre-kindergarten to grade 12, and adult learners. The department mission seeks to improve educational achievement, enhance teacher quality and provide more opportunities and choices for parents and students. The Department has an annual budget that includes over \$6 billion in state K-12 and early childhood funding. In addition to state and local funding, the agency administers over \$700 million in federal funds.

Seagren, 57, was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business/Marketing from Southeast Missouri State University. She and her husband, Fred, live in Bloomington, Minnesota. They have two children and two grandchildren, with another one on the way.

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JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate

ALICE M. SEAGREN

• Current Legislative Responsibilities •

K-12 Education Finance Committee - Chair (1999 - Present)
Education Policy Committee
Ways & Means Committee
Transportation Policy Committee
Minnesota Legislative Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee
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1999 -December 2001)
National Council of State Legislatures, Task Force on School Leadership

• Past Legislative Responsibilities •

K-12 Education Finance Division Committee
Education Facilities Subcommittee
Subcommittee on Teacher Preparation
Education Policy Committee
Co-chair Education Reform Task Force
Vocational High School Planning Committee
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Quality Initiatives Subcommittee
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Republican Task Force on Student Achievement/Integration
Governor's Commission for Early Childhood Intervention
Judiciary Committee
Judiciary Civil Law Subcommittee
Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders in Corrections
Judicial and Legislative Branches Liaison Working Group

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JUL 23 2001

President of the Senate

• Awards •

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Charter School legislation to advance educational choices for parents.
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Member, Bloomington Baptist Church
Corporate Member, Fraser Community Services

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JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate

• **Past Leadership** •

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Director, Bloomington School Board

Director, Hennepin Technical College/Special Education District 287

Board Member, Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Delegate, Minnesota School Board Association

Chairperson, Special Education Community Advisory Committee

Member, Disability Services Advisory Board

Task Forces:

Graduation Requirements

Alternative Scheduling

Weighted Grades

Facility Use

Advocacy:

Member, Gifted and Talented Council

Member, Bloomington Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities

• **Past Community Leadership** •

Director, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, 1991-1992

Leadership Bloomington Graduate, 1989

Leadership Bloomington Program

Committee Member, Urban Hope Board

Member, House Nezerka & Froelich CPA Advisory Board

Member, BCAV (Bloomington Coalition Against Violence)

Public Official Information

Department of Education

Name: Seagren, Alice
Occupation: Commissioner
Business Address: 1500 Hwy 36 W
Roseville, MN 55113
Employer Name: Minn Dept of Education
Appointment Date: 09/01/04

Sources of Compensation

Applicable categories

Name of Source	Director	Officer	Owner	Member	Partner	Employer	Employee	Honorarium
Wells Fargo Community Bank Board								X

Securities

Name of Securities

AIM European Growth Fund
Applied Materials, Inc
Cisco Systems Inc
Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund
Fidelity Diversified International Fund
Fidelity VIP Contrafund
Fidelity VIP Equity Income
Fidelity VIP Index 500
Medco Health Solutions
Merck & Co
Oracle Corp
T Rowe Price Equity Income
T Rowe Price Small-cap Stock Fund
Vanguard GNMA Fund
Vanguard Institutional Index Fund Plus
Vanguard Windsor Fund

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DEC 06 2004

President of the Senate

Real Property

None Reported

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing Interests

None Reported



LINKS	
<u>Current Agency</u>	<u>Agency Index</u>
<u>Current Public Official</u>	<u>Public Official Index</u>
<u>Campaign Finance Home Page</u>	

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DEC 06 2004

President of the Senate

ALICE M. SEAGREN

9730 Palmer Circle • Bloomington MN 55437 • 952/835-6721

CURRENT EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

- United States Department of Education Regional Advisory Committee Member
- Education Commission of the States Commissioner, Minnesota Delegation
- Council of Chief State School Officers, NCLB Task Force Member

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

- Education Finance Committee – Chair (1999-2004)
- Education Policy Committee
- Ways & Means Committee
- Transportation Policy Committee
- Minnesota Legislative Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee
- Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy
- National Council of State Legislatures Education Committee (July 1999-December 2002)
 - °Chair, Education Committee, NCSL Assembly of State Issues (2002)
 - °Vice-Chair, Education Committee, NCSL, Assembly of State Issues (July 1999-December 2001)
 - °National Council of State Legislatures, Task Force on School Leadership

PAST LEGISLATIVE DUTIES & EXPERIENCE

- K-12 Education Finance Division Committee
- Education Facilities Subcommittee
- Subcommittee on Teacher Preparation
- Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee
- Co-chair Education Reform Task Force
- Vocational High School Planning Committee
- Planning and Transition Subcommittee
- Quality Initiatives Subcommittee
- Housing Committee
- School Funding and Property Tax Reform Task Force
- Joint House/Senate Working Group on Property Tax Reform
- Republican Task Force on Welfare Reform
- Government Operations and Gambling Committee
- General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Ethics Committee
- Republic Task Force on Student Achievement/Integration
- Governor's Commission for Early Childhood Intervention
- Judiciary Committee
- Judiciary Civil Law Subcommittee
- Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders in Corrections
- Judicial and Legislative Branches Liaison Working Group

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Legislation establishing Residential Academies for at-risk children
- Legislation establishing educational services for children from birth to 3 years of age
- Charter School legislation to advance educational choices for parents
- "Safe Haven for Newborns Act"
- Legislation to fund battered women's shelter in Bloomington
- Bonding money for Science and Education wings at Normandale Community College, Bloomington
- Legislation establishing teacher "pay for performance" pilot program

AWARDS

- ARC Minnesota, "Legislator of the Year" 1994
- Minnesota Career & Technical Administrators, 2000
- College Board, Education Excellence Awards, August 14, 2001
- Association of Metropolitan School Districts, "Legislator of the Year" September 2001
- Minnesota Deaf Community's "Legislator of the Year" 2001
- Association of Metropolitan School Districts' "Friend of Public Education" 2001
- Region III, Association for Career and Technical Education "Award of Merit" 2000-2001
- Minnesota Association of Agriculture Education "Bellringer" Award 2002
- Minnesota Association of Charter Schools "Friend of Charter Schools" 2002

PREVIOUS LEADERSHIP ROLES

- Member, Center of the American Experiment Workforce & Human Rights Task Force
- Director, Bloomington Board of Education
- Director, Hennepin Technical College/Special Education District 287
- Board Member, Association of Metropolitan School Districts
- Delegate, Minnesota School Board Association
- Chairperson, Special Education Community Advisory Committee
- Member, Disability Services Advisory Board
- Task Forces & Advocacy:
 - Graduation Requirements
 - Alternative Scheduling
 - Weighted Grades
 - Facility Use
 - Member, Gifted & Talented Council
 - Member, Bloomington Association for Children & Adults with Learning Disabilities

CURRENT CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Normandale Community College Foundation Board
- Member, Wells Fargo Bank Community Board
- Member, Edina Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Bloomington Baptist Church
- Member, Urban Hope Board
- Director, Fraser Community Services

PAST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Director, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, 1991-1992
- Leadership Bloomington Graduate, 1989
- Leadership Bloomington Program Committee
- Member, House Nezerka & Froelich CPA Advisory Board
- Member, BCAV (Bloomington Coalition Against Violence)

PERSONAL HISTORY

- Birth date: July 6, 1947
- Bachelor of Science Degree, Southeast Missouri State University – Business/Marketing
- Married to Fred Seagren; children: Christina and Greg; grandchildren: Jordan Abigail & Caleb

THEODORE S. BLAESING
Superintendent of Schools

4855 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-2731
(651) 407-7562 • Fax (651) 407-7566

December 28, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
Education Policy Committee
205 Capitol Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley and Members of the Education Policy Committee:

It is an honor to write this letter supporting the confirmation of Alice Seagren to the position of Commissioner of Education. Alice Seagren is a person who understands the complexity of education and in particular the complexity of education within the State of Minnesota. Her experience as a school board member and as a leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives gives her a unique perspective and understanding of schools and school districts.

Nothing is more complex than our funding formula for our schools and she understands Minnesota School Finance. Nothing is more daunting than the task of attempting to understand and implement the federal government's mandates within the No Child Left Behind Act but she understands not just the intent, but the nuances buried within the Act. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing a young person blossom and grow from education and Alice Seagren not only understands this, but has a deep appreciation for the impact of quality public schools on a young person's life.

In my 17 years as a Superintendent I have never witnessed a Commissioner reach out to those of us in the field with the determination and passion that Commissioner Seagren has within these past few months. As President-Elect of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), I've had the opportunity to observe Commissioner Seagren at numerous meetings with members of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. She is genuinely listening and engaging the superintendents of our state in meaningful conversation about how to implement NCLB, how to create and encourage innovation, in short how to create a better learning experience for each young person.

It would be an honor for this veteran superintendent to work with Alice Seagren as our Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely yours,



Theodore S. Blaesing, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Linda Distad, President
lsdistad@stkaate.edu 651.690.6798

Laura Von Holtum, Executive Assistant
lauravh@somtel.net 715.497.6754

January 6, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
75 Martin Luther King Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

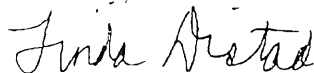
Dear Senator Kelley:

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) would like to express support for the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education.

Over the last few months, representatives from MACTE have had numerous opportunities to interact with Commissioner Seagren and we have found her to be open to dialogue and knowledgeable about the issues. With Alice Seagren's leadership, MACTE is hopeful that we can collaborate with the Department of Education to address Minnesota's greatest educational issues—namely, the challenge of retaining and supporting outstanding teachers for high need areas and closing the educational achievement gap between Minnesota's white and minority students.

A speedy confirmation of Alice Seagren as Education Commissioner would allow all of us to proceed with the important work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,



Linda Distad, EdD.
President



Educational Service Center
11299 Hanson Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55433
(763) 506-1000
(763) 506-1003 FAX
(763) 506-1180 TTY

Dr. Roger Giroux, Superintendent

January 5, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

I thank you for your leadership on behalf of Minnesota's public schools and our school children. I thank you, as well, for your articulation of the important issues faced by education.

It isn't often that I personally enter into a letter of support for a policy issue that clearly is within the domain of state government. I respect and support the work of our legislators, especially those who serve on the education committees. Nevertheless, this is a challenging time for our public schools and I believe that time itself is an issue.

The Governor has nominated Alice Seagren to the position of Commissioner of Education and I am writing to express my personal support for a timely confirmation of Commissioner Seagren. I believe the Commissioner brings important skills and experiences to the role when those skills are most needed. She has worked with local districts, school boards and parents. She has extraordinary legislative experience that facilitates resolution of issues.

I haven't agreed with all the positions of the administration for our schools and children. I suspect that I'll take exception to many positions in the future. Nevertheless, I believe that Commissioner Seagren is a listener with the necessary competencies to assist in the building of consensus.

The issues are great and time is limited. I've been an educator in Minnesota for thirty-four years and we are at a critical point in the development of our public schools. I submit this letter as a point of personal testimony and not school board policy. It is written in support of Commissioner Seagren, in support of you Senator Kelly and in support of the House and Senate members from both parties working in the best interests of the students in the State of Minnesota. I urge confirmation and a timely move to the program and finance issues that must be addressed in this session.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger M. Giroux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger M. Giroux
Superintendent

RMG:pjg

**Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights**

8161 Normandale Boulevard • Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044

(952) 838-9000 Voice • (952) 838-0190 TTY • (800) 53-PACER Toll-free

Web site: www.pacer.org • Fax: (952) 838-0199 • E-mail: pacer@pacer.org*An information and training center for families of children and youth with disabilities*

January 10, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Chair
Education Committee
205 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN. 55155-1606

Dear Chairman Kelley,
RE: Confirmation of Alice Seagren

As you know, PACER Center is a statewide parent training and information center. PACER provides a variety of services to families who have children with all disabilities who receive special education. These services include individual assistance, workshops, publications, disability awareness presentations, training on the use of assistive technology, and technical assistance to schools and other organizations. Over 53,000 families and education professionals use PACER's services annually, while over 95,000 receive our publications and over 900,000 visit our web sites.

On behalf of PACER Center, we are pleased to strongly support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. For many years, we have worked with Commissioner Seagren on several policy issues affecting children with disabilities.

Commissioner Seagren has always shown a great deal of respect for families who have children and young adults with disabilities and the organizations that assist them. She has been willing to listen to our suggestions to improve outcomes as well as our concerns. She has consistently been fair, approachable and honest in our efforts to pass or change public policies. At the same time, she has encouraged us to work in collaboration with other education stakeholders to ensure that a balanced approach to problem solving was used.

Commissioner Seagren possesses the essential characteristics to be successful in this position. She has a genuine concern about children and their long-term success; she is inclusive to organizations representing various perspectives; she understands how local school districts operate and the challenges they face; she possesses excellent human relations skills; she appreciates the efforts of teachers and other educators; she understands the importance of family involvement; she works in a bipartisan manner; and she believes in accountability to children, families, taxpayers and policy makers. All of these qualities are important for an Education Commissioner to provide the leadership needed by individual school districts, families and the department in addressing the challenges faced by our education system.

Alice Seagren is a person of integrity. We respect her and we positively encourage you to confirm her. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paula Goldberg
Executive Director

Bob Brick
Public Policy Director



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A World of Opportunities

Independent School District 625

360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

Office Of The Superintendent

Patricia A. Harvey, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Telephone: (651) 767-8150 • Fax: (651) 290-8331 • www.spps.org

January 7, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
321 Capitol Building
Saint Paul, Mn 55155

Re: Commissioner Alice Seagren

Dear Senator Kelley:

I am writing to add my voice to the many I am sure you have heard in recent days encouraging you and your colleagues to confirm Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education. In over 35 years of work in public education, I have encountered few public officials who care as much about schools and understand them as well as Commissioner Seagren does. If I had to capture in a few words the reasons that I believe she is the right leader for our state education agency at this point in time, I would offer the following:

Principled: As you know, Commissioner Seagren's involvement in school improvement and reform began as a concerned parent, and it remains rooted in a commitment to improving the educational experiences of every Minnesota student. That commitment enables her to bring people together across partisan, ideological and organizational lines to do what is right for kids.

Smart: Although Commissioner Seagren is not an educator herself, she has a deep understanding of the critical issues facing Minnesota's schools today. Whether the issue is school funding, No Child Left Behind or value added assessment, she studies and masters the details without losing the big picture.

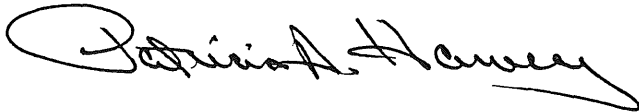
Collaborative: During her first months as Commissioner of Education, Commissioner Seagren has reached out to members of our diverse educational community in Saint Paul, asking for their ideas on the future of public education in our city and our state. Although Commissioner Seagren is not afraid to make a tough decision that will produce disagreement, her first impulse is to bring people together to forge and implement a shared vision. Minnesota schools need that type of leadership today.

Honest: Commissioner Seagren is able to articulate extremely difficult issues in ways that do not alienate or offend those who disagree with her. She tells it like it is, but does so in ways that do not vilify or mischaracterize opposing individuals or opinions.

Empathetic: Time and again on her visits to Saint Paul schools, Commissioner Seagren has demonstrated an extraordinary capacity to understand the challenges that many of our students face. At the same time, however, she has refused to see those students' backgrounds and current life situations as insurmountable obstacles. She knows that with support, those students and their schools can achieve great things.

I have no doubt that, if confirmed, Commissioner Seagren will use these and other formidable skills to create state policies, systems and expectations that will reinforce and help sustain the progress we are making in the Saint Paul Public Schools. I hope that you and your colleagues will give her the opportunity to provide the principled, smart, collaborative, honest and empathetic leadership that Minnesota education needs today. If I can provide you with more specific information on any of the many opportunities I have had to work with Commissioner Seagren over the past six years, I am eager to do so. In the meantime, thank you for this opportunity to support an extraordinary Minnesotan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia A. Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patricia A. Harvey

cc: Governor Tim Pawlenty
✓ Commissioner Alice Seagren



Minnesota Community Education Association

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING

January 5, 2005

Senator Steve Kelly
205 Capitol Building
St. Paul MN 55155

Senator Kelly & Senate Education Members:

This is a letter of support from the Minnesota Community Education Association endorsing Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. The Minnesota Community Education Association is a professional organization representing over 1,300 professionals, advisory council members, and volunteers who work or volunteer in Community Education programs across the state of Minnesota.

Ms. Seagren has a long history of involvement with education and Community Education programs and services as a parent, a school board member, and as a legislator. Her involvement with community educators and our association has been very positive. She was recognized by my peers for having a thorough understanding of Community Education programming in her role as a school board member and legislator. She also understands and has supported the role of Community Education in improved student achievement, and how communities are improved when residents learn to help themselves by engaging in life long learning opportunities.

As is the case with any legislator, we have not always agreed on all issues. Ms. Seagren has always taken time to meet, to listen, and fully understand issues before she takes a position. In instances where she has taken an opposing position, she did it with respect for and dignity of the person with the opposing point of view. I think this quality will serve her well as she tackles the many challenges confronting education in Minnesota today.

I would like to conclude by saying Ms Seagren's ability to bring people together is an attribute critical to being successful in this position. As an example of this skill, I would credit you and Representative Seagren for your ability to put partisanship aside and accomplish a difficult task in an environment where working together was not the norm. In last year's legislative session, the two of you were the primary reason a very difficult new standards package was developed and approved.

As president, and on behalf of the Minnesota Community Education Association, I believe Ms. Seagren will bring a thoughtful and common sense approach to her leadership in education. As the new Commissioner of Education, she will help continue the long tradition of Minnesota as a leader in the nation for providing educational opportunities for learners of all ages.

