

# **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

*The White Bear Lake Area School District leading...  
minds to learning,  
hearts to compassion,  
lives to community service.*

# Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Linda Distad, President  
[lsdistad@sfkate.edu](mailto:lsdistad@sfkate.edu) 651.690.6798

Laura Von Holtum, Executive Assistant  
[lauravh@somtel.net](mailto: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.

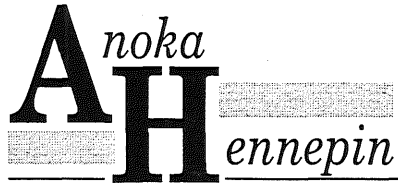
A speedy confirmation of Alice Seagren as Education Commissioner would allow all of us to proceed with the important work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,



Linda Distad, EdD.  
President

MEMBERS: Augsburg College · Bemidji State University · Bethel College · Bethany Lutheran College · Carleton College · College of St. Benedict/St. John's University · College of St. Catherine · College of St. Scholastica · Concordia College · Concordia University · Crown College · Gustavus Adolphus College · Hamline University · Macalester College · Martin Luther College · Metropolitan State University · Minnesota State University, Mankato · Minnesota State University Moorhead · North Central University · Northwestern College · Southwest State University · St. Cloud State University · St. Mary's University of MN · St. Olaf College · University of Minnesota–Duluth · University of Minnesota–Morris · University of Minnesota–Twin Cities · University of St. Thomas · Winona State University



*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](http://www.pacer.org) • Fax: (952) 838-0199 • E-mail: [pacer@pacer.org](mailto: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



# Saint Paul PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**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](http://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.

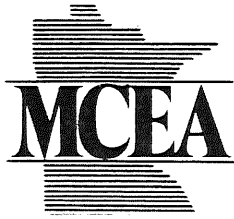
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia A. Harvey". The signature is 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

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

# BROOKLYN CENTER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 286

6500 Humboldt Avenue North  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1897

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

Phone: (763) 561-2120  
FAX: (763) 560-2647



**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.

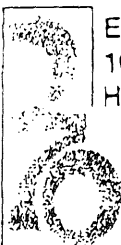
Your committee's endorsement of Alice Seagren would be a welcomed step in assisting the state of Minnesota and the school districts to fulfill the promise of a quality education for all children.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Johns  
Superintendent, ISD #286

CC: Alice Seagren

HOPKINS  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT



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

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 #			

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 mastery 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.

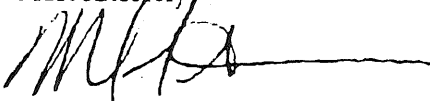
Loyalty from those with whom you work is priceless. Alice garners the loyalty of those with whom she has worked by displaying an interest in and caring for each individual through her words and actions. In essence, people firmly believe that she is devoted to the good of all, and does everything in her 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



**Intermediate District**  
*Partner in Education*

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Member  
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Minnetonka  
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Richfield  
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Wayzata  
Westonka

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](mailto:jellobben@int287.k12.mn.us)

[www.int287.k12.mn.us](http://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 &amp; 14, 2005

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

Tel: 507.934.2450  
MN: 800.324.4439

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# MINNESOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION



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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bob Meeks  
St. Peter

An Equal Employment  
Opportunity Affirmative  
Action Employer

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.

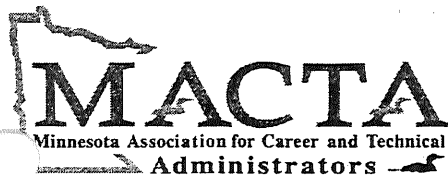
Commissioner Designee Seagren has served on a school board, provided education finance leadership to the House of Representatives as the Chairperson of the Education Finance Committee, and is recognized across the state as a spokesperson for excellent education opportunities for all children.

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.

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

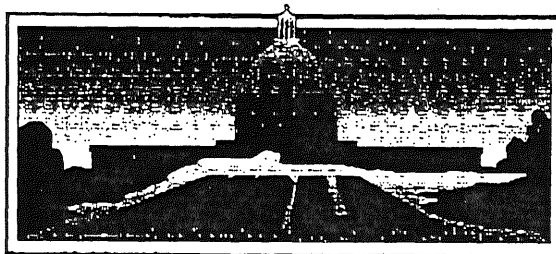
Jim Arndt  
Director  
Duluth, MN

Arlin Melgaard  
Past President  
Bemidji, MN

On Behalf of the MACTA Board, Sincerely,

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





*"Making Real Education Advances"*

Post-it  
Fax Note  
To Commissioner's Office  
Fax# 651.582.8724  
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



SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1  
An equal opportunity school district

BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOSEPH ERICKSON  
JUDITH L. FARMER  
SHARON HENRY-BLYTHE  
AUDREY D. JOHNSON  
COLLEEN MORIARTY  
DENNIS SCHAPIRO  
ROSS TAYLOR

# MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

807 Northeast Broadway  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413-2398  
(612) 668-0200 FAX: (612) 668-0195  
TTY: (612) 668-0001

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

January 7, 2005

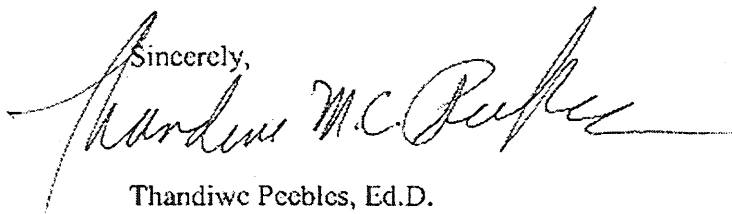
Governor Tim Pawlenty  
Office of the Governor  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

SENATOR STEVE KELLEY  
205 Capitol  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

MINNETONKA Dear Senator Kelley:

CHANNASSON It is my understanding that your committee will soon be taking up the confirmation of Alice  
DEERHAVEN 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. Seagren fully if she receives confirmation.

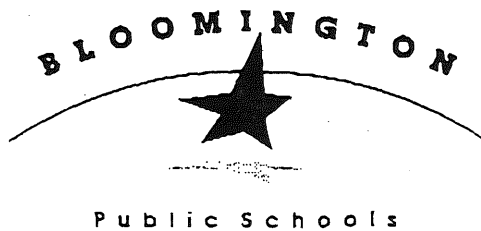
GREENWOOD I do want to advocate for Ms. Seagren because I believe in what she stands for and what she  
SHOREWOOD can accomplish in a very challenging position. I have had several opportunities to work  
TONKA BAY closely with her in her legislative capacity and as the Commissioner-designate, and her 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. 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.

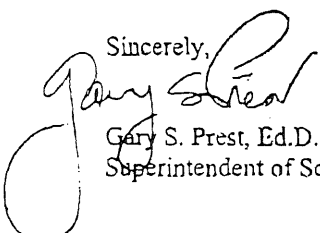
Second, she dedicated a large part of her life in service to the public good. As a school board member of the Bloomington Public Schools, she sought to create the best educational environments for students from all over the city. As representative and Chair of the Minnesota State House K-12 Finance Committee 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.

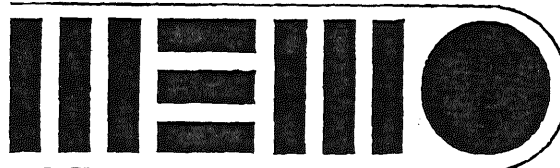
I would encourage you and your committee to recommend Alice Seagren as Commissioner of Education, Department of Education, of the great State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

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

We help students thrive and dreams come alive

MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ORGANIZATION



*Serving school media and  
information technology professionals*

3600 36<sup>th</sup> 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

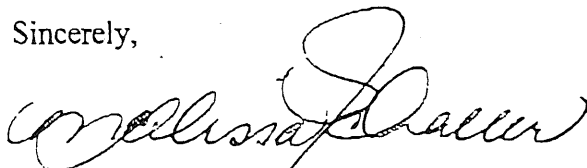
Dear Senator Kelley,

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

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## **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.

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## **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.
- 

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## **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

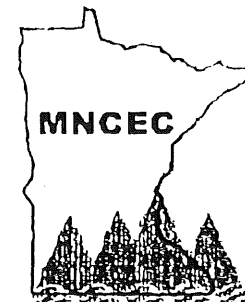
Gary Lewis, Ed.D.  
Director of Student Services  
Northfield Public Schools

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

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# **2005 Legislative Platform**

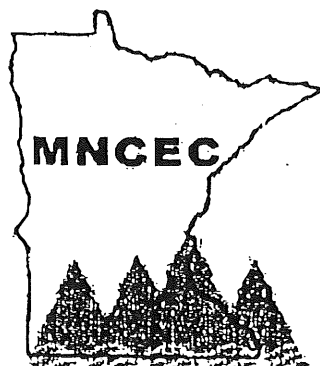
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## **Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children CAN Committee**

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### **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  
hil Fuchs, Director  
David Sanneman, Director

**Superintendent/Business Office**

Dr. Wendy S. Shannon, Superintendent  
501 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
507-775-6620 507-775-7225 Fax

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

Byron High School (8-12)  
Michael Duffy, Principal  
601 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mespa@mespa.net)

Web site: [www.mespa.net](http://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.

