

# Minnesota State Senate

Education Finance Committee  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
8:30 AM, 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

## Minutes

**Present:** Senator Mary K. Kunesh - **Chair**, Senator Heather Gustafson - **Vice Chair**, Senator Jason Rarick - **Ranking Minority Member**, Senator Doron Clark, Senator Steve A. Cwodzinski, Senator Robert D. Farnsworth, Senator Karin Housley, Senator Michael E. Kreun, Senator Andrew R. Lang, Senator Eric Lucero, Senator Erin K. Maye Quade, Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, Senator Bonnie S. Westlin

**Absent:** No Members Absent

Senator Heather Gustafson called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

### Call to Order

**MDE Universal School Meals Update** a. Daron Korte, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Student Support Services, MDE  
b. Sami Rajab, Assistant Director of Government Relations, MDE.

The following individuals testified on MDE Universal School Meals Update:  
Daron Korte, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Student Support Services, MDE  
Sami Rajab, Assistant Director of Government Relations, MDE

**Farm to School Program Testifiers** a. Laura Cullip, Loon Organics  
b. Aimee Haag, Farm to School Coordinator, Dassel-Cokato, Litchfield, and Hutchinson School Districts (REMOTE)  
c. Joan Olson, Prairie Drifter Farm (REMOTE).

The following individuals testified on Farm to School Program Testifiers:  
Laura Cullip, Loon Organics  
Aimee Haag, Farm to School Coordinator, Dassel-Cokato, Litchfield, and Hutchinson School Districts (REMOTE)  
Joan Olson, Prairie Drifter Farm (REMOTE)

**School Staff Testimony** a. Stacey Koppen, Director of Nutrition Services, St. Paul Public Schools  
b. Mandi Jung, Teacher, St. Paul Federation of Educators  
c. Kristy Scott, Head cook, St. Cloud  
d. Darcy Stuebe, Director of Nutrition Services, ISD 77  
e. Alex Hoselton, High School Social Studies Teacher.

The following individuals testified on School Staff Testimony:  
Stacey Koppen, Director of Nutrition Services, St. Paul Public Schools  
Mandi Jung, Teacher, St. Paul Federation of Educators  
Kristy Scott, Head Cook, St. Cloud  
Darcy Stuebe, Director of Nutrition Services, ISD 77  
Alex Hoselton, High School Social Studies Teacher

- Parent, Student, and Organization Testimony**
- a. **Crystal FitzSimmons, Food Research and Action Center**
  - b. **Dr. Dianna Cutts, HCMC**
  - c. **Rachel Stoll, Board President, Advocates for Better Health**
  - d. **Kate Lundquist, Parent, Anoka Hennepin School District**
  - e. **Sophia Sam, Parent, Leed**
  - f. **Amber Lightfeather, Parent, Duluth**
  - g. **Janna Britz, Parent, Litchfield**
  - h. **Leah Gardner, Hunger-Free School Coalition.**

The following individuals testified on Parent, Student, and Organization Testimony:

Crystal FitzSimmons, Food Research and Action Center

Dr. Dianna Cutts, HCMC

Rachel Stoll, Board President, Advocates for Better Health

Kate Lundquist, Parent, Anoka Hennepin School District

Sophia Sam, Parent, Leed

Amber Lightfeather, Parent, Duluth

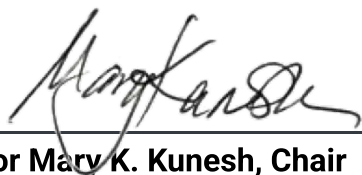
Janna Britz, Parent, Litchfield

Leah Gardner, Hunger-Free School Coalition

### **Adjournment**

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**The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am**



**Senator Mary K. Kunes, Chair**



**Tessa Yeager, Legislative Assistant**