Sincerely,

Tom Holton, President
Minnesota Community Education Association

Copy: Ms. Alice Seagren

MCEA Executive Office
13750 Lake Blvd.
Lindstrom, MN 55045
Telephone: 651-257-0752
FAX: 651-213-2094
www.mn-mcea.org



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January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelly
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable Kelly and members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

I am pleased to write a letter supporting Alice Seagren for the position of Commissioner of Education in Minnesota.

We have experienced a tumultuous few years in the state regarding education policy and politics. I believe Alice Seagren has the background of experience and the wisdom to build support for public education in Minnesota and to garner the respect and collaboration necessary from school district administrators.

Alice Seagren has been a thoughtful, responsive and respected legislator for many years. While she has not been able to implement all of the legislation she proposed, she has shown she does understand the critical issues related to providing quality educational services in Minnesota.

Your committee's endorsement of Alice Seagren would be a welcomed step in assisting the state of Minnesota and the school districts to fulfill the promise of a quality education for all children.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Johns
Superintendent, ISD #286

CC: Alice Seagren

HOPKINS
SCHOOL
DISTRICT



EDUCATION SERVICES CENTER
1001 HIGHWAY 7
HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55305-4723

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Michael L. Kramer, Ph.D.
Superintendent
952.988.4021 952.988.4092 (fax)
michael_kramer@hopkins.k12.mn.us

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	01/03/05	# of pages	2
To	Alice Seagren	From	Mike Kramer		
Co./Dept.	Commissioner	Co.	Hopkins School District		
Phone #		Phone #	952.988.4022		
Fax #	651.582.8124	Fax #			

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Chair — K-12 Education Committee
205 State Capitol
75 Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Steve,

Throughout the past 12 years as Superintendent in the Hopkins School District, I have had the sincere privilege of working with Alice Seagren in both her position as a member of the House of Representatives, and now as Commissioner. Alice is a very intelligent with a pleasant personality and a highly developed sense of organization and logic. Her capacity for leadership is exceptionally strong by virtue of her creative thinking and application of the principles surrounding good human relationships. Her ability to recognize or anticipate a problem, evaluate it, and decide on a correct course of action is in striking contrast to that of the average leader today. She also recognizes that as the designated leader, she will be held accountable for her own actions, as well as those of her subordinates.

I have found Alice to be an excellent student; her perception and knowledge surrounding the field of education results in mastership of the situation. In fulfilling her role as a leader in the House of Representatives, Alice focused on education issues and demonstrated an astute ability to identify staff and programs to support; an interest in ensuring prompt delivery of quality services to students, teachers, and parents; and most importantly, a willingness to follow-up on those efforts. Alice continues to be one of the most effective users of a decision-making process I refer to as, 'collaborative consultation' (i.e., she seeks input from all parties impacted by decision before identifying a game plan). This leadership style serves her extremely well in her newest role as Commissioner of Education.

Courage is the intangible leadership quality of which greatness is made. Alice exhibits her unique style of courage in many ways, including:

- ✓ Being able to say, "no;"
- ✓ Taking positions on important issues;
- ✓ Responding to defeat by trying even harder;
- ✓ Facing conflict openly and head-on;
- ✓ Bearing ones' burdens; and
- ✓ Adapting to change

Senator Steve Kelley
January 3, 2005
Page two

From where I stand, Alice consistently displays her courage when tackling the important and difficult educational agenda in her role as a member of the House of Representative over the last 10+ years.

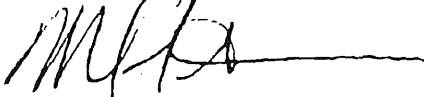
Loyalty from those with whom you work is priceless. Alice garners the loyalty of those with whom she has worked by displaying an interest in and caring for each individual through her words and actions. In essence, people firmly believe that she is devoted to the good of all, and does everything in her power to help each succeed, both as individuals and collectively. Her high performance as a leader is also characterized by exceptional determination in the pursuit of goals and objectives — she dislikes easing up until she succeeds. Alice has constantly found herself in the zone of distinction due to the fact that she insists on excellence, and in so doing, receives it from those around her.

Personally, Alice is dependable, enthusiastic, ambitious, gregarious, tolerant, and sensitive to the point that those associated with her turn to her freely for guidance. She is very capable of self-evaluation and has the security to be very open to suggestions. All with whom she comes in contact recognize her charisma and leadership abilities. In addition, I have found her to be an articulate presenter of information.

In closing, I would add that Alice lives by the highest standards of honesty and integrity. It is one thing to talk about honesty and integrity, and it is quite another to live your life that way. She understands that without integrity, you do not have trust; without trust, you have nothing. Accordingly, those around her develop a sense of pride and accomplishment that surfaces from striving for and achieving high levels of performance. Most sincerely, I believe people want to be a part of her winning team.

Alice is, without question, well prepared and positioned to assume the position of Commissioner of Education in the State of Minnesota. In fact, I believe she will leave a legacy marked by a successful tenure unmatched by predecessors over the last fifty years. On that basis, I would strongly recommend her for the position.

Most sincerely



Michael L. Kremer, Ph.D.
Superintendent

MLK/rsm

c: Alice Seagren
District 270 Board of Education



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John Lobben, Ph.D.
Superintendent

District Service Center
1820 Xenium Lane North
Plymouth, MN
55441-3790

TEL: 763.550.7100

FAX: 763.550.7299

e-mail: jellobben@int287.k12.mn.us

mn.us

www.int287.k12.mn.us

The district is an equal opportunity
educator and employer

January 6, 2005

The Honorable Steve Kelley
Minnesota Senate
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Reference: Confirmation of Alice Seagren

Dear Senator Kelley & Senate Education Committee Members:

It is my sincere pleasure to recommend that Alice Seagren be confirmed as the Commissioner of Education. I've known and worked closely with Alice for several years. While a member of the Bloomington School Board, Alice served as their representative on our Intermediate District School Board. She always demonstrated tremendous commitment to public education, especially for students with unique needs and talents.

Once elected to the legislature, the three Intermediates continued to work closely with Alice. She was always willing to listen, openly explore alternative ideas and advocate for populations that were often ignored. Her interpersonal skills are well known as is her ability to willingly address often complex and innovative topics. I know that peers throughout the state regard her very highly and feel that she is always fair, open and yet also decisive.

Minnesota public education needs Alice Seagren. She is trusted and respected. The field believes in her and is willing to work with her as necessary reforms and innovations are pursued. We need a person such as her at this critical time to provide the necessary focus and constructive approach that is required to address the important issues facing Minnesota public education.

Sincerely,

(signed)

John Lobben, Ph.D.

JL:sa



January 6, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Room 205, State Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

On behalf of Schools for Equity in Education, I am both pleased and honored to provide this letter of support for Commissioner-designee Alice Seagren as the Senate Education Committee considers her appointment as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Alice Seagren has a comprehensive set of experiences that qualifies her to be an outstanding Commissioner of Education. In each of her six terms in the Minnesota Legislature, she served on the House Education Finance and Education Committees. I believe the hallmark of her legislative service on these committees was her hard work across a broad range of education issues and her consistent desire to play a positive role in meeting the needs of students throughout Minnesota.

Prior to her legislative experience, she was a member of the Bloomington School Board and a parent with schoolchildren in that district. Through these experiences, she has developed a tremendous ability to understand education policy from a variety of perspectives and that quality befits the person chosen to serve as Minnesota's chief educational officer.

Our organization worked very closely with Commissioner-designee Seagren for the past six years when she served as the Chair of the House Education Finance Committee. In that capacity, she exhibited both the willingness and ability to fully understand the issues that were of greatest importance to Schools for Equity in Education and how the policies we advocated affected school districts throughout Minnesota. In my estimation, it is her view that all of the state's school districts, and by extension the students in these districts, should benefit from policies developed at the state level and her actions have been consistent with that belief.

Perhaps most importantly, Commissioner-designee Seagren has exhibited both the desire and ability to build a consensus in developing solutions to a number of complex education issues throughout her career as both a school board member and legislator. She is both open-minded and pragmatic in her approach to decision-making. These qualities and abilities should prove extremely valuable in an environment that has unfortunately, in some instances, become increasingly contentious.

I believe that Alice Seagren would serve with distinction as Minnesota's next Commissioner of Education and urge the Senate Education Committee and the full Senate to confirm her appointment.

Sincerely,

Brad Lundell
Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education

Leadership Conference January 13 & 14, 2005

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December 30, 2004

Members of the Minnesota Senate:

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), whose membership includes all Minnesota public school board members and superintendents of schools, requests your support for the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education.

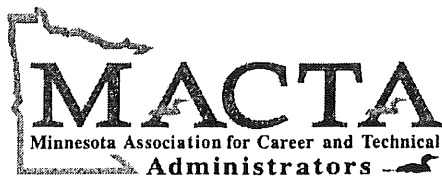
Commissioner Designee Seagren has served on a school board, provided education finance leadership to the House of Representatives as the Chairperson of the Education Finance Committee, and is recognized across the state as a spokesperson for excellent education opportunities for all children.

One of many talents Commissioner Designee Seagren possesses is the ability to work with all parties in finding necessary solutions. My experience with her over the years has proven to me that she is fair-minded, committed to a strong public education system, and willing to represent all children (including the gifted and talented, regular students, and special education students) with equal fervor. I believe she will be a strong voice for education within the Pawlenty Administration.

The Minnesota School Boards Association is confident that Alice Seagren will be a very capable Commissioner of Education. Therefore, we ask that you support the confirmation of Commissioner Designee Seagren.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Meeks
Executive Director
Minnesota School Boards Association



Chris Miller
President
Cambridge, MN

January 5, 2005

Murray Turner
President Elect
Red Lake Falls, MN

Dear Senate Education Committee:

Herb Lohse
Treasurer
Oakdale, MN

The Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Administrators (MACTA) strongly supports the endorsement of Alice Seagren for Commissioner of Education. MACTA represents Career and Technical Education programs in all regions of the state. Secondary Career and Technical Education provides both academic and workplace skills for over one-half of all students in grades 10-12 in Minnesota.

Inger Churchill
Secretary
Fergus Falls, MN

MACTA has worked with Alice Seagren, as chair of the House Education Committee, to ensure that Career and Technical Programs are a strong component of the secondary education system in Minnesota. Alice Seagren has always been a good listener and a fair individual when dealing with MACTA's requests for assistance in maintaining and enhancing our programs.

Tom Hoff
Membership
Marshall, MN

Dan Smith
Minnesota DOE
St. Cloud, MN

Alice Seagren has long had a strong respect for, and understanding of, the secondary education system in Minnesota. She has supported strong comprehensive schools in Minnesota including extra-curricular activities, core academics, and Career and Technical Programs.

Wendie Palazzo
MnACTE Liaison
Minneapolis, MN

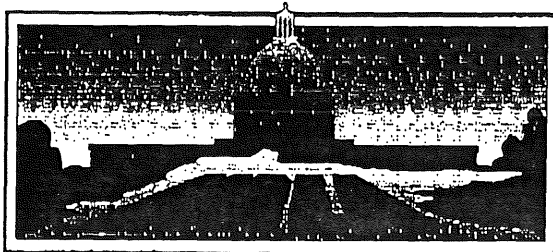
Jim Arndt
Director
Duluth, MN

Alice Seagren has the respect of the MACTA board and the organization. She has been recognized numerous times by our organization for outstanding contributions to the field of Career and Technical Education. We are confident that Alice will do an excellent job serving as Commissioner of Education and we strongly urge the Senate Education Committee to endorse Alice Seagren for this important leadership position.

Arlin Melgaard
Past President
Bemidji, MN

On Behalf of the MACTA Board, Sincerely,

Chris Miller
MACTA President 2004-05
Oak Land Vocational Center
315 7th Lane NE, Cambridge, 55008



"Making Real Education Advances"

Post. #	Date	# of pages
Fax Note		
To	<i>Commissioner's Office</i>	
Fax #	<i>651.582.872A</i>	
From	<i>J. Ness</i>	
Phone #	<i>MREA Ex-Dir. 320.528.2650</i>	

December 29, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

RE: Letter of Support for Alice Seagren

As executive director of Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) I am writing to you to inform you of MREA's support for Alice Seagren. We believe Ms. Seagren has demonstrated her concern for rural issues as a representative and would continue to do so as Commissioner of Education.

Ms. Seagren has been an advocate for telecommunication access, online learning, new pay incentives and rural teacher loan forgiveness. She has been a presence at MREA functions, most recently at our fall conference where she presented awards and also spoke well on education issues. We believe she will provide the leadership required to keep Minnesota a leader in education.

MREA recommends Alice Seagren to be the next Commissioner of Education without reservation. If I may be of further assistance please contact me.

Partners in Education,

Gerald "Jerry" Ness
MREA Executive Director

MINNESOTA RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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THANDIWE M.C. PEEBLES, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 7, 2005

Governor Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Alice Seagren, Commissioner of Education

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

I came to Minnesota just over 5 months ago to accept the awesome challenge of mending a struggling district. Establishing a strong working relationship with the State Department of Education is a critical component to my success in this task. It is rare to be met with the level of authentic heartfelt support that I received from the State Commissioner of Education.

Alice Seagren has been a consistent source of encouragement in my transition into this role. Through her ready offer of resources, time and encouragement, my ease of transition has been immeasurably improved. I offer my enthusiastic support of Alice Seagren's reappointment as Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,

Thandiwe Peebles, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Minneapolis Public Schools



December 29, 2004

Dennis L. Peterson, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Minnetonka Public Schools
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345

(952) 401-5004

(952) 401-5083 fax

dennis.peterson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

SEVING THE Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
COMMUNITIES OF: St. Paul, MN 55155

MINNETONKA Dear Senator Kelley:

CHANNASSON

DEEPHAVEN

EDEN PRAIRIE

EXCELSIOR

It is my understanding that your committee will soon be taking up the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner. This will be a very important issue for you and your committee, and I want to emphasize that leaders in the school districts throughout the state are deeply committed to your decision. As the Superintendent of one of the nation's premier school districts, I want to communicate my interest in her appointment and my commitment to you that we will support Ms. Seagren fully if she receives confirmation.

GREENWOOD

SHOREWOOD

TONKA BAY

VICTORIA

I do want to advocate for Ms. Seagren because I believe in what she stands for and what she can accomplish in a very challenging position. I have had several opportunities to work closely with her in her legislative capacity and as the Commissioner-designate, and her clear focus on the importance of education to our children and our state is impressive. She sees leadership as leading and not directing. She would be able to rally other leaders to accomplish important goals because of her vision, caring and communication skills.

WOODLAND

During my thirty-six years as a superintendent in Minnesota and other states, I have worked with several commissioners or state superintendents and have observed qualities that made them successful and, sometimes, less than successful. Ms. Seagren clearly has the potential to be an outstanding Commissioner for our state and help pull all of us together to accomplish important work. Her ability to relate to individuals of varying political persuasions has been impressive, because it is so rare anymore. That complements your own skills, and we could really become a very special state again with such leadership.

I strongly urge your committee to quickly recommend the confirmation and support that recommendation through the process. We need the clarity such actions will provide. Alice needs the full support of leaders in and outside of state government, and quick confirmation begins that process. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Peterson Ph.D.



Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools
 952.681.6402
 Fax 952.681.6406
 gprest@bloomington.k12.mn.us

Educational Services Center
 1350 West 106th Street
 Bloomington, MN 55431-4126
 www.bloomington.k12.mn.us

Senator Steve Kelly
 Minnesota State Senate
 Room 205 Capitol Bldg.
 St. Paul, MN 55155

December 29, 2004

Dear Senator Kelly:

I am very pleased to enthusiastically endorse Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. I have known Rep. Seagren for many years. I have come to appreciate her experience and many personal qualities which make her the ideal educational leader for our great State.

First and foremost, Alice Seagren cares deeply about children. As a parent and grandparent, she knows first hand the importance of a nurturing, supportive environment necessary for the good growth and development of a child. Through our many discussions, I am convinced that she thinks of each child in this State as someone's child or grandchild. Thus, she views each child as special and deserving of the best that we can provide. She also understands the critical partnership that is necessary between parents and educators for success in raising children to be caring, responsible citizens.

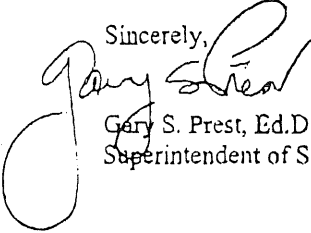
Second, she dedicated a large part of her life in service to the public good. As a school board member of the Bloomington Public Schools, she sought to create the best educational environments for students from all over the city. As representative and Chair of the Minnesota State House K-12 Finance Committee she worked tirelessly to support the best educational environments possible for students from all over the State. She is an educational leader in both challenging and less challenging periods for public education. Regardless of the circumstance, conditions, possibilities or problems, she always pursues understanding, reaches out to ensure those involved are heard, studies what is relevant, and moves forward with common sense.

Third, Alice Seagren already plays a significant leadership role in public education in Minnesota. As an ardent supporter of public education, she consistently reaches out in true Minnesotan bi-partisan fashion to reach solutions for the betterment of schools and that allowed educators do the jobs that they are hired to do. For example, we appreciated the timely work that you, Senator Kelly, and she accomplished during the last session regarding the social study standards. At a time when few were finding common ground, you and she transcended political ideologies to get an important job done well.

Fourth, she has earned the respect of the entire educational community because of her fair leadership, willingness to learn, and always respectful demeanor. In my many discussions with colleagues from across the State of Minnesota, consistently they state how pleased citizens and educators are that Alice Seagren was Governor Pawlenty's choice for Commissioner of Education. While there may be disagreement from time to time over the best course for public education to take in Minnesota, all would be in agreement that Alice Seagren's motivation will always be one that has students at its core and the public good as its basis.

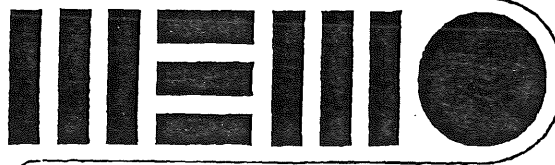
I would encourage you and your committee to recommend Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education, Department of Education, of the great State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,


 Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools, Bloomington Public Schools

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MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ORGANIZATION



*Serving school media and
information technology professionals*

3600 36th Ave. N., 207
New Hope, MN 55427
January 7, 2004

The Honorable Steve Kelley, The Minnesota State Senate
205 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

On behalf of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO), a professional organization made up of 500 library media and technology leaders, I would like to express support the confirmation of Commission Alice Seagren.

