

# Minnesota State Senate

Education Finance Committee  
Wednesday, February 26, 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 Michael E. Kreun, Senator Andrew R. Lang, Senator Eric Lucero, Senator Erin K. Maye Quade, Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, Senator Bonnie S. Westlin

**Absent:** Senator Karin Housley

Senator Mary K. Kunesh called the meeting to order at 8:35 am

### Call to Order

**S.F. 1176: Senator Boldon: P-TECH implementation grants appropriation.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.1176:  
Dr. Kent Pekel, Superintendent, Rochester Public Schools (Remote)

Be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**S.F. 1594: Senator McEwen: Special education initial aid amount adjustment for Independent School District No.709, Duluth.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.1594:  
John Magas, Superintendent, Duluth Public Schools  
Jill Lofald, School Board Member, Duluth Public Schools  
Adosh Unni, Director of Government Relations, Minnesota Department of Education

Be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**S.F. 510: Senator Mann: Academic Acceleration Pilot Program establishment and appropriation.**

Note: Senator Heather Gustafson, a co-author of the bill, presented.  
Senator Cwodzinski moved the A-2 amendment - motion prevailed.  
The following individuals testified on S.F.0510:  
Matt Shaver, Senior Policy Director, EdAllies  
Zohha Khan, Minnesota Youth Council  
Emmanuel Edebiri, Minnesota Youth Council (Remote)  
Dr. Christy Hovanetz, Senior Policy Fellow, ExecinED  
Kristen Hengtgen, Policy Lead, Edtrust (Remote)  
Dr. Megan Ausstin, Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Senator Lucero made an oral amendment:

On lines 1.30 and 2.1, strike "of color"

Senator Lucero requested a roll call vote for the adoption of oral amendment.

5/7 (Ayes: Rarick, Farnsworth, Kreun, Lang, Lucero; Nays: Kunesh, Gustafson, Clark, Cwodzinski, Maye Quade, Oumou Verbeten, Westlin)

**MOTION FAILED**

As amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**S.F. 856: Senator Gustafson: Office of the Inspector General creation and appropriation.**

Senator Gustafson moved the A-22 amendment - motion prevailed.

The following individuals testified on S.F.0856:

Britta Reitan, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Management and Budget

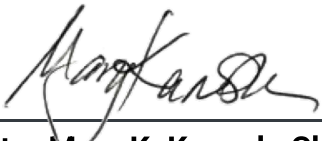
Adosh Unni, Director of Government Relations, Minnesota Department of Education

Senator Gustafson moved that S.F. 856, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

**Adjournment**

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**The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am**



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**Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Chair**



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**Tessa Yeager, Legislative Assistant**