

Education Finance Committee
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
8:30 AM Livestream YouTube

Minutes

Present: Senator Mary K. Kunesh - Chair, Senator Heather Gustafson - Vice Chair, Senator Steve A. Cwodzinski, Senator Robert D. Farnsworth, Senator Michael E. Kreun, Senator Eric Lucero, Senator Erin K. Maye Quade, Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, Senator Jason Rarick, Senator Bonnie S. Westlin

Absent: No Members Absent

Senator Mary K. Kunesh called the meeting to order at 8:39 am

Call to order

S.F. 1553: Senator Lucero: American Indian education aid school district authorization to carry forward from one school year to the next under certain circumstances.

Testifiers

1. Abbi Wilde Sabrina, St Francis School District (virtual)
2. Van Denburgh, St Francis School District (virtual)
3. Adosh Unni, Director of Government Relations, MDE (virtual)
4. Candy Sina (virtual)
5. Haley Dagle (virtual)
6. Marsha Van Denburgh (virtual)

Senator Lucero moved that S.F. 1553, be laid over and maybe considered for omnibus bill.
- MOTION PREVAILED.

S.F. 615: Senator Kunesh: Voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus program permanent expansion and appropriation.

Senator Gustafson assumed the role as Chair

Testifiers

1. Kimberly Antonson, licensed preschool teacher, Ogema, school board member in the Frazee/Vergas school district (virtual)
2. Jason Sellars, Director of Community Education, District 191 Burnsville Eagan Savage School District (in-person)
3. Stefanie Youngberg, Superintendent for East Central Schools (in-person)
4. Shana Morse, Assistant Director of Government Relations, Minnesota Department of Education (in-person)

Senator Kunesh moved that S.F. 615, be laid over and maybe considered for omnibus bill.
- MOTION PREVAILED.

Senator Kunesh reassumed the role of Chair

S.F. 448: Senator Gustafson: General education basic formula allowance increase by five percent per year for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 authorization; future formula increases linkage to the rate of inflation establishment; appropriating money.

Testifiers

- 1. Bob Indihar, Executive Director of the MN Rural Education Association (in-person)**
- 2. Cathy Nathan, Rochester Public Schools board chair and president of the Minnesota PTO (virtual)**
- 3. Kristi Peterson, Shakopee Public Schools Board Chair (virtual)**
- 4. Kenneth Eban, Executive Director, Advancing Equity Coalition (in-person)**
- 5. Tim Wald, White Bear Lake Assistant Supt. for Finance and Operations (virtual)**
- 6. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed, Hopkins Superintendent (virtual)**
- 7. Cathy Nathan, MN PTA Advocacy Chair and Rochester School Board Chair (virtual)**
- 8. Kristi Peterson, Shakopee School Board Chair (virtual)**

**Senator Gustafson moved that S.F. 448, be laid over and maybe considered for omnibus bill.
- MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1276: Senator Maye Quade: Early learning scholarship program modification and appropriation.

Testifiers

- 1. Temphy Thompson, Parent (virtual)**
- 2. Barb Fabre, CEO, Indigenous Visioning (remote)**
- 3. Sondra Samuels, President & CEO, Northside Achievement Zone (in person)**

**Senator Maye Quade moved that S.F. 1276, be laid over and maybe considered for omnibus bill.
- MOTION PREVAILED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am



Senator Mary Kunesh, Chair



Sami Rajab, Legislative Assistant