Commission Seagren has a record of working with educators to improve learning for all Minnesota students. She understands the issues and concerns of the entire educational community including students, staff, parents, and the larger community. She is a good listener and has a reputation as a straightforward negotiator.

Minnesota schools need strong leadership to improve student achievement in core subjects. We also believe that all learners must become effective users of information and technology. We look forward to working together with Commissioner Seagren to meet these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Prestebak, President
MEMO

Senator Steve Kelley
321 Capitol Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155
January 10, 2005

Dear Senator Kelley,

The Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children (MNCEC) is an organization representing approximately 800 members whose mission is to improve the practices and resources of persons working on behalf of individuals with exceptionalities in the State of Minnesota. For more than a decade, MNCEC has been a leader in providing professional development opportunities aimed at improving opportunities for individuals with exceptionalities.

Our organization recognizes Alice Seagren as a long-time friend and supporter of special education. Several of our members have had positive interactions with Ms. Seagren in the past, and MNCEC looks forward to continuing to work with Commissioner Seagren in advancing educational opportunities for Minnesota's children and youth with disabilities.

MNCEC has, for the first time in its history, formally identified legislative issues that we believe must be addressed if Minnesota is to continue to be a leader in educating children and youth with disabilities. Enclosed is a copy of the MNCEC legislative platform. We encourage your active support of these vital issues.

Sincerely,



Melissa Schaller, President
Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children

Enc.

**The Minnesota Council
for Exceptional Children's
Mission:**

To improve practices and resources
for persons working on behalf of
individuals with exceptionality in the
state of Minnesota.

**The Minnesota Council
for Exceptional Children's
Goals for 2004 – 2005:**

- To promote and utilize systems for timely communication with our membership.
 - To promote quality professional development opportunities including a quality conference.
 - To support the professional development of pre-service teachers.
 - To increase our involvement in political issues impacting our membership and the individuals they serve.
-

CAN Committee Chair:

Bryce Fornes-Bates
Special Education Teacher
Humboldt Senior High School
30 East Baker Street
St. Paul MN, 55107
Phone: 651.293.8600
Fax: 651.293.8605

CAN Committee Members:

Kathy Arnoldi
Lead Resource, K-12 Deaf/
Hard of Hearing Programs
Saint Paul Public Schools

Brad Benson
Special Education Teacher
Stillwater Area High School

Krista Fisher
Special Education Teacher
Mound Westonka High School

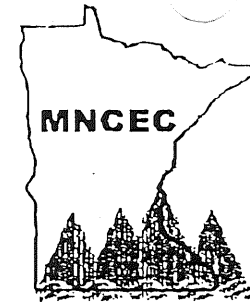
Marilyn Hukriede
Student CEC Advisor
MNCEC Board of Directors

Gary Lewis, Ed.D.
Director of Student Services
Northfield Public Schools

Daryl Miller
Special Education Director
Robbinsdale Area Schools

Nancy Recibe
Special Education Coordinator
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Schools

Mary Ellen Wade
Special Education Teacher
Jedlicka Middle School, Proctor Schools

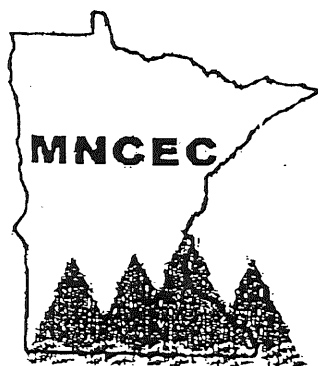


**2005
Legislative
Platform**

**Minnesota Council for
Exceptional Children
CAN Committee**

MNCEC Supports Funding for All Education

- MNCEC supports increased funding to ensure a quality education for all students in Minnesota.
- MNCEC supports the restoration of the inflationary factor for special education funding.
- MNCEC supports the allocation of all federal special education funds to benefit special education services and programs.



MNCEC Supports Adoption of Value-Added Assessments

- MNCEC believes that all of our statewide testing will identify comparisons on a group of students with another less sensitive in demonstrating the academic growth of students with special needs, including English language learners with disabilities.
- MNCEC believes that Minnesota must construct statewide tests that measure individual growth, provide feedback that helps teachers improve instruction, and that are aligned with the state standards.
 - MNCEC believes that value-added assessments that measure student achievement across time are a valid and accurate measure of student growth and provide teachers with the information necessary to improve instruction for all students.

MNCEC Supports Measures that Improve the Recruitment and Retention of Special Education Professionals

- MNCEC believes that funding must be provided to support the coaching of beginning teachers to ease their entry into the profession and equip them with the skills necessary to remain in the special education field.
- MNCEC believes that funding must be provided to retain highly qualified teachers and support them to remain in the field of special education.
- MNCEC believes in expanding reciprocity in recognizing teaching licenses of personnel trained in and licensed by other states.
- MNCEC believes there must be portability of retirement credits from other states for educators who are willing to move to Minnesota.
- MNCEC believes that special education and related-service training programs in the State University System must be expanded.

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C-100
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-2131

Telephone: 651-999-7333 • Toll Free MN: 800-430-6716 • Fax Number: 651-999-7331

On the Web: <http://www.massp.org>

Robert J. Schmidt, *Executive Director*
Robert J. Aronson, *Attorney*
Susan K. Mizuhata, *Director of Professional Development*

Scott D. Douglas, *President*
Scott M. Hannon, *President-Elect*
Douglas D. Standke, *Secretary*
Mary Pat Cumming, *Coordinator*
Randall J. Pillar, *Past President*

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Minnesota Senate
Room 205 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

I have known Ms. Seagren for approximately twenty (20) years. She was a member of the school board while I was serving as a high school principal in Bloomington. During that period of time, I observed Alice Seagren as a champion for all students – the gifted; those with special learning needs; and the “average” student.

Alice asked tough questions about educational practice and was always well prepared in discussing budget, policy and procedures. She was tenacious in her pursuance of educational excellence. Her commitment and leadership earned the respect of both school employees and the general community.

When Alice Seagren was elected to the House of Representatives, she displayed the same qualities of diligence, commitment and sense of “fairness” on complex legislative issues. Consequently, peers recognized her skills and placed her in leadership positions.

Alice speaks with a soft voice, using communication skills, which are inclusive, clear and direct. Her “people skills”, problem solving abilities and her commitment to excellence are admirable qualities of a leader.

Alice Seagren will provide great leadership as the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Schmidt
Executive Director



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Board of Education:
Diane Lund, Chair
Matthew Prigge, Vice Chair
Frank McAnulty, Clerk
Duane Quam, Treasurer
Paul Daley, Director
Phil Fuchs, Director
David Sanneman, Director

Superintendent/Business Office
Dr. Wendy S. Shannon, Superintendent
501 10th Avenue NE
Byron, MN 55920
507-775-2383 507-775-2385 Fax
Website: <http://bears.byron.k12.mn.us>

Byron Independent School District No. 531



"Maximizing Learning Opportunities for All"

Byron Elementary School (K-4)
David Hedin, Principal
501 10th Avenue NE
507-775-6620 507-775-7225 Fax

Byron Middle School (5-7)
Shelley Balkan, Principal
630 1st Avenue NW
507-775-2189 507-775-2825 Fax

Byron High School (8-12)
Michael Duffy, Principal
601 4th Street NW
507-775-2301 507-775-2303 Fax

December 28, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
Chair, Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Throughout her years in our state legislature, Commissioner Seagren was a strong advocate for public education and its role in the lives of Minnesota's children. The education community has appreciated her commitment to excellence in teaching and learning in our public schools, and her willingness to work with educators to develop sound and practical policy to support student achievement.

Commissioner Seagren understands the intricacy of school leadership, and has developed a reputation of listening well and connecting with school administrators. She is very knowledgeable about the issues currently of greatest concern to Minnesota's educators, and consistently invites our perspective. She is a skilled negotiator and consensus-builder. The respect she shows for our state's educators supports a level of collaboration that can serve to unite educators and policymakers around a common agenda of educational excellence for Minnesota's children. As an officer of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, I have been pleased to hear Commissioner Seagren express her positive regard for Minnesota's education associations. Our associations' constructive working relationship with the Commissioner and the Department of Education will enhance all of our abilities to assure student success.

Schools are organizations of people—children, their families, teachers, other staff, administrators, and the wider community. Commissioner Seagren's empathy and authenticity are attributes indicative of her own excellence as a leader, and of her ability to meaningfully serve the people of Minnesota in a system that impacts each of our lives.

These are challenging times for school administrators, calling for leadership to create a culture that joins together to identify optimistic and realistic approaches to address our obstacles, and to celebrate our many successes. Commissioner Seagren cares about all kids, understands the education issues impacting them, and honors their accomplishments. Therefore, it is my honor to support her confirmation as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Wendy Shannon, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Byron Schools



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C101 - St. Paul, MN 55108-2131
e-mail: mespa@mespa.net
Web site: www.mespa.net

Susan Abrahamson, *President*

Phone: (651) 999-7310
FAX: (651) 999-7311
Greater Minnesota: 1-800-642-6807

P. Fred Storti, *Executive Director*

January 6, 2005

Senator Steven Kelly
Room 205, Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelly,

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

Commissioner Seagren understands both finance and policy and knows how the legislature works. Her prior experience as a school board member, legislator and chair of the House Education Committee give her valuable incites in our critically important P-16 educational enterprise.

During the past three years as executive director of MESPA, I have had the opportunity to work with Alice Seagren on a number of education issues and have found her to be knowledgeable, honest, respectful, and a good listener.

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association supports Alice Seagren's confirmation as Commissioner of Education.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fred Storti', is written over a horizontal line.

P. Fred Storti
Executive Director
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association



independent school district #761

Tom Tapper, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 6, 2005

Honorable Senator Steve Kelley
Chair, Senate Education Committee
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley,

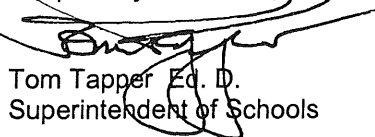
It is my understanding that the Senate Education Committee has determined to take action related to the appointment of the Commissioner of Education for the Minnesota Department of Education. I would like to forward a letter in support of the permanent appointment of Alice Seagren to serve in that capacity.

I have been fortunate to have made a career as a public school educator. I have valued the opportunities my chosen profession has provided me because I can think of no other profession that is more important in shaping the future of our nation and society than working in our public schools. And so it is within this framework of understanding that I submit this letter of support for Alice Seagren.

I have had the opportunity to observe Commissioner Seagren while she served in the House of Representatives, and consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with her directly over the past six (6) years. It is because of my work with then Representative Seagren, that I feel qualified to speak on her behalf. I have found her to be a person of integrity, a good listener, a caring person, and an effective communicator. Alice Seagren is a person who has shown a deep-seated and genuine concern for children and truly cares about creating a future for each and every child. She is approachable and open; readily accessible to the public. She is also a person of conviction who has a vision for a future society that is 'better than' the one we live in today and recognizes that a strong public school system is one of the essential tools needed to get there.

These attributes, I believe, will serve her well as the Commissioner of Education. The Department, and the entire public school system, will have an opportunity to work together at a level not recently seen, because of the leadership Alice Seagren will provide as Commissioner. While everyone has them, I can think of no flaw in Alice Seagren's qualities and qualifications other than her tireless commitment to children that, if she isn't careful, will lead her to exhaust both her energies and her passion. The Senate will find no more qualified candidate than Alice Seagren. I sincerely hope she receives approval and look forward to the opportunity to work with her in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom Tapper, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc. Commissioner Alice Seagren

**Southwest/West Central
Service Cooperatives**

1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: (507) 537-2240 V/TTY
FAX: (507) 537-7663



... Serving schools, communities, and other agencies

January 5, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1206

Dear Senator Kelley:

This letter is in support of the confirmation of Alice Seagren as the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

After 33 years in public education in Minnesota, I've had ample opportunity to work with the many education commissioners who have served our state. As such, I believe that I can say without reservation that Alice Seagren would serve the students of this state in the highest tradition. There have been very few commissioners since Howard Casmey who have the education communities' respect that Alice holds. There have been even fewer commissioners who held the bi-partisan respect that Alice is given.

We need an education commissioner who can help educators and the system do the very best possible for the children of this state. I believe Alice Seagren is that person and urge you and the committee to approve her appointment.

Sincerely

Lee Warne, Executive Director
Southwest / West Central Service Cooperatives
Marshall, Minnesota



Rochester Public Schools

Independent School District #535
615 7th St. SW • Rochester, Minnesota 55902-2052

Office of the Superintendent • Telephone (507) 285-8551 • FAX (507) 281-6020

January 4, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Confirmation of Alice Seagren

Dear Senator Kelley:

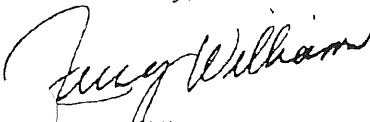
I heartily endorse the confirmation of Alice Seagren as the next Commissioner of Education for the state of Minnesota. As a school administrator, I can attest to the confidence I have in her leadership as well as her great knowledge of K-12 education. She is the ideal person for the job in these very challenging times.

In previous years, when testifying before her House committees, I was always impressed with not only her knowledge of education issues but also her intense interest in listening to our concerns. She cared about what was happening in the schools, how proposed legislation would impact us, and honestly sought our opinion. My opinion has not changed. In the past months since her appointment, I have had the opportunity to confer with her and host her on a visit to Rochester. She deeply cares about the education of Minnesota's youth and continually strives for ways to make it better.

Confirming Ms. Seagren as Commissioner of Education is the right thing for the Senate to do. She is a stabilizing force after two years of unrest, has the respect of educators throughout the state, and will be open to various ways to accomplish what we need to do in K-12. Her sincerity and integrity are worn proudly by her and visible to us all. I can think of no other person who understands the legislative process as well as she does and would be so warmly and enthusiastically received as Commissioner.

As a school administrator, I look to the Commissioner to be an outspoken advocate for public education in every corner of the state. I am convinced that Alice Seagren will be that person and restore our confidence in the Minnesota Department of Education. Without question, I enthusiastically support her confirmation and encourage your Committee and the Senate to do so without delay.

Sincerely,



Jerry Williams
Superintendent

Cc: Commissioner Alice Seagren



January 6, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Room 205, State Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

On behalf of Schools for Equity in Education, I am both pleased and honored to provide this letter of support for Commissioner-designee Alice Seagren as the Senate Education Committee considers her appointment as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Alice Seagren has a comprehensive set of experiences that qualifies her to be an outstanding Commissioner of Education. In each of her six terms in the Minnesota Legislature, she served on the House Education Finance and Education Committees. I believe the hallmark of her legislative service on these committees was her hard work across a broad range of education issues and her consistent desire to play a positive role in meeting the needs of students throughout Minnesota.

Prior to her legislative experience, she was a member of the Bloomington School Board and a parent with schoolchildren in that district. Through these experiences, she has developed a tremendous ability to understand education policy from a variety of perspectives and that quality befits the person chosen to serve as Minnesota's chief educational officer.

Our organization worked very closely with Commissioner-designee Seagren for the past six years when she served as the Chair of the House Education Finance Committee. In that capacity, she exhibited both the willingness and ability to fully understand the issues that were of greatest importance to Schools for Equity in Education and how the policies we advocated affected school districts throughout Minnesota. In my estimation, it is her view that all of the state's school districts, and by extension the students in these districts, should benefit from policies developed at the state level and her actions have been consistent with that belief.

Perhaps most importantly, Commissioner-designee Seagren has exhibited both the desire and ability to build a consensus in developing solutions to a number of complex education issues throughout her career as both a school board member and legislator. She is both open-minded and pragmatic in her approach to decision-making. These qualities and abilities should prove extremely valuable in an environment that has unfortunately, in some instances, become increasingly contentious.

I believe that Alice Seagren would serve with distinction as Minnesota's next Commissioner of Education and urge the Senate Education Committee and the full Senate to confirm her appointment.

Sincerely,

Brad Lundell
Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C-100

St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-2131

Telephone: 651-999-7333 • Toll Free MN: 800-430-6716 • Fax Number: 651-999-7331

On the Web: <http://www.massp.org>

Robert J. Schmidt, *Executive Director*
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Scott D. Douglas, *President*
Scott M. Hannon, *President-Elect*
Douglas D. Standke, *Secretary*
Mary Pat Cumming, *Coordinator*
Randall J. Pillar, *Past President*

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Minnesota Senate
Room 205 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

I have known Ms. Seagren for approximately twenty (20) years. She was a member of the school board while I was serving as a high school principal in Bloomington. During that period of time, I observed Alice Seagren as a champion for all students – the gifted; those with special learning needs; and the “average” student.

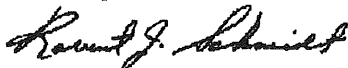
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When Alice Seagren was elected to the House of Representatives, she displayed the same qualities of diligence, commitment and sense of “fairness” on complex legislative issues. Consequently, peers recognized her skills and placed her in leadership positions.

Alice speaks with a soft voice, using communication skills, which are inclusive, clear and direct. Her “people skills”, problem solving abilities and her commitment to excellence are admirable qualities of a leader.

Alice Seagren will provide great leadership as the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Schmidt
Executive Director



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

December 29, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

It is my understanding that your committee will soon be taking up the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner. This will be a very important issue for you and your committee, and I want to emphasize that leaders in the school districts throughout the state are deeply committed to your decision. As the Superintendent of one of the nation's premier school districts, I want to communicate my interest in her appointment and my commitment to you that we will support Ms. Seagren fully if she receives confirmation.