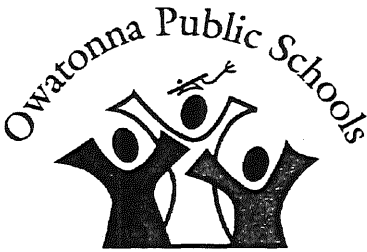
Sincerely,

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,

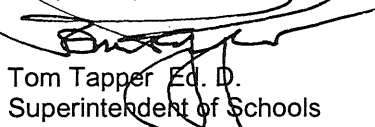
It is my understanding that the Senate Education Committee has determined to take action related to the appointment of the Commissioner of Education for the Minnesota Department of Education. I would like to forward a letter in support of the permanent appointment of Alice Seagren to serve in that capacity.

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**



*... Serving schools, communities, and other agencies*

1420 East College Drive

Marshall, MN 56258

Phone: (507) 537-2240 V/TTY

FAX: (507) 537-7663

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 Casmev 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

**PRESIDENT**  
Joanne McCabe  
Madelia

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
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Cambridge-Isanti

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
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Hastings

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Bob Meeks  
St. Peter

An Equal Employment  
Opportunity Affirmative  
Action Employer

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.

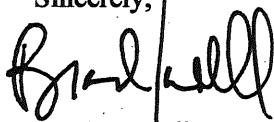
Prior to her legislative experience, she was a member of the Bloomington School Board and a parent with schoolchildren in that district. Through these experiences, she has developed a tremendous ability to understand education policy from a variety of perspectives and that quality befits the person chosen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

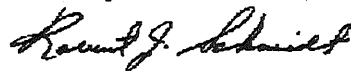
Alice asked tough questions about educational practice and was always well prepared in discussing budget, policy and procedures. She was tenacious in her pursuit of educational excellence. Her commitment and leadership earned the respect of both school employees and the general community.

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.

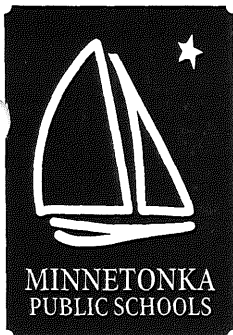
I do want to advocate for Ms. Seagren because I believe in what she stands for and what she can accomplish in a very challenging position. I have had several opportunities to work closely with her in her legislative capacity and as the Commissioner-designate, and her clear focus on the importance of 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.



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  
COMMUNITIES OF:

Senator Steve Kelley  
205 Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

MINNETONKA

Dear Senator Kelley:

CHANHASSEN

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

WOODLAND

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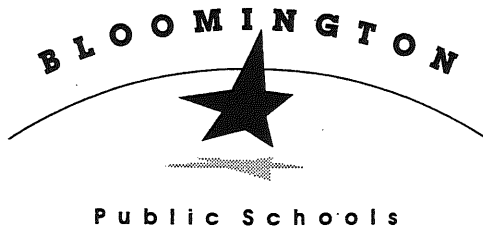
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I strongly urge your committee to quickly recommend the confirmation and support that recommendation through the process. We need the clarity such actions will provide. Alice needs the full support of leaders in and outside of state government, and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

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SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

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

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 55135

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.

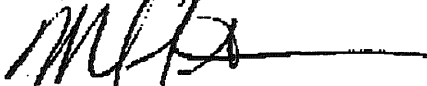
Loyalty from those with whom you work is priceless. Alice garners the loyalty of those with whom she has worked by displaying an interest in and caring for each individual through her words and actions. In essence, people firmly believe that she is devoted to the good of all, and does everything in her 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](mailto:mespa@mespa.net)  
Web site: [www.mespa.net](http://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, reading "P. Fred Storti".

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,

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

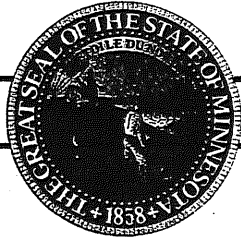
RECEIVED

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

RECEIVED

2004

Replacing: Cheri Pierson Yecke

Printed on recycled paper containing 15% post consumer material

President of the Senate

**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  
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Legislation to fund battered women's shelter in Bloomington.  
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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**

**• 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  
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  
Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee  
Housing Committee  
School Funding and Property Tax Reform Task Force  
Joint House/Senate Working Group on Property Tax Reform  
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Member, BCAV (Bloomington Coalition Against Violence)

**Public Official Information****Department of Education**

Name: Seagren, Alice  
 Occupation: Commissioner  
 Business: 1500 Hwy 36 W  
 Address: 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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**Real Property**

None Reported

**Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing Interests**

None Reported

<b>**LINKS**</b>	
<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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