

Minnesota State Senate

Education Finance Committee
Wednesday, April 2, 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 8:33 am. Senator Bonnie S. Westlin took the gavel at 8:34 am. Senator Mary K. Kunesh took the gavel at 8:59 am.

Call to Order Additional bills may be added to the agenda.

S.F. 3128: Senator Kunesh: Increase Teachers of Color Act modification; pilot scholarship for aspiring teachers of color permanency establishment; appropriating money.

The following individuals testified on S.F.3128:
Tracy Byrd, 2024 MN Teacher of the Year, Washburn High School (Minneapolis)
Eva Gallegos, Teacher Candidate, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities (Remote)
Lily Latterell, Teacher Candidate, University of Minnesota - Duluth (Remote)

Senator Westlin moved that S.F. 3128, be recommended to pass and re-referred to the Higher Education Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 3186: Senator Maye Quade: Literacy incentive aid program modifications, new literacy aid eligible uses establishment, and appropriation.

Senator Maye Quade moved the A-1 amendment - motion prevailed.

The following individuals testified on S.F.3186:
Matt Shaver, Senior Policy Director, Ed Allies

Be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

Testimony on SF2255 ** Testimony will be limited to 2 minutes per testifier ** Allotted time is subject to change.

- a. John Morstad, MN Association of School Business Officials
- b. Joe Billings, Network Director of Operations, Prodeo Academy
- c. Brianna Ostoff, MN Community Education Association (REMOTE)
- d. Niceta Thomas, MN Administrators for Special Education (REMOTE)

- e. Brandon N Wait, Executive Director, Paladin Career and Technical High School
- f. Dr. Susan Outlaw, Executive Director, Metro Deaf School
- g. Bonnie Jungles, Principal, Notre Dame Academy
- h. Ericka Walz, Head of School, Ave Maria Academy
- i. Chris Lennox, Superintendent, Mounds View Public Schools
- j. Shannon Peterson, Executive Director, Lakes International Language Academy
- k. Anne Gattman, Principal, St. Jerome School (REMOTE)
- l. Kelly Larson, Q Comp Coordinator, Forest Lake Area Schools
- m. Nathan Flansburg, Superintendent, PACT Charter School
- n. Rochelle Rank, Parent, New City Charter School (REMOTE)
- o. Kurt Stumpf, Superintendent, Pequot Lakes School District (REMOTE)
- p. Julia Wynn, CSforALL-MN Coalition
- q. Ann Weiss, Executive Director, MN Association of Independent Schools
- r. Nik Lightfoot, Assistant Superintendent, Hopkins Public Schools (REMOTE)
- s. Scott Helland, Literacy Action Network
- t. Melanie Peters, Executive Director, STARBASE MN
- u. John Cselovski, Superintendent, Sleepy Eye Public Schools
- v. Dave Kerkvliet, Superintendent, Sebeka Public Schools
- w. Jeff Tollefson, CEO, MNTECH
- x. Tim Benz, President, MINNDEPENDENT
- y. Kate Lockwood, Computer Science Teachers Association
- z. Kate Lynne Snyder, Education Minnesota, Lobbyist
- aa. Josh Downham, Minneapolis Public Schools
- bb. Matt Shaver, Senior Policy Director, Ed Allies
- cc. Scott Croonquist, AMSD, MASA, MSBA, etc.
- dd. Shannon Mitchell, Minnesota Association of Charter Schools.

The following individuals testified on Testimony on SF2255:

John Morstad, MN Association of School Business Officials

Shannon Peterson, Executive director, Lakes International Language Academy

Brianna Ostoff, MN Community Education Association (Remote)

Niceta Thomas, MN Administrators for Special Education (Remote)

Brandon N Wait, Executive Director, Paladin Career and Technical High School

Dr. Susan Outlaw, Executive Director, Metro Deaf School

Bonnie Jungles, Principal, Notre Dame Academy

Ericka Walz, Head of School, Ave Maria Academy

Chris Lennox, Superintendent, Mounds View Public Schools

Kelly Larson, Q Comp Coordinator, Forest Lake Area Schools

Nathan Flansburg, Superintendent, PACT Charter School

Joe Billings, Network Director of Operations, Prodeo Academy

Rochelle Rank, Parent, New City Charter School (Remote)

Kurt Stumpf, Superintendent, Pequot Lakes School District (Remote)

Alexandra Holter, CSforALL-MN Coalition

Ann Weiss, Executive Director, MN Coalition

Nik Lightfoot, Assistant Superintendent, Hopkins Public Schools (Remote)

Melanie Peters, Executive Director, STARBASE MN

John Cselovski, Superintendent, Sleepy Eye Public Schools (Remote)

Dave Kerkvliet, Superintendent, Sebeka Public Schools (Remote)

Jeff Tollefson, CEO, MNTECH

Tim Benz, President, MINNDEPENDENT

Kate Lockwood, Computer Science Teachers Association

Kate Lynne Snyder, Education Minnesota, Lobbyist

Josh Downham, Minneapolis Public Schools

Matt Shaver, Senior Policy Director, Ed Allies

Scott Croonquist, AMSD, MASA, MSBA, etc.

Shannon Mitchell, Minnesota Association of Charter Schools

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.



Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Chair



Tessa Yeager, Legislative Assistant