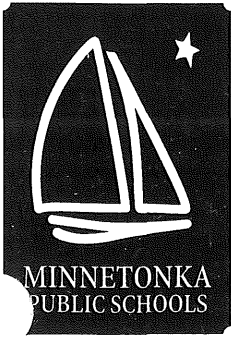
I do want to advocate for Ms. Seagren because I believe in what she stands for and what she can accomplish in a very challenging position. I have had several opportunities to work closely with her in her legislative capacity and as the Commissioner-designate, and her clear focus on the importance of education to our children and our state is impressive. She sees leadership as leading and not directing. She would be able to rally other leaders to accomplish important goals because of her vision, caring and communication skills.

During my thirty-six years as a superintendent in Minnesota and other states, I have worked with several commissioners or state superintendents and have observed qualities that made them successful and, sometimes, less than successful. Ms. Seagren clearly has the potential to be an outstanding Commissioner for our state and help pull all of us together to accomplish important work. Her ability to relate to individuals of varying political persuasions has been impressive, because it is so rare anymore. That complements your own skills, and we could really become a very special state again with such leadership.

I strongly urge your committee to quickly recommend the confirmation and support that recommendation through the process. We need the clarity such actions will provide. Alice needs the full support of leaders in and outside of state government, and quick confirmation begins that process. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Peterson Ph.D.



December 29, 2004

Dennis L. Peterson, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Minnetonka Public Schools
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(952) 401-5004
(952) 401-5083 fax
dennis.peterson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

SERVING THE Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
COMMUNITIES OF: St. Paul, MN 55155

MINNETONKA Dear Senator Kelley:

CHANHASSEN It is my understanding that your committee will soon be taking up the confirmation of Alice
DEEPHAVEN Seagren as Commissioner. This will be a very important issue for you and your committee,
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Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Peterson Ph.D.



Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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Fax 952.681.6406
gprest@bloomington.k12.mn.us

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1350 West 106th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431-4126
www.bloomington.k12.mn.us

Senator Steve Kelly
Minnesota State Senate
Room 205 Capitol Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

December 29, 2004

Dear Senator Kelly:

I am very pleased to enthusiastically endorse Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. I have known Rep. Seagren for many years. I have come to appreciate her experience and many personal qualities which make her the ideal educational leader for our great State.

First and foremost, Alice Seagren cares deeply about children. As a parent and grandparent, she knows first hand the importance of a nurturing, supportive environment necessary for the good growth and development of a child. Through our many discussions, I am convinced that she thinks of each child in this State as someone's child or grandchild. Thus, she views each child as special and deserving of the best that we can provide. She also understands the critical partnership that is necessary between parents and educators for success in raising children to be caring, responsible citizens.

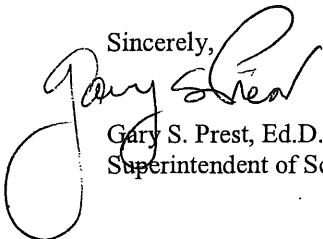
Second, she dedicated a large part of her life in service to the public good. As a school board member of the Bloomington Public Schools, she sought to create the best educational environments for students from all over the city. As representative and Chair of the Minnesota State House K-12 Finance Committee she worked tirelessly to support the best educational environments possible for students from all over the State. She is an educational leader in both challenging and less challenging periods for public education. Regardless of the circumstance, conditions, possibilities or problems, she always pursues understanding, reaches out to ensure those involved are heard, studies what is relevant, and moves forward with common sense.

Third, Alice Seagren already plays a significant leadership role in public education in Minnesota. As an ardent supporter of public education, she consistently reaches out in true Minnesotan bi-partisan fashion to reach solutions for the betterment of schools and that allowed educators do the jobs that they are hired to do. For example, we appreciated the timely work that you, Senator Kelly, and she accomplished during the last session regarding the social study standards. At a time when few were finding common ground, you and she transcended political ideologies to get an important job done well.

Fourth, she has earned the respect of the entire educational community because of her fair leadership, willingness to learn, and always respectful demeanor. In my many discussions with colleagues from across the State of Minnesota, consistently they state how pleased citizens and educators are that Alice Seagren was Governor Pawlenty's choice for Commissioner of Education. While there may be disagreement from time to time over the best course for public education to take in Minnesota, all would be in agreement that Alice Seagren's motivation will always be one that has students at its core and the public good as its basis.

I would encourage you and your committee to recommend Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education, Department of Education, of the great State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools, Bloomington Public Schools

We help students thrive and dreams come alive



EDUCATION SERVICES CENTER
 1001 HIGHWAY 7
 HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55305-4723

"Passion for Learning...Learning for Life"

Michael L. Krømer, Ph.D.
 Superintendent
 952.988.4021 952.988.4092 (fax)
 michael_krømer@hopkins.k12.mn.us

HOPKINS
 SCHOOL
 DISTRICT

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	01/03/05	# of pages	2
To	Steve Kelley	From	Mike Krømer		
Co./Dupl		Co.	Hopkins School District		
Phone #		Phone	952 988 4022		
Fax #	651.225.7565	Fax #			

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
 Chair -- K-12 Education Committee
 205 State Capitol
 75 Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Steve,

Throughout the past 12 years as Superintendent in the Hopkins School District, I have had the sincere privilege of working with Alice Seagren in both her position as a member of the House of Representatives, and now as Commissioner. Alice is a very intelligent with a pleasant personality and a highly developed sense of organization and logic. Her capacity for leadership is exceptionally strong by virtue of her creative thinking and application of the principles surrounding good human relationships. Her ability to recognize or anticipate a problem, evaluate it, and decide on a correct course of action is in striking contrast to that of the average leader today. She also recognizes that as the designated leader, she will be held accountable for her own actions, as well as those of her subordinates.

I have found Alice to be an excellent student; her perception and knowledge surrounding the field of education results in mastership of the situation. In fulfilling her role as a leader in the House of Representatives, Alice focused on education issues and demonstrated an astute ability to identify staff and programs to support; an interest in ensuring prompt delivery of quality services to students, teachers, and parents; and most importantly, a willingness to follow-up on those efforts. Alice continues to be one of the most effective users of a decision-making process I refer to as, 'collaborative consultation' (i.e., she seeks input from all parties impacted by decision before identifying a game plan). This leadership style serves her extremely well in her newest role as Commissioner of Education.

Courage is the intangible leadership quality of which greatness is made. Alice exhibits her unique style of courage in many ways, including:

- √ Being able to say, "no,"
- √ Taking positions on important issues;
- √ Responding to defeat by trying even harder;
- √ Facing conflict openly and head-on;
- √ Bearing ones' burdens; and
- √ Adapting to change.

Senator Steve Kelley
January 3, 2005
Page two

From where I stand, Alice consistently displays her courage when tackling the important and difficult educational agenda in her role as a member of the House of Representative over the last 10+ years.

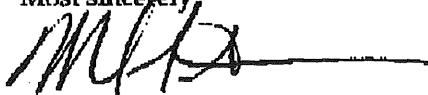
Loyalty from those with whom you work is priceless. Alice garners the loyalty of those with whom she has worked by displaying an interest in and caring for each individual through her words and actions. In essence, people firmly believe that she is devoted to the good of all, and does everything in her power to help each succeed, both as individuals and collectively. Her high performance as a leader is also characterized by exceptional determination in the pursuit of goals and objectives — she dislikes easing up until she succeeds. Alice has constantly found herself in the zone of distinction due to the fact that she insists on excellence, and in so doing, receives it from those around her.

Personally, Alice is dependable, enthusiastic, ambitious, gregarious, tolerant, and sensitive to the point that those associated with her turn to her freely for guidance. She is very capable of self-evaluation and has the security to be very open to suggestions. All with whom she comes in contact recognize her charisma and leadership abilities. In addition, I have found her to be an articulate presenter of information.

In closing, I would add that Alice lives by the highest standards of honesty and integrity. It is one thing to talk about honesty and integrity, and it is quite another to live your life that way. She understands that without integrity, you do not have trust; without trust, you have nothing. Accordingly, those around her develop a sense of pride and accomplishment that surfaces from striving for and achieving high levels of performance. Most sincerely, I believe people want to be a part of her winning team.

Alice is, without question, well prepared and positioned to assume the position of Commissioner of Education in the State of Minnesota. In fact, I believe she will leave a legacy marked by a successful tenure unmatched by predecessors over the last fifty years. On that basis, I would strongly recommend her for the position.

Most sincerely,



Michael L. Kremer, Ph.D.
Superintendent

MLK/rsm

c: Alice Seagren
District 270 Board of Education

5701 NORMANDALE ROAD
EDINA, MINNESOTA 55424
952/848-3900
FAX 952/848-3901

January 7, 2005

Honorable Senator Steve Kelly
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelly:

It is my great pleasure as an individual to write this letter of recommendation for Alice Seagren to become Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. The appointment of Alice Seagren by Governor Pawlenty for this position, in my opinion, was a tremendous boost to increasing the credibility and professionalism of the Minnesota Department of Education. I make this recommendation based on my personal and professional experiences with Alice Seagren, and this recommendation is not politically motivated in any way nor does it have any connection to any educational organization or lobbying group.

I first met Alice Seagren when she was a state representative for Bloomington and was impressed at that time with her knowledge of educational issues and empathy for the needs of students. Subsequently, she represented a portion of Edina and I developed even closer contact with her as we discussed and supported educational issues for the state and for our community. I have always found her to be a great listener, extremely professional, and intellectually engaged in the decisions that will impact students and families every day. She understands the educational, social, and psychological issues that confront students and families and seeks to find the best programs and legislation that will meet some of these needs. She is highly respected in our community because she cares and listens.

I especially appreciate her warm and welcoming attitude toward people. She understands that in order to get major change and to improve the condition of our schools she needs to seek the advice of many individuals. Since she was appointed, she has opened wide the doors at the Department of Education to seek input and advice from a variety of constituents. She truly cares what we think and is willing to accept our opinions but also to challenge us with her perceptions and insight. Sitting down to a conversation with her is intellectually stimulating, always respectful, and solution seeking. I may have agreed or disagreed on the issues over the years but the conversations fully explored the rationale for the direction or decisions and were always extremely professional. That is a rare commodity that serves the State of Minnesota well.



Alice Seagren understands the need to continue to improve the quality of education in the State of Minnesota. She has fought hard over the years for the needs of students, and is willing to stand tall to push forth some initiative that she feels will make our educational system more responsive, effective, and accountable. She does not shy away from controversial issues but rather seeks to understand both sides of the issue and work toward a compromise that will move a positive educational agenda forward.

Alice Seagren is an excellent leader. She has welcomed, into the Department of Education, outstanding professionals who are not only highly respected by people in the profession of education but also by the general public. These individuals have been given the freedom to explore issues, seek solutions, and implement ideas that will benefit education in Minnesota. She has nurtured an atmosphere of partnership and progress at the Department of Education, and as a citizen of Minnesota I am thankful.

In conclusion, I have high respect for Alice Seagren, and am confident that she will be an excellent Commissioner of Education for Minnesota. Her welcoming personal style, strong commitment to students, and willingness to seek solutions collaboratively to make education stronger in Minnesota will move education forward in a positive and productive way. If you so desire, I would be willing to personally attest to my recommendation at the confirmation hearings.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Dragseth, Ph.D
Superintendent
Edina Public Schools



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C101 - St. Paul, MN 55108-2131
e-mail: mespa@mespa.net
Web site: www.mespa.net

Susan Abrahamson, *President*

Phone: (651) 999-7310
FAX: (651) 999-7311
Greater Minnesota: 1-800-642-6807

P. Fred Storti, *Executive Director*

January 6, 2005

Senator Steven Kelly
Room 205, Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelly,

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

Commissioner Seagren understands both finance and policy and knows how the legislature works. Her prior experience as a school board member, legislator and chair of the House Education Committee give her valuable incites in our critically important P-16 educational enterprise.

During the past three years as executive director of MESPA, I have had the opportunity to work with Alice Seagren on a number of education issues and have found her to be knowledgeable, honest, respectful, and a good listener.

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association supports Alice Seagren's confirmation as Commissioner of Education.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fred Storti', is written over a horizontal line.

P. Fred Storti
Executive Director
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association



MINNESOTA
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

3610 IDS Center
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-370-0840
612-334-3086 fax
www.mnbp.com

January 10, 2005

The Honorable Steve Kelley, Chair
Minnesota Senate Education Committee
205 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Gen Olson, Ranking Republican
Minnesota Senate Education Committee
119 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Kelley and Senator Olson:

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Business Partnership to encourage you, and your respective caucuses, to confirm the appointment of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Like you, we have had the opportunity to work with Commissioner-Designate Seagren on a wide variety of state K-12 education policy and fiscal issues over the years. It has always been clear that her foremost concern in education is doing what is in the best interest of students.

As Minnesota and our schools strive to recognize and adjust to the challenges and opportunities presented by demographic, technological and global changes, Commissioner-Designate Seagren's leadership for doing what is in the best interest of students will be critical.

Commissioner-Designate Seagren's background as an involved public school parent, school board member and Chair of the House of Representative's Education Finance Committee not only demonstrates her knowledge of and commitment to education, but also her expertise in working with diverse groups of people to solve what are often very complex issues.

In short, Commissioner-Designate Alice Seagren's commitment to students, her extensive knowledge of state and national education issues and her ability to effectively work with divergent constituencies make her an ideal candidate for commissioner.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We hope you will confirm the appointment of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Weaver".

Charlie Weaver
Executive Director

1 **Senator Kelley from the Committee on Education, to which**
2 were referred the following appointment:

3 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
4 COMMISSIONER
5 Alice Seagren

6 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the
7 appointment be confirmed.

8


.....
(Committee Chair)

9

10

11

12

13

14

January 11, 2005.....
(Date of Committee recommendation)

15

16 Senator Johnson, D.E. moved that the foregoing committee
17 report be laid on the table. The motion prevailed.

ALICE M. SEAGREN

9730 Palmer Circle • Bloomington MN 55437 • 952/835-6721

CURRENT EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

- United States Department of Education Regional Advisory Committee Member
- Education Commission of the States Commissioner, Minnesota Delegation
- Council of Chief State School Officers, NCLB Task Force Member

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

- Education Finance Committee – Chair (1999-2004)
- Education Policy Committee
- Ways & Means Committee
- Transportation Policy Committee
- Minnesota Legislative Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee
- Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy
- National Council of State Legislatures Education Committee (July 1999-December 2002)
 - °Chair, Education Committee, NCSL Assembly of State Issues (2002)
 - °Vice-Chair, Education Committee, NCSL, Assembly of State Issues (July 1999-December 2001)
 - °National Council of State Legislatures, Task Force on School Leadership

PAST LEGISLATIVE DUTIES & EXPERIENCE

- K-12 Education Finance Division Committee
- Education Facilities Subcommittee
- Subcommittee on Teacher Preparation
- Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee
- Co-chair Education Reform Task Force
- Vocational High School Planning Committee
- Planning and Transition Subcommittee
- Quality Initiatives Subcommittee
- Housing Committee
- School Funding and Property Tax Reform Task Force
- Joint House/Senate Working Group on Property Tax Reform
- Republican Task Force on Welfare Reform
- Government Operations and Gambling Committee
- General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Ethics Committee
- Republic Task Force on Student Achievement/Integration
- Governor's Commission for Early Childhood Intervention
- Judiciary Committee
- Judiciary Civil Law Subcommittee
- Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders in Corrections
- Judicial and Legislative Branches Liaison Working Group

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Legislation establishing Residential Academies for at-risk children
- Legislation establishing educational services for children from birth to 3 years of age
- Charter School legislation to advance educational choices for parents
- "Safe Haven for Newborns Act"
- Legislation to fund battered women's shelter in Bloomington
- Bonding money for Science and Education wings at Normandale Community College, Bloomington
- Legislation establishing teacher "pay for performance" pilot program

AWARDS

- ARC Minnesota, "Legislator of the Year" 1994
- Minnesota Career & Technical Administrators, 2000
- College Board, Education Excellence Awards, August 14, 2001
- Association of Metropolitan School Districts, "Legislator of the Year" September 2001
- Minnesota Deaf Community's "Legislator of the Year" 2001
- Association of Metropolitan School Districts' "Friend of Public Education" 2001
- Region III, Association for Career and Technical Education "Award of Merit" 2000-2001
- Minnesota Association of Agriculture Education "Bellringer" Award 2002
- Minnesota Association of Charter Schools "Friend of Charter Schools" 2002

PREVIOUS LEADERSHP ROLES

- Member, Center of the American Experiment Workforce & Human Rights Task Force
- Director, Bloomington Board of Education
- Director, Hennepin Technical College/Special Education District 287
- Board Member, Association of Metropolitan School Districts
- Delegate, Minnesota School Board Association
- Chairperson, Special Education Community Advisory Committee
- Member, Disability Services Advisory Board
- Task Forces & Advocacy:
 - Graduation Requirements
 - Alternative Scheduling
 - Weighted Grades
 - Facility Use
 - Member, Gifted & Talented Council
 - Member, Bloomington Association for Children & Adults with Learning Disabilities

CURRENT CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Normandale Community College Foundation Board
- Member, Wells Fargo Bank Community Board
- Member, Edina Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Bloomington Baptist Church
- Member, Urban Hope Board
- Director, Fraser Community Services

PAST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Director, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, 1991-1992
- Leadership Bloomington Graduate, 1989
- Leadership Bloomington Program Committee
- Member, House Nezerka & Froelich CPA Advisory Board
- Member, BCAV (Bloomington Coalition Against Violence)

PERSONAL HISTORY

- Birth date: July 6, 1947
- Bachelor of Science Degree, Southeast Missouri State University – Business/Marketing
- Married to Fred Seagren; children: Christina and Greg; grandchildren: Jordan Abigail & Caleb

THEODORE S. BLAESING
Superintendent of Schools

4855 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-2731
(651) 407-7562 • Fax (651) 407-7566

December 28, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
Education Policy Committee
205 Capitol Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley and Members of the Education Policy Committee:

It is an honor to write this letter supporting the confirmation of Alice Seagren to the position of Commissioner of Education. Alice Seagren is a person who understands the complexity of education and in particular the complexity of education within the State of Minnesota. Her experience as a school board member and as a leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives gives her a unique perspective and understanding of schools and school districts.

