

# Minnesota State Senate

Education Finance Committee  
Tuesday, March 18, 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 Mary K. Kunesh called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. Senator Bonnie S. Westlin took the gavel at 9:23 am. Senator Mary K. Kunesh took the gavel at 10:13 am.

### Call to Order

- Tribal Contract Schools Presentation
- a. Dan McKeon, School Director, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (REMOTE)
  - b. Tara L Dupuis, Superintendent, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School (REMOTE).

The following individuals presented on Tribal Contract Schools:  
Dan McKeon, School Director, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (Remote)  
Tara L Dupuis, Superintendent, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School (Remote)  
Bella Forneris, Student, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School (Remote)  
Kenny Bosto, Student, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School (Remote)

### S.F. 42: Senator Kunesh: Suicide prevention curriculum appropriation.

The following individuals testified on S.F.0042:  
Suzanne Nash, Indigi-Baby and Food Sovereignty Program Manager  
Kelsey Yale, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker  
Beth Seidl, Be@School Attendance Liaison, Division of Indian Work

Senator Kunesh moved that S.F. 42, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

### S.F. 193: Senator Kunesh: American Indian Schools permanent school supplemental aid appropriation.

The following individuals testified on S.F.0193:  
Aaron Vande Linde, Director, Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands

Be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**S.F. 1404: Senator Kunesh: American Indian mascot exemption requirements modification.**

The following individuals testified on S.F.1404:

Brandon Alkire, Legislative Director, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Dave Cowan, Board Member, Grand Rapids School District

Be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**S.F. 81: Senator Rarick: Independent School District No. 99, Esko, American Indian Removal and replacement costs appropriation.**

Be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**S.F. 349: Senator Farnsworth: Independent School District #318, Grand Rapids American Indian mascot removal and replacement costs appropriation.**

Be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**Adjourn**

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**The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am**



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**Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Chair**



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**Tessa Yeager, Legislative Assistant**