Nothing is more complex than our funding formula for our schools and she understands Minnesota School Finance. Nothing is more daunting than the task of attempting to understand and implement the federal government's mandates within the No Child Left Behind Act but she understands not just the intent, but the nuances buried within the Act. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing a young person blossom and grow from education and Alice Seagren not only understands this, but has a deep appreciation for the impact of quality public schools on a young person's life.

In my 17 years as a Superintendent I have never witnessed a Commissioner reach out to those of us in the field with the determination and passion that Commissioner Seagren has within these past few months. As President-Elect of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), I've had the opportunity to observe Commissioner Seagren at numerous meetings with members of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. She is genuinely listening and engaging the superintendents of our state in meaningful conversation about how to implement NCLB, how to create and encourage innovation, in short how to create a better learning experience for each young person.

It would be an honor for this veteran superintendent to work with Alice Seagren as our Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely yours,



Theodore S. Blaesing, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Linda Distad, President
lsdistad@sfkate.edu 651.690.6798

Laura Von Holtum, Executive Assistant
lauravh@somtel.net 715.497.6754

January 6, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
75 Martin Luther King Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

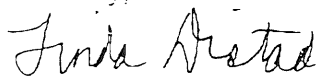
Dear Senator Kelley:

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) would like to express support for the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education.

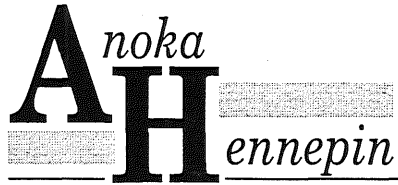
Over the last few months, representatives from MACTE have had numerous opportunities to interact with Commissioner Seagren and we have found her to be open to dialogue and knowledgeable about the issues. With Alice Seagren's leadership, MACTE is hopeful that we can collaborate with the Department of Education to address Minnesota's greatest educational issues—namely, the challenge of retaining and supporting outstanding teachers for high need areas and closing the educational achievement gap between Minnesota's white and minority students.

A speedy confirmation of Alice Seagren as Education Commissioner would allow all of us to proceed with the important work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,



Linda Distad, EdD.
President



Independent School District 11

Educational Service Center
11299 Hanson Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55433
(763) 506-1000
(763) 506-1003 FAX
(763) 506-1180 TTY

Dr. Roger Giroux, Superintendent

January 5, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

I thank you for your leadership on behalf of Minnesota's public schools and our school children. I thank you, as well, for your articulation of the important issues faced by education.

It isn't often that I personally enter into a letter of support for a policy issue that clearly is within the domain of state government. I respect and support the work of our legislators, especially those who serve on the education committees. Nevertheless, this is a challenging time for our public schools and I believe that time itself is an issue.

The Governor has nominated Alice Seagren to the position of Commissioner of Education and I am writing to express my personal support for a timely confirmation of Commissioner Seagren. I believe the Commissioner brings important skills and experiences to the role when those skills are most needed. She has worked with local districts, school boards and parents. She has extraordinary legislative experience that facilitates resolution of issues.

I haven't agreed with all the positions of the administration for our schools and children. I suspect that I'll take exception to many positions in the future. Nevertheless, I believe that Commissioner Seagren is a listener with the necessary competencies to assist in the building of consensus.

The issues are great and time is limited. I've been an educator in Minnesota for thirty-four years and we are at a critical point in the development of our public schools. I submit this letter as a point of personal testimony and not school board policy. It is written in support of Commissioner Seagren, in support of you Senator Kelly and in support of the House and Senate members from both parties working in the best interests of the students in the State of Minnesota. I urge confirmation and a timely move to the program and finance issues that must be addressed in this session.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger M. Giroux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger M. Giroux
Superintendent

RMG:pjg

**Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights**

8161 Normandale Boulevard • Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044

(952) 838-9000 Voice • (952) 838-0190 TTY • (800) 53-PACER Toll-free

Web site: www.pacer.org • Fax: (952) 838-0199 • E-mail: pacer@pacer.org*An information and training center for families of children and youth with disabilities*

January 10, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley

Chair

Education Committee

205 State Capitol

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN. 55155-1606

Dear Chairman Kelley,

RE: Confirmation of Alice Seagren

As you know, PACER Center is a statewide parent training and information center. PACER provides a variety of services to families who have children with all disabilities who receive special education. These services include individual assistance, workshops, publications, disability awareness presentations, training on the use of assistive technology, and technical assistance to schools and other organizations. Over 53,000 families and education professionals use PACER's services annually, while over 95,000 receive our publications and over 900,000 visit our web sites.

On behalf of PACER Center, we are pleased to strongly support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. For many years, we have worked with Commissioner Seagren on several policy issues affecting children with disabilities.

Commissioner Seagren has always shown a great deal of respect for families who have children and young adults with disabilities and the organizations that assist them. She has been willing to listen to our suggestions to improve outcomes as well as our concerns. She has consistently been fair, approachable and honest in our efforts to pass or change public policies. At the same time, she has encouraged us to work in collaboration with other education stakeholders to ensure that a balanced approach to problem solving was used.

Commissioner Seagren possesses the essential characteristics to be successful in this position. She has a genuine concern about children and their long-term success; she is inclusive to organizations representing various perspectives; she understands how local school districts operate and the challenges they face; she possesses excellent human relations skills; she appreciates the efforts of teachers and other educators; she understands the importance of family involvement; she works in a bipartisan manner; and she believes in accountability to children, families, taxpayers and policy makers. All of these qualities are important for an Education Commissioner to provide the leadership needed by individual school districts, families and the department in addressing the challenges faced by our education system.

Alice Seagren is a person of integrity. We respect her and we positively encourage you to confirm her. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paula Goldberg
Executive DirectorBob Brick
Public Policy Director



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Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

Office Of The Superintendent

Patricia A. Harvey, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Telephone: (651) 767-8150 • Fax: (651) 290-8331 • www.spps.org

January 7, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
321 Capitol Building
Saint Paul, Mn 55155

Re: Commissioner Alice Seagren

Dear Senator Kelley:

I am writing to add my voice to the many I am sure you have heard in recent days encouraging you and your colleagues to confirm Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education. In over 35 years of work in public education, I have encountered few public officials who care as much about schools and understand them as well as Commissioner Seagren does. If I had to capture in a few words the reasons that I believe she is the right leader for our state education agency at this point in time, I would offer the following:

Principled: As you know, Commissioner Seagren's involvement in school improvement and reform began as a concerned parent, and it remains rooted in a commitment to improving the educational experiences of every Minnesota student. That commitment enables her to bring people together across partisan, ideological and organizational lines to do what is right for kids.

Smart: Although Commissioner Seagren is not an educator herself, she has a deep understanding of the critical issues facing Minnesota's schools today. Whether the issue is school funding, No Child Left Behind or value added assessment, she studies and masters the details without losing the big picture.

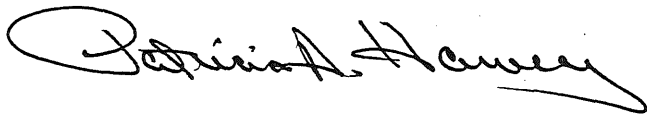
Collaborative: During her first months as Commissioner of Education, Commissioner Seagren has reached out to members of our diverse educational community in Saint Paul, asking for their ideas on the future of public education in our city and our state. Although Commissioner Seagren is not afraid to make a tough decision that will produce disagreement, her first impulse is to bring people together to forge and implement a shared vision. Minnesota schools need that type of leadership today.

Honest: Commissioner Seagren is able to articulate extremely difficult issues in ways that do not alienate or offend those who disagree with her. She tells it like it is, but does so in ways that do not vilify or mischaracterize opposing individuals or opinions.

Empathetic: Time and again on her visits to Saint Paul schools, Commissioner Seagren has demonstrated an extraordinary capacity to understand the challenges that many of our students face. At the same time, however, she has refused to see those students' backgrounds and current life situations as insurmountable obstacles. She knows that with support, those students and their schools can achieve great things.

I have no doubt that, if confirmed, Commissioner Seagren will use these and other formidable skills to create state policies, systems and expectations that will reinforce and help sustain the progress we are making in the Saint Paul Public Schools. I hope that you and your colleagues will give her the opportunity to provide the principled, smart, collaborative, honest and empathetic leadership that Minnesota education needs today. If I can provide you with more specific information on any of the many opportunities I have had to work with Commissioner Seagren over the past six years, I am eager to do so. In the meantime, thank you for this opportunity to support an extraordinary Minnesotan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Harvey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patricia A. Harvey

cc: Governor Tim Pawlenty
✓ Commissioner Alice Seagren



Minnesota Community Education Association

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING

January 5, 2005

Senator Steve Kelly
205 Capitol Building
St. Paul MN 55155

Senator Kelly & Senate Education Members:

This is a letter of support from the Minnesota Community Education Association endorsing Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. The Minnesota Community Education Association is a professional organization representing over 1,300 professionals, advisory council members, and volunteers who work or volunteer in Community Education programs across the state of Minnesota.

Ms. Seagren has a long history of involvement with education and Community Education programs and services as a parent, a school board member, and as a legislator. Her involvement with community educators and our association has been very positive. She was recognized by my peers for having a thorough understanding of Community Education programming in her role as a school board member and legislator. She also understands and has supported the role of Community Education in improved student achievement, and how communities are improved when residents learn to help themselves by engaging in life long learning opportunities.

As is the case with any legislator, we have not always agreed on all issues. Ms. Seagren has always taken time to meet, to listen, and fully understand issues before she takes a position. In instances where she has taken an opposing position, she did it with respect for and dignity of the person with the opposing point of view. I think this quality will serve her well as she tackles the many challenges confronting education in Minnesota today.

I would like to conclude by saying Ms Seagren's ability to bring people together is an attribute critical to being successful in this position. As an example of this skill, I would credit you and Representative Seagren for your ability to put partisanship aside and accomplish a difficult task in an environment where working together was not the norm. In last year's legislative session, the two of you were the primary reason a very difficult new standards package was developed and approved.

As president, and on behalf of the Minnesota Community Education Association, I believe Ms. Seagren will bring a thoughtful and common sense approach to her leadership in education. As the new Commissioner of Education, she will help continue the long tradition of Minnesota as a leader in the nation for providing educational opportunities for learners of all ages.

Sincerely,

Tom Holton, President
Minnesota Community Education Association

Copy: Ms. Alice Seagren

MCEA Executive Office
13750 Lake Blvd.
Lindstrom, MN 55045
Telephone: 651-257-0752
FAX: 651-213-2094
www.mn-mcea.org

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ANTOINETTE JOHNS, Ed. D.
Superintendent

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Kimberly Pearson
Director

Tom Shinnick
Director

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelly
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable Kelly and members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

I am pleased to write a letter supporting Alice Seagren for the position of Commissioner of Education in Minnesota.

We have experienced a tumultuous few years in the state regarding education policy and politics. I believe Alice Seagren has the background of experience and the wisdom to build support for public education in Minnesota and to garner the respect and collaboration necessary from school district administrators.

Alice Seagren has been a thoughtful, responsive and respected legislator for many years. While she has not been able to implement all of the legislation she proposed, she has shown she does understand the critical issues related to providing quality educational services in Minnesota.

Your committee's endorsement of Alice Seagren would be a welcomed step in assisting the state of Minnesota and the school districts to fulfill the promise of a quality education for all children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Antoinette Johns'.

Antoinette Johns
Superintendent, ISD #286

CC: Alice Seagren

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	01/03/05	# of pages	2
To	Alice Seagren	From	Mike Kremer		
Co./Dept.	Commissioner	Co.	Hopkins School District		
Phone #		Phone #	952.988.4022		
Fax #	651.582.8124	Fax #			

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SCHOOL
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EDUCATION SERVICES CENTER
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HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55305-4723

"Passion for Learning... Learning for Life"

Michael L. Kremer, Ph.D.
Superintendent
952.988.4021 952.988.4092 (fax)
michael_kremer@hopkins.k12.mn.us

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Chair — K-12 Education Committee
205 State Capitol
75 Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Steve,

Throughout the past 12 years as Superintendent in the Hopkins School District, I have had the sincere privilege of working with Alice Seagren in both her position as a member of the House of Representatives, and now as Commissioner. Alice is a very intelligent with a pleasant personality and a highly developed sense of organization and logic. Her capacity for leadership is exceptionally strong by virtue of her creative thinking and application of the principles surrounding good human relationships. Her ability to recognize or anticipate a problem, evaluate it, and decide on a correct course of action is in striking contrast to that of the average leader today. She also recognizes that as the designated leader, she will be held accountable for her own actions, as well as those of her subordinates.

I have found Alice to be an excellent student; her perception and knowledge surrounding the field of education results in mastership of the situation. In fulfilling her role as a leader in the House of Representatives, Alice focused on education issues and demonstrated an astute ability to identify staff and programs to support; an interest in ensuring prompt delivery of quality services to students, teachers, and parents; and most importantly, a willingness to follow-up on those efforts. Alice continues to be one of the most effective users of a decision-making process I refer to as, 'collaborative consultation' (i.e., she seeks input from all parties impacted by decision before identifying a game plan). This leadership style serves her extremely well in her newest role as Commissioner of Education.

Courage is the intangible leadership quality of which greatness is made. Alice exhibits her unique style of courage in many ways, including:

- ✓ Being able to say, "no;"
- ✓ Taking positions on important issues;
- ✓ Responding to defeat by trying even harder;
- ✓ Facing conflict openly and head-on;
- ✓ Bearing ones' burdens; and
- ✓ Adapting to change

Senator Steve Kelley
January 3, 2005
Page two

From where I stand, Alice consistently displays her courage when tackling the important and difficult educational agenda in her role as a member of the House of Representative over the last 10+ years.

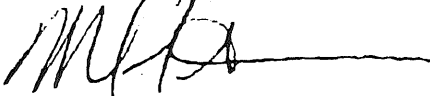
Loyalty from those with whom you work is priceless. Alice garners the loyalty of those with whom she has worked by displaying an interest in and caring for each individual through her words and actions. In essence, people firmly believe that she is devoted to the good of all, and does everything in her power to help each succeed, both as individuals and collectively. Her high performance as a leader is also characterized by exceptional determination in the pursuit of goals and objectives — she dislikes easing up until she succeeds. Alice has constantly found herself in the zone of distinction due to the fact that she insists on excellence, and in so doing, receives it from those around her.

Personally, Alice is dependable, enthusiastic, ambitious, gregarious, tolerant, and sensitive to the point that those associated with her turn to her freely for guidance. She is very capable of self-evaluation and has the security to be very open to suggestions. All with whom she comes in contact recognize her charisma and leadership abilities. In addition, I have found her to be an articulate presenter of information.

In closing, I would add that Alice lives by the highest standards of honesty and integrity. It is one thing to talk about honesty and integrity, and it is quite another to live your life that way. She understands that without integrity, you do not have trust; without trust, you have nothing. Accordingly, those around her develop a sense of pride and accomplishment that surfaces from striving for and achieving high levels of performance. Most sincerely, I believe people want to be a part of her winning team.

Alice is, without question, well prepared and positioned to assume the position of Commissioner of Education in the State of Minnesota. In fact, I believe she will leave a legacy marked by a successful tenure unmatched by predecessors over the last fifty years. On that basis, I would strongly recommend her for the position.

Most sincerely,



Michael L. Kremer, Ph.D.
Superintendent

MLK/rsm

c: Alice Seagren
District 270 Board of Education



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Partner in Education

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Member
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Wayzata

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John Lobben, Ph.D.
Superintendent

District Service Center
1820 Xenium Lane North
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55441-3790

TEL: 763.550.7100

FAX: 763.550.7299

e-mail: jelobben@int287.k12.mn.us

www.int287.k12.mn.us

The district is an equal opportunity
educator and employer

January 6, 2005

The Honorable Steve Kelley
Minnesota Senate
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Reference: Confirmation of Alice Seagren

Dear Senator Kelley & Senate Education Committee Members:

It is my sincere pleasure to recommend that Alice Seagren be confirmed as the Commissioner of Education. I've known and worked closely with Alice for several years. While a member of the Bloomington School Board, Alice served as their representative on our Intermediate District School Board. She always demonstrated tremendous commitment to public education, especially for students with unique needs and talents.

Once elected to the legislature, the three Intermediates continued to work closely with Alice. She was always willing to listen, openly explore alternative ideas and advocate for populations that were often ignored. Her interpersonal skills are well known as is her ability to willingly address often complex and innovative topics. I know that peers throughout the state regard her very highly and feel that she is always fair, open and yet also decisive.

Minnesota public education needs Alice Seagren. She is trusted and respected. The field believes in her and is willing to work with her as necessary reforms and innovations are pursued. We need a person such as her at this critical time to provide the necessary focus and constructive approach that is required to address the important issues facing Minnesota public education.

Sincerely,

(signed)

John Lobben, Ph.D.

JL:sa



January 6, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Room 205, State Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

On behalf of Schools for Equity in Education, I am both pleased and honored to provide this letter of support for Commissioner-designee Alice Seagren as the Senate Education Committee considers her appointment as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Alice Seagren has a comprehensive set of experiences that qualifies her to be an outstanding Commissioner of Education. In each of her six terms in the Minnesota Legislature, she served on the House Education Finance and Education Committees. I believe the hallmark of her legislative service on these committees was her hard work across a broad range of education issues and her consistent desire to play a positive role in meeting the needs of students throughout Minnesota.

Prior to her legislative experience, she was a member of the Bloomington School Board and a parent with schoolchildren in that district. Through these experiences, she has developed a tremendous ability to understand education policy from a variety of perspectives and that quality befits the person chosen to serve as Minnesota's chief educational officer.

Our organization worked very closely with Commissioner-designee Seagren for the past six years when she served as the Chair of the House Education Finance Committee. In that capacity, she exhibited both the willingness and ability to fully understand the issues that were of greatest importance to Schools for Equity in Education and how the policies we advocated affected school districts throughout Minnesota. In my estimation, it is her view that all of the state's school districts, and by extension the students in these districts, should benefit from policies developed at the state level and her actions have been consistent with that belief.

Perhaps most importantly, Commissioner-designee Seagren has exhibited both the desire and ability to build a consensus in developing solutions to a number of complex education issues throughout her career as both a school board member and legislator. She is both open-minded and pragmatic in her approach to decision-making. These qualities and abilities should prove extremely valuable in an environment that has unfortunately, in some instances, become increasingly contentious.

I believe that Alice Seagren would serve with distinction as Minnesota's next Commissioner of Education and urge the Senate Education Committee and the full Senate to confirm her appointment.

Sincerely,

Brad Lundell
Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education

Leadership Conference January 13 & 14, 2005

1900 W Jefferson Ave
St. Peter, Minnesota
58082-3015

Tel: 507.934.2450
MN: 800.324.4499

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St. Peter

December 30, 2004

Members of the Minnesota Senate:

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), whose membership includes all Minnesota public school board members and superintendents of schools, requests your support for the confirmation of Alicc Seagren as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education.

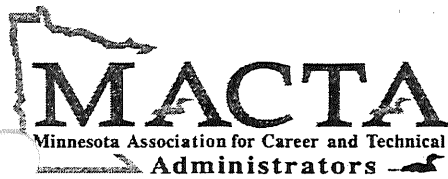
Commissioner Designee Seagren has served on a school board, provided education finance leadership to the House of Representatives as the Chairperson of the Education Finance Committee, and is recognized across the state as a spokesperson for excellent education opportunities for all children.

One of many talents Commissioner Designee Seagren possesses is the ability to work with all parties in finding necessary solutions. My experience with her over the years has proven to me that she is fair-minded, committed to a strong public education system, and willing to represent all children (including the gifted and talented, regular students, and special education students) with equal fervor. I believe she will be a strong voice for education within the Pawlenty Administration.

The Minnesota School Boards Association is confident that Alicc Seagren will be a very capable Commissioner of Education. Therefore, we ask that you support the confirmation of Commissioner Designee Seagren.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Meeks
Executive Director
Minnesota School Boards Association



Chris Miller
President
Cambridge, MN

January 5, 2005

Murray Turner
President Elect
Red Lake Falls, MN

Dear Senate Education Committee:

Herb Lohse
Treasurer
Oakdale, MN

The Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Administrators (MACTA) strongly supports the endorsement of Alice Seagren for Commissioner of Education. MACTA represents Career and Technical Education programs in all regions of the state. Secondary Career and Technical Education provides both academic and workplace skills for over one-half of all students in grades 10-12 in Minnesota.

Inger Churchill
Secretary
Fergus Falls, MN

MACTA has worked with Alice Seagren, as chair of the House Education Committee, to ensure that Career and Technical Programs are a strong component of the secondary education system in Minnesota. Alice Seagren has always been a good listener and a fair individual when dealing with MACTA's requests for assistance in maintaining and enhancing our programs.

Don Hoff
Membership
Marshall, MN

Alice Seagren has long had a strong respect for, and understanding of, the secondary education system in Minnesota. She has supported strong comprehensive schools in Minnesota including extra-curricular activities, core academics, and Career and Technical Programs.

Don Smith
Minnesota DOE
Roseville, MN

Alice Seagren has the respect of the MACTA board and the organization. She has been recognized numerous times by our organization for outstanding contributions to the field of Career and Technical Education. We are confident that Alice will do an excellent job serving as Commissioner of Education and we strongly urge the Senate Education Committee to endorse Alice Seagren for this important leadership position.

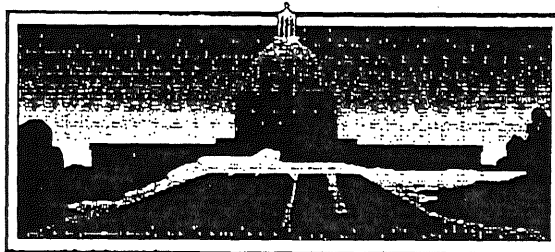
Wendie Palazzo
MnACTE Liaison
Minneapolis, MN

Jim Arndt
Director
Duluth, MN

Arlin Melgaard
Past President
Bemidji, MN

On Behalf of the MACTA Board, Sincerely,

Chris Miller
MACTA President 2004-05
Oak Land Vocational Center
315 7th Lane NE, Cambridge, 55008



"Making Real Education Advances"

Post-it	Date	# of pages
Fax Note		
To	Commissioner's Office	
Fax#	651.582.872A	
From	J. Ness	
Phone#	MREA Ex-Dir. 320.528.2650	

December 29, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

RE: Letter of Support for Alice Seagren

As executive director of Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) I am writing to you to inform you of MREA's support for Alice Seagren. We believe Ms. Seagren has demonstrated her concern for rural issues as a representative and would continue to do so as Commissioner of Education.

Ms. Seagren has been an advocate for telecommunication access, online learning, new pay incentives and rural teacher loan forgiveness. She has been a presence at MREA functions, most recently at our fall conference where she presented awards and also spoke well on education issues. We believe she will provide the leadership required to keep Minnesota a leader in education.

MREA recommends Alice Seagren to be the next Commissioner of Education without reservation. If I may be of further assistance please contact me.

Partners in Education,

Gerald "Jerry" Ness
MREA Executive Director

MINNESOTA RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

700 Cedar Street, Suite 208, Alexandria, MN 56308 • 320.762.6574 • Fax: 320.762.2854 • Email: office@mnrea.org



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An equal opportunity school district

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TTY: (612) 668-0001

THANDIWE M.C. PEEBLES, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 7, 2005

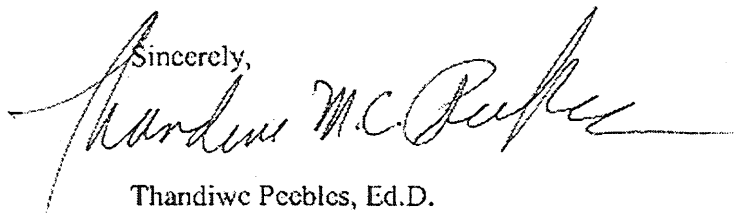
Governor Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Alice Seagren, Commissioner of Education

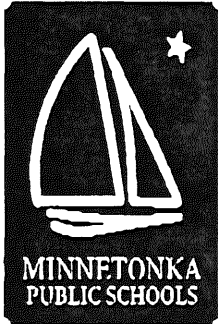
Dear Governor Pawlenty:

I came to Minnesota just over 5 months ago to accept the awesome challenge of mending a struggling district. Establishing a strong working relationship with the State Department of Education is a critical component to my success in this task. It is rare to be met with the level of authentic heartfelt support that I received from the State Commissioner of Education.

Alice Seagren has been a consistent source of encouragement in my transition into this role. Through her ready offer of resources, time and encouragement, my ease of transition has been immeasurably improved. I offer my enthusiastic support of Alice Seagren's reappointment as Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,


Thandiwe Peebles, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Minneapolis Public Schools



December 29, 2004

Dennis L. Peterson, Ph.D.
 Superintendent of Schools
 Minnetonka Public Schools
 5621 County Road 101
 Minnetonka, MN 55345
 (952) 401-5004
 (952) 401-5083 fax
 dennis.peterson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

SEVING THE Senator Steve Kelley
 205 Capitol
 COMMUNITIES OF: St. Paul, MN 55155

MINNETONKA Dear Senator Kelley:

CHANNASSUN It is my understanding that your committee will soon be taking up the confirmation of Alice
 DEEPHAVEN Seagren as Commissioner. This will be a very important issue for you and your committee,
 EDEN PRAIRIE and I want to emphasize that leaders in the school districts throughout the state are deeply
 EXCELSIOR committed to your decision. As the Superintendent of one of the nation's premier school
 districts, I want to communicate my interest in her appointment and my commitment to you
 that we will support Ms. Scagren fully if she receives confirmation.

GREENWOOD I do want to advocate for Ms. Seagren because I believe in what she stands for and what she
 SHORWOOD can accomplish in a very challenging position. I have had several opportunities to work
 TONKA BAY closely with her in her legislative capacity and as the Commissioner-designate, and her clear
 VICTORIA focus on the importance of education to our children and our state is impressive. She sees
 leadership as leading and not directing. She would be able to rally other leaders to
 accomplish important goals because of her vision, caring and communication skills.

WOODLAND During my thirty-six years as a superintendent in Minnesota and other states, I have worked
 with several commissioners or state superintendents and have observed qualities that made
 them successful and, sometimes, less than successful. Ms. Scagren clearly has the potential
 to be an outstanding Commissioner for our state and help pull all of us together to
 accomplish important work. Her ability to relate to individuals of varying political
 persuasions has been impressive, because it is so rare anymore. That complements your
 own skills, and we could really become a very special state again with such leadership.

I strongly urge your committee to quickly recommend the confirmation and support that
 recommendation through the process. We need the clarity such actions will provide. Alice
 needs the full support of leaders in and outside of state government, and quick confirmation
 begins that process. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Peterson Ph.D.



Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools
 952.681.6402
 Fax 952.681.6406
 gprest@bloomington.k12.mn.us

Educational Services Center
 1350 West 106th Street
 Bloomington, MN 55431-4126
 www.bloomington.k12.mn.us

Senator Steve Kelly
 Minnesota State Senate
 Room 205 Capitol Bldg.
 St. Paul, MN 55155

December 29, 2004

Dear Senator Kelly:

I am very pleased to enthusiastically endorse Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. I have known Rep. Seagren for many years. I have come to appreciate her experience and many personal qualities which make her the ideal educational leader for our great State.

First and foremost, Alice Seagren cares deeply about children. As a parent and grandparent, she knows first hand the importance of a nurturing, supportive environment necessary for the good growth and development of a child. Through our many discussions, I am convinced that she thinks of each child in this State as someone's child or grandchild. Thus, she views each child as special and deserving of the best that we can provide. She also understands the critical partnership that is necessary between parents and educators for success in raising children to be caring, responsible citizens.

Second, she dedicated a large part of her life in service to the public good. As a school board member of the Bloomington Public Schools, she sought to create the best educational environments for students from all over the city. As representative and Chair of the Minnesota State House K-12 Finance Committee she worked tirelessly to support the best educational environments possible for students from all over the State. She is an educational leader in both challenging and less challenging periods for public education. Regardless of the circumstance, conditions, possibilities or problems, she always pursues understanding, reaches out to ensure those involved are heard, studies what is relevant, and moves forward with common sense.

Third, Alice Seagren already plays a significant leadership role in public education in Minnesota. As an ardent supporter of public education, she consistently reaches out in true Minnesotan bi-partisan fashion to reach solutions for the betterment of schools and that allowed educators do the jobs that they are hired to do. For example, we appreciated the timely work that you, Senator Kelly, and she accomplished during the last session regarding the social study standards. At a time when few were finding common ground, you and she transcended political ideologies to get an important job done well.

Fourth, she has earned the respect of the entire educational community because of her fair leadership, willingness to learn, and always respectful demeanor. In my many discussions with colleagues from across the State of Minnesota, consistently they state how pleased citizens and educators are that Alice Seagren was Governor Pawlenty's choice for Commissioner of Education. While there may be disagreement from time to time over the best course for public education to take in Minnesota, all would be in agreement that Alice Seagren's motivation will always be one that has students at its core and the public good as its basis.

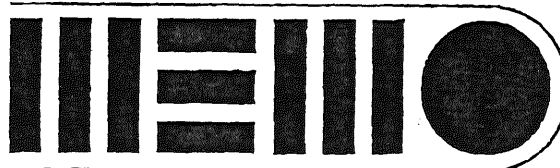
I would encourage you and your committee to recommend Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education, Department of Education, of the great State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools, Bloomington Public Schools

We help students thrive and dreams come alive

MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ORGANIZATION



*Serving school media and
information technology professionals*

3600 36th Ave. N., 207
New Hope, MN 55427
January 7, 2004

The Honorable Steve Kelley, The Minnesota State Senate
205 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

On behalf of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO), a professional organization made up of 500 library media and technology leaders, I would like to express support the confirmation of Commission Alice Seagren.

Commission Seagren has a record of working with educators to improve learning for all Minnesota students. She understands the issues and concerns of the entire educational community including students, staff, parents, and the larger community. She is a good listener and has a reputation as a straightforward negotiator.

Minnesota schools need strong leadership to improve student achievement in core subjects. We also believe that all learners must become effective users of information and technology. We look forward to working together with Commissioner Seagren to meet these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Prestebak, President
MEMO

Senator Steve Kelley
321 Capitol Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155
January 10, 2005

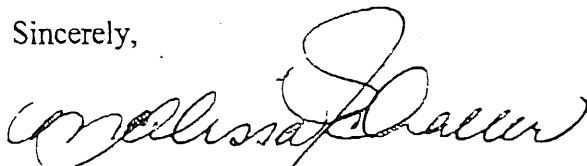
Dear Senator Kelley,

The Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children (MNCEC) is an organization representing approximately 800 members whose mission is to improve the practices and resources of persons working on behalf of individuals with exceptionalities in the State of Minnesota. For more than a decade, MNCEC has been a leader in providing professional development opportunities aimed at improving opportunities for individuals with exceptionalities.

Our organization recognizes Alice Seagren as a long-time friend and supporter of special education. Several of our members have had positive interactions with Ms. Seagren in the past, and MNCEC looks forward to continuing to work with Commissioner Seagren in advancing educational opportunities for Minnesota's children and youth with disabilities.

MNCEC has, for the first time in its history, formally identified legislative issues that we believe must be addressed if Minnesota is to continue to be a leader in educating children and youth with disabilities. Enclosed is a copy of the MNCEC legislative platform. We encourage your active support of these vital issues.

Sincerely,



Melissa Schaller, President
Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children

Enc.

**The Minnesota Council
for Exceptional Children's
Mission:**

To improve practices and resources
for persons working on behalf of
individuals with exceptionality in the
state of Minnesota.

**The Minnesota Council
for Exceptional Children's
Goals for 2004 – 2005:**

- To promote and utilize systems for timely communication with our membership.
 - To promote quality professional development opportunities including a quality conference.
 - To support the professional development of pre-service teachers.
 - To increase our involvement in political issues impacting our membership and the individuals they serve.
-

CAN Committee Chair:

Bryce Fornes-Bates
Special Education Teacher
Humboldt Senior High School
30 East Baker Street
St. Paul MN, 55107
Phone: 651.293.8600
Fax: 651.293.8605

CAN Committee Members:

Kathy Arnoldi
Lead Resource, K-12 Deaf/
Hard of Hearing Programs
Saint Paul Public Schools

Brad Benson
Special Education Teacher
Stillwater Area High School

Krista Fisher
Special Education Teacher
Mound Westonka High School

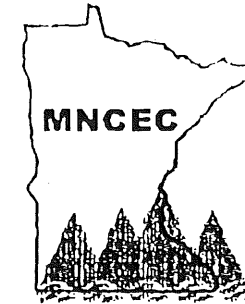
Marilyn Hukriede
Student CEC Advisor
MNCEC Board of Directors

Gary Lewis, Ed.D.
Director of Student Services
Northfield Public Schools

Daryl Miller
Special Education Director
Robbinsdale Area Schools

Nancy Recibe
Special Education Coordinator
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Schools

Mary Ellen Wade
Special Education Teacher
Jedlicka Middle School, Proctor Schools

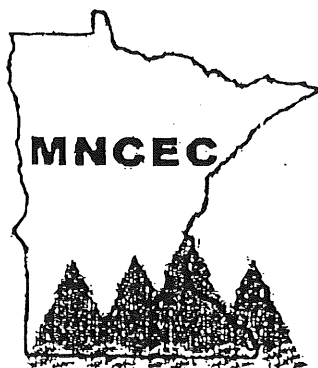


**2005
Legislative
Platform**

**Minnesota Council for
Exceptional Children
CAN Committee**

MNCEC Supports Funding for All Education

- MNCEC supports increased funding to ensure high quality, effective education for all students in Minnesota.
- MNCEC supports the restoration of the inflationary factor for special education funding.
- MNCEC supports the allocation of all federal special education funds to benefit special education services and programs.



MNCEC Supports Adoption of Value-Added Assessments

- MNCEC believes that current statewide testing which simply compares one group of students with another is insensitive in demonstrating the academic growth of students with special needs, including English language learners with disabilities.
- MNCEC believes that Minnesota must construct statewide tests that measure individual growth, provide feedback that helps teachers improve instruction, and that are aligned with the state standards.
- MNCEC believes that value-added assessments that measure student achievement across time are a valid and accurate measure of student growth and provide teachers with the information necessary to improve instruction for all students.

MNCEC Supports Measures that Improve the Recruitment and Retention of Special Education Professionals

- MNCEC believes that funding must be provided to support the coaching of beginning teachers to ease their entry into the profession and equip them with the skills necessary to remain in the special education field.
- MNCEC believes that funding must be provided to retain highly qualified teachers and support them to remain in the field of special education.
- MNCEC believes in expanding reciprocity in recognizing teaching licenses of personnel trained in and licensed by other states.
- MNCEC believes there must be portability of retirement credits from other states for educators who are willing to move to Minnesota.
- MNCEC believes that special education and related-service training programs in the State University System must be expanded.

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C-100

St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-2131

Telephone: 651-999-7333 • Toll Free MN: 800-430-6716 • Fax Number: 651-999-7331

On the Web: <http://www.massp.org>

Robert J. Schmidt, *Executive Director*
Roger J. Aronson, *Attorney*
Nan K. Mizuhata, *Director of Professional Development*

Scott D. Douglas, *President*
Scott M. Hannon, *President-Elect*
Douglas D. Standke, *Secretary*
Mary Pat Cumming, *Coordinator*
Randall J. Pillar, *Past President*

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Minnesota Senate
Room 205 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

I have known Ms. Seagren for approximately twenty (20) years. She was a member of the school board while I was serving as a high school principal in Bloomington. During that period of time, I observed Alice Seagren as a champion for all students – the gifted; those with special learning needs; and the “average” student.

Alice asked tough questions about educational practice and was always well prepared in discussing budget, policy and procedures. She was tenacious in her pursuance of educational excellence. Her commitment and leadership earned the respect of both school employees and the general community.

When Alice Seagren was elected to the House of Representatives, she displayed the same qualities of diligence, commitment and sense of “fairness” on complex legislative issues. Consequently, peers recognized her skills and placed her in leadership positions.

Alice speaks with a soft voice, using communication skills, which are inclusive, clear and direct. Her “people skills”, problem solving abilities and her commitment to excellence are admirable qualities of a leader.

Alice Seagren will provide great leadership as the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Schmidt
Executive Director



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Board of Education:
Diane Lund, Chair
Matthew Prigge, Vice Chair
Frank McAnulty, Clerk
Duane Quam, Treasurer
Paul Daley, Director
Phil Fuchs, Director
David Sanneman, Director

Superintendent/Business Office
Dr. Wendy S. Shannon, Superintendent
501 10th Avenue NE
Byron, MN 55920
507-775-2383 507-775-2385 Fax
Website: <http://bears.byron.k12.mn.us>

Byron Independent School District No. 531



"Maximizing Learning Opportunities for All"

Byron Elementary School (K-4)
David Hedin, Principal
501 10th Avenue NE
507-775-6620 507-775-7225 Fax

Byron Middle School (5-7)
Shelley Balkan, Principal
630 1st Avenue NW
507-775-2189 507-775-2825 Fax

Byron High School (8-12)
Michael Duffy, Principal
601 4th Street NW
507-775-2301 507-775-2303 Fax

December 28, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
Chair, Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Throughout her years in our state legislature, Commissioner Seagren was a strong advocate for public education and its role in the lives of Minnesota's children. The education community has appreciated her commitment to excellence in teaching and learning in our public schools, and her willingness to work with educators to develop sound and practical policy to support student achievement.

Commissioner Seagren understands the intricacy of school leadership, and has developed a reputation of listening well and connecting with school administrators. She is very knowledgeable about the issues currently of greatest concern to Minnesota's educators, and consistently invites our perspective. She is a skilled negotiator and consensus-builder. The respect she shows for our state's educators supports a level of collaboration that can serve to unite educators and policymakers around a common agenda of educational excellence for Minnesota's children. As an officer of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, I have been pleased to hear Commissioner Seagren express her positive regard for Minnesota's education associations. Our associations' constructive working relationship with the Commissioner and the Department of Education will enhance all of our abilities to assure student success.

Schools are organizations of people—children, their families, teachers, other staff, administrators, and the wider community. Commissioner Seagren's empathy and authenticity are attributes indicative of her own excellence as a leader, and of her ability to meaningfully serve the people of Minnesota in a system that impacts each of our lives.

These are challenging times for school administrators, calling for leadership to create a culture that joins together to identify optimistic and realistic approaches to address our obstacles, and to celebrate our many successes. Commissioner Seagren cares about all kids, understands the education issues impacting them, and honors their accomplishments. Therefore, it is my honor to support her confirmation as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Wendy Shannon, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Byron Schools



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C101 - St. Paul, MN 55108-2131
e-mail: mespa@mespa.net
Web site: www.mespa.net

Susan Abrahamson, *President*

Phone: (651) 999-7310
FAX: (651) 999-7311
Greater Minnesota: 1-800-642-6807

P. Fred Storti, *Executive Director*

January 6, 2005

Senator Steven Kelly
Room 205, Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelly,

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

Commissioner Seagren understands both finance and policy and knows how the legislature works. Her prior experience as a school board member, legislator and chair of the House Education Committee give her valuable incites in our critically important P-16 educational enterprise.

During the past three years as executive director of MESPA, I have had the opportunity to work with Alice Seagren on a number of education issues and have found her to be knowledgeable, honest, respectful, and a good listener.

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association supports Alice Seagren's confirmation as Commissioner of Education.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Fred Storti".

P. Fred Storti
Executive Director
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association



independent school district #761

Tom Tapper, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 6, 2005

Honorable Senator Steve Kelley
Chair, Senate Education Committee
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley,

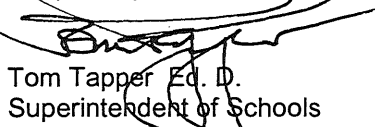
It is my understanding that the Senate Education Committee has determined to take action related to the appointment of the Commissioner of Education for the Minnesota Department of Education. I would like to forward a letter in support of the permanent appointment of Alice Seagren to serve in that capacity.

I have been fortunate to have made a career as a public school educator. I have valued the opportunities my chosen profession has provided me because I can think of no other profession that is more important in shaping the future of our nation and society than working in our public schools. And so it is within this framework of understanding that I submit this letter of support for Alice Seagren.

I have had the opportunity to observe Commissioner Seagren while she served in the House of Representatives, and consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with her directly over the past six (6) years. It is because of my work with then Representative Seagren, that I feel qualified to speak on her behalf. I have found her to be a person of integrity, a good listener, a caring person, and an effective communicator. Alice Seagren is a person who has shown a deep-seated and genuine concern for children and truly cares about creating a future for each and every child. She is approachable and open; readily accessible to the public. She is also a person of conviction who has a vision for a future society that is 'better than' the one we live in today and recognizes that a strong public school system is one of the essential tools needed to get there.

These attributes, I believe, will serve her well as the Commissioner of Education. The Department, and the entire public school system, will have an opportunity to work together at a level not recently seen, because of the leadership Alice Seagren will provide as Commissioner. While everyone has them, I can think of no flaw in Alice Seagren's qualities and qualifications other than her tireless commitment to children that, if she isn't careful, will lead her to exhaust both her energies and her passion. The Senate will find no more qualified candidate than Alice Seagren. I sincerely hope she receives approval and look forward to the opportunity to work with her in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom Tapper, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc. Commissioner Alice Seagren

**Southwest/West Central
Service Cooperatives**

1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: (507) 537-2240 V/TTY
FAX: (507) 537-7663



... Serving schools, communities, and other agencies

January 5, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1206

Dear Senator Kelley:

This letter is in support of the confirmation of Alice Seagren as the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

After 33 years in public education in Minnesota, I've had ample opportunity to work with the many education commissioners who have served our state. As such, I believe that I can say without reservation that Alice Seagren would serve the students of this state in the highest tradition. There have been very few commissioners since Howard Casmey who have the education communities' respect that Alice holds. There have been even fewer commissioners who held the bi-partisan respect that Alice is given.

We need an education commissioner who can help educators and the system do the very best possible for the children of this state. I believe Alice Seagren is that person and urge you and the committee to approve her appointment.

Sincerely,

Lee Warne, Executive Director
Southwest / West Central Service Cooperatives
Marshall, Minnesota



Rochester Public Schools

Independent School District #535
615 7th St. SW • Rochester, Minnesota 55902-2052

Office of the Superintendent • Telephone (507) 285-8551 • FAX (507) 281-6020

January 4, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
205 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Confirmation of Alice Seagren

Dear Senator Kelley:

I heartily endorse the confirmation of Alice Seagren as the next Commissioner of Education for the state of Minnesota. As a school administrator, I can attest to the confidence I have in her leadership as well as her great knowledge of K-12 education. She is the ideal person for the job in these very challenging times.

In previous years, when testifying before her House committees, I was always impressed with not only her knowledge of education issues but also her intense interest in listening to our concerns. She cared about what was happening in the schools, how proposed legislation would impact us, and honestly sought our opinion. My opinion has not changed. In the past months since her appointment, I have had the opportunity to confer with her and host her on a visit to Rochester. She deeply cares about the education of Minnesota's youth and continually strives for ways to make it better.

Confirming Ms. Seagren as Commissioner of Education is the right thing for the Senate to do. She is a stabilizing force after two years of unrest, has the respect of educators throughout the state, and will be open to various ways to accomplish what we need to do in K-12. Her sincerity and integrity are worn proudly by her and visible to us all. I can think of no other person who understands the legislative process as well as she does and would be so warmly and enthusiastically received as Commissioner.

As a school administrator, I look to the Commissioner to be an outspoken advocate for public education in every corner of the state. I am convinced that Alice Seagren will be that person and restore our confidence in the Minnesota Department of Education. Without question, I enthusiastically support her confirmation and encourage your Committee and the Senate to do so without delay.

Sincerely,

Jerry Williams
Superintendent

Cc: Commissioner Alice Seagren

1900 W Jefferson Ave
St. Peter, Minnesota
56082-3015

Tel: 507.934.2450
MN: 800.324.4459

Fax: 507.931.1515
www.mnmsba.org

MINNESOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION



December 30, 2004

Members of the Minnesota Senate:

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), whose membership includes all Minnesota public school board members and superintendents of schools, requests your support for the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education.

Commissioner Designee Seagren has served on a school board, provided education finance leadership to the House of Representatives as the Chairperson of the Education Finance Committee, and is recognized across the state as a spokesperson for excellent education opportunities for all children.

One of many talents Commissioner Designee Seagren possesses is the ability to work with all parties in finding necessary solutions. My experience with her over the years has proven to me that she is fair-minded, committed to a strong public education system, and willing to represent all children (including the gifted and talented, regular students, and special education students) with equal fervor. I believe she will be a strong voice for education within the Pawlenty Administration.

The Minnesota School Boards Association is confident that Alice Seagren will be a very capable Commissioner of Education. Therefore, we ask that you support the confirmation of Commissioner Designee Seagren.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Meeks
Executive Director
Minnesota School Boards Association

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Joanne McCabe
Madelia

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jack Williams, Jr.
Cambridge-Isanti

PAST PRESIDENT

Don May
Hastings

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Underwood

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Mountain Iron-Buhl

DIRECTOR DISTRICT 12

Gary Anderson
Grygla-Gatzke

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bob Meeks
St. Peter



January 6, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Room 205, State Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

On behalf of Schools for Equity in Education, I am both pleased and honored to provide this letter of support for Commissioner-designee Alice Seagren as the Senate Education Committee considers her appointment as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Alice Seagren has a comprehensive set of experiences that qualifies her to be an outstanding Commissioner of Education. In each of her six terms in the Minnesota Legislature, she served on the House Education Finance and Education Committees. I believe the hallmark of her legislative service on these committees was her hard work across a broad range of education issues and her consistent desire to play a positive role in meeting the needs of students throughout Minnesota.

Prior to her legislative experience, she was a member of the Bloomington School Board and a parent with schoolchildren in that district. Through these experiences, she has developed a tremendous ability to understand education policy from a variety of perspectives and that quality befits the person chosen to serve as Minnesota's chief educational officer.

Our organization worked very closely with Commissioner-designee Seagren for the past six years when she served as the Chair of the House Education Finance Committee. In that capacity, she exhibited both the willingness and ability to fully understand the issues that were of greatest importance to Schools for Equity in Education and how the policies we advocated affected school districts throughout Minnesota. In my estimation, it is her view that all of the state's school districts, and by extension the students in these districts, should benefit from policies developed at the state level and her actions have been consistent with that belief.

Perhaps most importantly, Commissioner-designee Seagren has exhibited both the desire and ability to build a consensus in developing solutions to a number of complex education issues throughout her career as both a school board member and legislator. She is both open-minded and pragmatic in her approach to decision-making. These qualities and abilities should prove extremely valuable in an environment that has unfortunately, in some instances, become increasingly contentious.

I believe that Alice Seagren would serve with distinction as Minnesota's next Commissioner of Education and urge the Senate Education Committee and the full Senate to confirm her appointment.

Sincerely,

Brad Lundell
Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C-100

St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-2131

Telephone: 651-999-7333 • Toll Free MN: 800-430-6716 • Fax Number: 651-999-7331

On the Web: <http://www.massp.org>

Robert J. Schmidt, *Executive Director*
Roger J. Aronson, *Attorney*
Nan K. Mizuhata, *Director of Professional Development*

Scott D. Douglas, *President*
Scott M. Hannon, *President-Elect*
Douglas D. Standke, *Secretary*
Mary Pat Cumming, *Coordinator*
Randall J. Pillar, *Past President*

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
Minnesota Senate
Room 205 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelley:

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

I have known Ms. Seagren for approximately twenty (20) years. She was a member of the school board while I was serving as a high school principal in Bloomington. During that period of time, I observed Alice Seagren as a champion for all students – the gifted; those with special learning needs; and the “average” student.

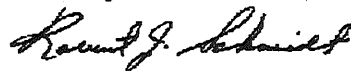
Alice asked tough questions about educational practice and was always well prepared in discussing budget, policy and procedures. She was tenacious in her pursuit of educational excellence. Her commitment and leadership earned the respect of both school employees and the general community.

When Alice Seagren was elected to the House of Representatives, she displayed the same qualities of diligence, commitment and sense of “fairness” on complex legislative issues. Consequently, peers recognized her skills and placed her in leadership positions.

Alice speaks with a soft voice, using communication skills, which are inclusive, clear and direct. Her “people skills”, problem solving abilities and her commitment to excellence are admirable qualities of a leader.

Alice Seagren will provide great leadership as the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Schmidt
Executive Director



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

December 29, 2004

Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelley:

It is my understanding that your committee will soon be taking up the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner. This will be a very important issue for you and your committee, and I want to emphasize that leaders in the school districts throughout the state are deeply committed to your decision. As the Superintendent of one of the nation's premier school districts, I want to communicate my interest in her appointment and my commitment to you that we will support Ms. Seagren fully if she receives confirmation.

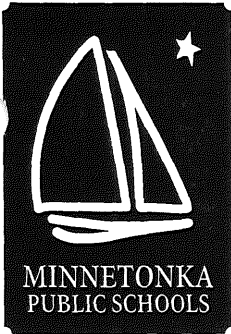
I do want to advocate for Ms. Seagren because I believe in what she stands for and what she can accomplish in a very challenging position. I have had several opportunities to work closely with her in her legislative capacity and as the Commissioner-designate, and her clear focus on the importance of education to our children and our state is impressive. She sees leadership as leading and not directing. She would be able to rally other leaders to accomplish important goals because of her vision, caring and communication skills.

During my thirty-six years as a superintendent in Minnesota and other states, I have worked with several commissioners or state superintendents and have observed qualities that made them successful and, sometimes, less than successful. Ms. Seagren clearly has the potential to be an outstanding Commissioner for our state and help pull all of us together to accomplish important work. Her ability to relate to individuals of varying political persuasions has been impressive, because it is so rare anymore. That complements your own skills, and we could really become a very special state again with such leadership.

I strongly urge your committee to quickly recommend the confirmation and support that recommendation through the process. We need the clarity such actions will provide. Alice needs the full support of leaders in and outside of state government, and quick confirmation begins that process. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Peterson Ph.D.



Dennis L. Peterson, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Minnetonka Public Schools
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(952) 401-5004
(952) 401-5083 fax
dennis.peterson@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

December 29, 2004

SERVING THE
COMMUNITIES OF: Senator Steve Kelley
205 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

MINNETONKA Dear Senator Kelley:

CHANHASSEN It is my understanding that your committee will soon be taking up the confirmation of Alice
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begins that process. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Peterson Ph.D.



Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
952.681.6402
Fax 952.681.6406
gprest@bloomington.k12.mn.us

Educational Services Center
1350 West 106th Str
Bloomington, MN 55431-4126
www.bloomington.k12.mn.us

Senator Steve Kelly
Minnesota State Senate
Room 205 Capitol Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

December 29, 2004

Dear Senator Kelly:

I am very pleased to enthusiastically endorse Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. I have known Rep. Seagren for many years. I have come to appreciate her experience and many personal qualities which make her the ideal educational leader for our great State.

First and foremost, Alice Seagren cares deeply about children. As a parent and grandparent, she knows first hand the importance of a nurturing, supportive environment necessary for the good growth and development of a child. Through our many discussions, I am convinced that she thinks of each child in this State as someone's child or grandchild. Thus, she views each child as special and deserving of the best that we can provide. She also understands the critical partnership that is necessary between parents and educators for success in raising children to be caring, responsible citizens.

Second, she dedicated a large part of her life in service to the public good. As a school board member of the Bloomington Public Schools, she sought to create the best educational environments for students from all over the city. As representative and Chair of the Minnesota State House K-12 Finance Committee she worked tirelessly to support the best educational environments possible for students from all over the State. She is an educational leader in both challenging and less challenging periods for public education. Regardless of the circumstance, conditions, possibilities or problems, she always pursues understanding, reaches out to ensure those involved are heard, studies what is relevant, and moves forward with common sense.

Third, Alice Seagren already plays a significant leadership role in public education in Minnesota. As an ardent supporter of public education, she consistently reaches out in true Minnesotan bi-partisan fashion to reach solutions for the betterment of schools and that allowed educators do the jobs that they are hired to do. For example, we appreciated the timely work that you, Senator Kelly, and she accomplished during the last session regarding the social study standards. At a time when few were finding common ground, you and she transcended political ideologies to get an important job done well.

Fourth, she has earned the respect of the entire educational community because of her fair leadership, willingness to learn, and always respectful demeanor. In my many discussions with colleagues from across the State of Minnesota, consistently they state how pleased citizens and educators are that Alice Seagren was Governor Pawlenty's choice for Commissioner of Education. While there may be disagreement from time to time over the best course for public education to take in Minnesota, all would be in agreement that Alice Seagren's motivation will always be one that has students at its core and the public good as its basis.

I would encourage you and your committee to recommend Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education, Department of Education, of the great State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Gary S. Prest, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools, Bloomington Public Schools

We help students thrive and dreams come alive



EDUCATION SERVICES CENTER
1001 HIGHWAY 7
HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55305-4723

"Passion for Learning...Learning for Life"

Michael L. Kremer, Ph.D.
Superintendent
 952.988.4021 952.988.4092 (fax)
 michael_kremer@hopkins.k12.mn.us

HOPKINS
 SCHOOL
 DISTRICT

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	01/03/05	# of pages	2
To	Steve Kelley	From	Mike Kremer		
Co./Dupl		Co	Hopkins School District		
Phone #		Phone	952.988.4022		
Fax #	651.225.7515	Fax #			

January 3, 2005

Senator Steve Kelley
 Chair — K-12 Education Committee
 205 State Capitol
 75 Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Steve,

Throughout the past 12 years as Superintendent in the Hopkins School District, I have had the sincere privilege of working with Alice Seagren in both her position as a member of the House of Representatives, and now as Commissioner. Alice is a very intelligent with a pleasant personality and a highly developed sense of organization and logic. Her capacity for leadership is exceptionally strong by virtue of her creative thinking and application of the principles surrounding good human relationships. Her ability to recognize or anticipate a problem, evaluate it, and decide on a correct course of action is in striking contrast to that of the average leader today. She also recognizes that as the designated leader, she will be held accountable for her own actions, as well as those of her subordinates.

I have found Alice to be an excellent student; her perception and knowledge surrounding the field of education results in mastership of the situation. In fulfilling her role as a leader in the House of Representatives, Alice focused on education issues and demonstrated an astute ability to identify staff and programs to support; an interest in ensuring prompt delivery of quality services to students, teachers, and parents; and most importantly, a willingness to follow-up on those efforts. Alice continues to be one of the most effective users of a decision-making process I refer to as, 'collaborative consultation' (i.e., she seeks input from all parties impacted by decision before identifying a game plan). This leadership style serves her extremely well in her newest role as Commissioner of Education.

Courage is the intangible leadership quality of which greatness is made. Alice exhibits her unique style of courage in many ways, including:

- ✓ Being able to say, "no;"
- ✓ Taking positions on important issues;
- ✓ Responding to defeat by trying even harder;
- ✓ Facing conflict openly and head-on;
- ✓ Bearing ones' burdens; and
- ✓ Adapting to change.

Senator Steve Kelley
January 3, 2005
Page two

From where I stand, Alice consistently displays her courage when tackling the important and difficult educational agenda in her role as a member of the House of Representative over the last 10+ years.

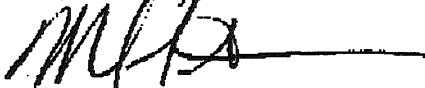
Loyalty from those with whom you work is priceless. Alice garners the loyalty of those with whom she has worked by displaying an interest in and caring for each individual through her words and actions. In essence, people firmly believe that she is devoted to the good of all, and does everything in her power to help each succeed, both as individuals and collectively. Her high performance as a leader is also characterized by exceptional determination in the pursuit of goals and objectives — she dislikes easing up until she succeeds. Alice has constantly found herself in the zone of distinction due to the fact that she insists on excellence, and in so doing, receives it from those around her.

Personally, Alice is dependable, enthusiastic, ambitious, gregarious, tolerant, and sensitive to the point that those associated with her turn to her freely for guidance. She is very capable of self-evaluation and has the security to be very open to suggestions. All with whom she comes in contact recognize her charisma and leadership abilities. In addition, I have found her to be an articulate presenter of information.

In closing, I would add that Alice lives by the highest standards of honesty and integrity. It is one thing to talk about honesty and integrity, and it is quite another to live your life that way. She understands that without integrity, you do not have trust; without trust, you have nothing. Accordingly, those around her develop a sense of pride and accomplishment that surfaces from striving for and achieving high levels of performance. Most sincerely, I believe people want to be a part of her winning team.

Alice is, without question, well prepared and positioned to assume the position of Commissioner of Education in the State of Minnesota. In fact, I believe she will leave a legacy marked by a successful tenure unmatched by predecessors over the last fifty years. On that basis, I would strongly recommend her for the position.

Most sincerely,



Michael L. Kremer, Ph.D.
Superintendent

MLK/rsm

c: Alice Seagren
District 270 Board of Education

5701 NORMANDALE ROAD
EDINA, MINNESOTA 55424
952/848-3900
FAX 952/848-3901

January 7, 2005

Honorable Senator Steve Kelly
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1606

Dear Senator Kelly:

It is my great pleasure as an individual to write this letter of recommendation for Alice Seagren to become Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota. The appointment of Alice Seagren by Governor Pawlenty for this position, in my opinion, was a tremendous boost to increasing the credibility and professionalism of the Minnesota Department of Education. I make this recommendation based on my personal and professional experiences with Alice Seagren, and this recommendation is not politically motivated in any way nor does it have any connection to any educational organization or lobbying group.

I first met Alice Seagren when she was a state representative for Bloomington and was impressed at that time with her knowledge of educational issues and empathy for the needs of students. Subsequently, she represented a portion of Edina and I developed even closer contact with her as we discussed and supported educational issues for the state and for our community. I have always found her to be a great listener, extremely professional, and intellectually engaged in the decisions that will impact students and families every day. She understands the educational, social, and psychological issues that confront students and families and seeks to find the best programs and legislation that will meet some of these needs. She is highly respected in our community because she cares and listens.

I especially appreciate her warm and welcoming attitude toward people. She understands that in order to get major change and to improve the condition of our schools she needs to seek the advice of many individuals. Since she was appointed, she has opened wide the doors at the Department of Education to seek input and advice from a variety of constituents. She truly cares what we think and is willing to accept our opinions but also to challenge us with her perceptions and insight. Sitting down to a conversation with her is intellectually stimulating, always respectful, and solution seeking. I may have agreed or disagreed on the issues over the years but the conversations fully explored the rationale for the direction or decisions and were always extremely professional. That is a rare commodity that serves the State of Minnesota well.



Alice Seagren understands the need to continue to improve the quality of education in the State of Minnesota. She has fought hard over the years for the needs of students, and is willing to stand tall to push forth some initiative that she feels will make our educational system more responsive, effective, and accountable. She does not shy away from controversial issues but rather seeks to understand both sides of the issue and work toward a compromise that will move a positive educational agenda forward.

Alice Seagren is an excellent leader. She has welcomed, into the Department of Education, outstanding professionals who are not only highly respected by people in the profession of education but also by the general public. These individuals have been given the freedom to explore issues, seek solutions, and implement ideas that will benefit education in Minnesota. She has nurtured an atmosphere of partnership and progress at the Department of Education, and as a citizen of Minnesota I am thankful.

In conclusion, I have high respect for Alice Seagren, and am confident that she will be an excellent Commissioner of Education for Minnesota. Her welcoming personal style, strong commitment to students, and willingness to seek solutions collaboratively to make education stronger in Minnesota will move education forward in a positive and productive way. If you so desire, I would be willing to personally attest to my recommendation at the confirmation hearings.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Dragseth, Ph.D
Superintendent
Edina Public Schools



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite C101 - St. Paul, MN 55108-2131
e-mail: mespa@mespa.net
Web site: www.mespa.net

Susan Abrahamson, *President*

Phone: (651) 999-7310
FAX: (651) 999-7311
Greater Minnesota: 1-800-642-6807

P. Fred Storti, *Executive Director*

January 6, 2005

Senator Steven Kelly
Room 205, Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kelly,

The purpose of this letter is to support the confirmation of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

Commissioner Seagren understands both finance and policy and knows how the legislature works. Her prior experience as a school board member, legislator and chair of the House Education Committee give her valuable incites in our critically important P-16 educational enterprise.

During the past three years as executive director of MESPA, I have had the opportunity to work with Alice Seagren on a number of education issues and have found her to be knowledgeable, honest, respectful, and a good listener.

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association supports Alice Seagren's confirmation as Commissioner of Education.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P. Fred Storti', is written over a horizontal line.

P. Fred Storti
Executive Director
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association



MINNESOTA
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

3610 IDS Center
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-370-0840
612-334-3086 fax
www.mnbp.com

January 10, 2005

The Honorable Steve Kelley, Chair
Minnesota Senate Education Committee
205 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Gen Olson, Ranking Republican
Minnesota Senate Education Committee
119 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Kelley and Senator Olson:

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Business Partnership to encourage you, and your respective caucuses, to confirm the appointment of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Like you, we have had the opportunity to work with Commissioner-Designate Seagren on a wide variety of state K-12 education policy and fiscal issues over the years. It has always been clear that her foremost concern in education is doing what is in the best interest of students.

As Minnesota and our schools strive to recognize and adjust to the challenges and opportunities presented by demographic, technological and global changes, Commissioner-Designate Seagren's leadership for doing what is in the best interest of students will be critical.

Commissioner-Designate Seagren's background as an involved public school parent, school board member and Chair of the House of Representative's Education Finance Committee not only demonstrates her knowledge of and commitment to education, but also her expertise in working with diverse groups of people to solve what are often very complex issues.

In short, Commissioner-Designate Alice Seagren's commitment to students, her extensive knowledge of state and national education issues and her ability to effectively work with divergent constituencies make her an ideal candidate for commissioner.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We hope you will confirm the appointment of Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Weaver".

Charlie Weaver
Executive Director

APPOINTMENT LETTER FOR SENATE CONFIRMATION

FILE NUMBER **011**

REPORTED IN THE SENATE JOURNAL **1/4/2005**

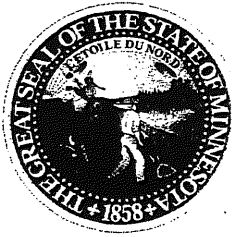
APPOINTMENT AS THE **Commissioner of the Department of Education**

APPOINTEE AND TERM:

Alice Seagren

9/1/2004-1/1/2007

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON **Education**



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

July 20, 2004

The Honorable James P. Metzen
President of the Senate
322 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Metzen:

The following appointment is hereby respectfully submitted to the Senate for confirmation as required by law:

Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education

Alice Seagren, 9730 Palmer Circle, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437, in the county of Hennepin, effective September 1, 2004, for a term that expires on January 1, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

TP/jb

Enclosures

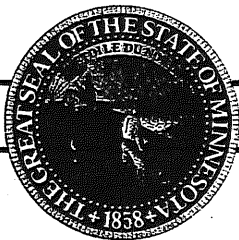
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JUL 23 2004

President of the Senate

STATE of MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE



DEPARTMENT

TIM PAWLENTY
GOVERNOR

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

ALICE SEAGREN

9730 Palmer Circle
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437
County of Hennepin
Congressional District Three

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the said office of:

Commissioner

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Effective: September, 1 2004
Term Expires: January 1, 2007

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, July 20, 2004.



Governor

Secretary of State

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2004

Replacing: Cheri Pierson Yecke

ALICE M. SEAGREN

• Current Legislative Responsibilities •

K-12 Education Finance Committee - Chair (1999 - Present)
Education Policy Committee
Ways & Means Committee
Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee
Minnesota Legislative Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee
Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy
National Council of State Legislatures Education Committee (July 1999 -
December 2002)
 Chair, Education Committee, NCSL Assembly of State Issues (2002)
 Vice-Chair, Education Committee, NCSL, Assembly of State Issues (July
 1999 -December 2001)
 National Council of State Legislatures, Task Force on School Leadership

• Past Legislative Responsibilities •

K-12 Education Finance Division Committee
 Education Facilities Subcommittee
 Subcommittee on Teacher Preparation
Education Policy Committee
 Co-chair Education Reform Task Force
 Vocational High School Planning Committee
 Planning and Transition Subcommittee
 Quality Initiatives Subcommittee
Housing Committee
School Funding and Property Tax Reform Task Force
Joint House/Senate Working Group on Property Tax Reform
Republican Task Force on Welfare Reform
Government Operations and Gambling Committee
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Ethics Committee
Republican Task Force on Student Achievement/Integration
Governor's Commission for Early Childhood Intervention
Judiciary Committee
 Judiciary Civil Law Subcommittee
 Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders in Corrections
 Judicial and Legislative Branches Liaison Working Group

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• Awards •

ARC Minnesota, "Legislator of the Year" 1994
Minnesota Career & Technical Administrators, 2000
College Board, Education Excellence Award, August 14, 2001
Association of Metropolitan School Districts, "Legislator of the Year",
September, 2001
Minnesota Deaf Community's "Legislator of the Year" 2001
Association of Metropolitan School Districts' "Friend of Public Education" 2001
Region III, Association for Career and Technical Education "Award of Merit"
2000-2001
Minnesota Association of Agriculture Education – "Bellringer" Award 2002
Minnesota Association of Charter Schools "Friend of Charter Schools" 2002

• Legislation Highlights •

Legislation establishing Residential Academies for at risk children.
Legislation establishing educational services for children birth to 3 years of age.
Charter School legislation to advance educational choices for parents.
"Safe Haven for Newborns Act"
Legislation to fund battered women's shelter in Bloomington.
Bonding money for Science and Education wings at Normandale Community
College, Bloomington
Legislation establishing teacher "pay for performance" pilot program

• Current Civic Activities •

Member, Normandale Community College Foundation Board
Member, Wells Fargo Bank Community Board
Member, Edina Chamber of Commerce
Member, Bloomington Baptist Church
Corporate Member, Fraser Community Services

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• **Past Leadership** •

Member, Center of the American Experiment Workforce & Human Rights Task Force

Director, Bloomington School Board

Director, Hennepin Technical College/Special Education District 287

Board Member, Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Delegate, Minnesota School Board Association

Chairperson, Special Education Community Advisory Committee

Member, Disability Services Advisory Board

Task Forces:

Graduation Requirements

Alternative Scheduling

Weighted Grades

Facility Use

Advocacy:

Member, Gifted and Talented Council

Member, Bloomington Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities

• **Past Community Leadership** •

Director, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, 1991-1992

Leadership Bloomington Graduate, 1989

Leadership Bloomington Program

Committee Member, Urban Hope Board

Member, House Nezerka & Froelich CPA Advisory Board

Member, BCAV (Bloomington Coalition Against Violence)

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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR TIM PAWLENTY
130 State Capitol ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155 ♦ (651) 296-0001

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 20, 2004

Contact: Daniel Wolter
(651) 296-0001

GOVERNOR PAWLENTY NAMES ALICE SEAGREN COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Saint Paul – Governor Tim Pawlenty today named State Representative Alice Seagren as the new commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. Seagren, currently the Chair of the Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Education Finance, has served as a legislator since 1992. The Governor said Representative Seagren has the experience and vision to continue to focus the Department of Education on its core mission of increasing student achievement, while still working towards innovation and reform.

“We have made great strides in the last year and a half towards improving Minnesota schools and instituting more accountability measures,” said Governor Pawlenty. “Alice Seagren will continue the work of Cheri Pierson Yecke in moving toward the goal of making our state a leader in improved student achievement. She has been a key legislative ally and will help this Administration move forward in implementing more education innovations and reforms.”

As a legislator, Seagren worked on a variety of education-related reforms. Some of her biggest legislative accomplishments include providing more alternative compensation opportunities for Minnesota teachers; collaborating with other legislators and education stakeholders to develop Minnesota’s Academic Standards; serving on the No Child Left Behind Stakeholders group that developed Minnesota’s plan; working to establish Residential Academies for at risk children; working towards a more value-added testing system as a measure of student achievement; and promoting and enhancing the opportunities for charter schools in Minnesota. She is also noted for her extensive work on special education issues.

The Governor noted that in addition to her legislative work, Seagren currently serves as a member of a variety of civic organizations, including the Normandale Community College Foundation Board, the Wells Fargo Bank Community Board, Edina Chamber of Commerce, Bloomington Baptist Church, and as a Corporate Board Member for Fraser Community Services. She is also involved in the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) Education Committee, and has received a number of awards from various organizations for her legislative accomplishments.

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"Minnesota has gone through a period of change and transition in education, due to the federal No Child Left Behind Act and the new Minnesota Academic Standards," said Seagren. "I look forward to working with Governor Pawlenty to continue to make Minnesota a leader in education."

The Minnesota Department of Education assists schools, families and other education providers with services that result in high academic achievement for all students, pre-kindergarten to grade 12, and adult learners. The department mission seeks to improve educational achievement, enhance teacher quality and provide more opportunities and choices for parents and students. The Department has an annual budget that includes over \$6 billion in state K-12 and early childhood funding. In addition to state and local funding, the agency administers over \$700 million in federal funds.

Seagren, 57, was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business/Marketing from Southeast Missouri State University. She and her husband, Fred, live in Bloomington, Minnesota. They have two children and two grandchildren, with another one on the way.

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ALICE M. SEAGREN

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Transportation Policy Committee
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• Past Legislative Responsibilities •

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Advisory Task Force on Female Offenders in Corrections
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Member, House Nezerka & Froelich CPA Advisory Board

Member, BCAV (Bloomington Coalition Against Violence)

Public Official Information

Department of Education

Name: Seagren, Alice
 Occupation: Commissioner
 Business Address: 1500 Hwy 36 W
 Roseville, MN 55113
 Employer Name: Minn Dept of Education
 Appointment Date: 09/01/04

Sources of Compensation

Applicable categories

Name of Source	Director	Officer	Owner	Member	Partner	Employer	Employee	Honorarium
Wells Fargo Community Bank Board								X

Securities

Name of Securities

AIM European Growth Fund
 Applied Materials, Inc
 Cisco Systems Inc
 Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund
 Fidelity Diversified International Fund
 Fidelity VIP Contrafund
 Fidelity VIP Equity Income
 Fidelity VIP Index 500
 Medco Health Solutions
 Merck & Co
 Oracle Corp
 T Rowe Price Equity Income
 T Rowe Price Small-cap Stock Fund
 Vanguard GNMA Fund
 Vanguard Institutional Index Fund Plus
 Vanguard Windsor Fund

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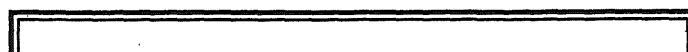
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Real Property

None Reported

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing Interests

None Reported



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<u>Current Public Official</u>	<u>Public Official Index</u>
<u>Campaign Finance Home Page</u>	

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