

# THANK YOU MREA PLATINUM MEMBERS



## THANK YOU MREA GOLD MEMBERS



## THANK YOU MREA SILVER MEMBERS

**Aviben | Bethel University | Blandin Foundation | Curriculum Associates**  
**EFS Advisors | Ehlers | Pemberton Law | Trane Technologies**



**The meeting will begin shortly.**

# 2023 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

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## **Please...**

- **Mute** microphone when not speaking
- **Use** headset for better audio
- **Ask** questions via chat on screen right
- **Sign in** to chat box with name and organization



# MEETING AGENDA

- **Call to Order & Welcome**
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Approval of 2022 Annual Member Meeting Minutes**
- **2023 Association Review & Highlights**
- **Board Elections & Candidates**
- **Board-Recommended 2024 Legislative Platform | Discussion and Action**
- **Board-Recommended MREA By-Laws Revisions | Discussion and Action**
- **Board Recognition**
- **Adjournment**


# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Educational Funding Increases-
  - 4% & 2% BFA increase tied to inflation
  - Special Education Cross Subsidy Reduction
- Greater Education Summit
  - 9% registration increase
  - 40+ learning sessions
  - 20 education major university students




# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 2023 National Rural Teacher of the Year
- Strong Membership and Sponsorships
- Increase Office Personnel
- Educator and Program Awards



**2023 RURAL TEACHER  
OF THE YEAR**

Jenny Maras, Business Education Teacher  
Morris Area High School, Morris, MN



NATIONAL FORUM TO  
ADVANCE RURAL EDUCATION



# 2023 Educators of Excellence & Innovation Program Award Winners



**KRIS DOEDEN**  
**WORTHINGTON**



**CARIN**  
**HAGEMEYER**  
BELGRADE-BROOTEN-  
ELROSA



**ANGIE HURTIG**  
**BERTHA-HEWITT**



**MELISSA OBERG**  
**COOK COUNTY**

**KASSON-  
MANTORVILLE**  
OUTDOOR  
KINDERGARTEN  
EXPERIENCE  
PROGRAM

**FERGUS FALLS**  
PRAIRIE  
SCIENCE  
PROGRAM

**EDUCATORS OF EXCELLENCE**

**INNOVATION  
PROGRAM  
AWARDS**

# LOOKING AHEAD

- Explore student scholarship program
- Strengthen educational alliances
- Update MREA organizational policies
- Grow membership
- Continue member outreach
- Remain the leader in rural educational advocacy



# FINANCIAL REPORT | OPERATING BUDGET

	<b>FY2022-2023 Actual</b>	<b>FY2023-2024 Budget</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>\$767,836</b>	<b>\$728,695</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$603,961</b>	<b>\$694,095</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$163,875</b>	<b>\$34,600</b>







# ELECTIONS MREA BOARD

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- **Six seats** in four zones
  - North Zone | School Board
  - North Central Zone | Administrator and Teacher
  - South Central Zone | At-Large
  - South Zone | Administrator and Teacher
- **Voting instructions** mailed, ballots e-mailed December 1
- **New Board** announced early January

**VOTE ONLINE BY DECEMBER 31**



# North Zone School Board Seat

Four-Year Term | 2024 - 2027

**JEFF RADLE**

Lake Superior School District

**RYAN WALSETH**

Thief River Falls School District

[www.mreavoice.org](http://www.mreavoice.org)



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Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

# North Central Zone

## Administrator Seat

Four-Year Term | 2024 - 2027

**JEFF DRAKE**

Fergus Falls School District

**DR. TIMOTHY GODFREY**

Lake Park-Audubon School District

**BRAD JOHNSON**

McGregor School District

**KRISTIE SULLIVAN**

Breckenridge School District

[www.mreavoice.org](http://www.mreavoice.org)

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# North Central Zone

## Teacher Seat

Three-Year Term | 2024 - 2026

**SARAH BAUCK**

Waubun-Ogema-White Earth District

[www.mreavoice.org](http://www.mreavoice.org)

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# South Central Zone

## At-Large Seat

Four-Year Term | 2024 - 2027

**JENNA FROMM**

Palmer Bus Service

**JENNY MARAS**

Morris School District

**PATRICK WALSH**

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District

**GWENN WOLTERS**

South Central Service Cooperative

[www.mreavoice.org](http://www.mreavoice.org)

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# South Zone Administrator Seat

Four-Year Term | 2024 - 2027

**MARY MOREM**

Houston District

**NELS ONSTAD**

Wabasha-Kellogg District

[www.mreavoice.org](http://www.mreavoice.org)

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# South Zone Teacher Seat

Three-Year Term | 2024 - 2026

**CRAIG BRENDEN**

Waseca District

**CYNTHIA GAIL**

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva District

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# RECOMMENDED 2024 MREA PLATFORM

- **Rebuild the Profession = \$60K & TRA**
- **Clean up from 2023**
- **Closing Historic Gaps**
- **Flexibility Please!**





# Recommended 2024 MREA Platform

## Teacher Recruitment and Restoring the Profession:

- Establishing Teacher Compensation Adjustment Revenue program initially aimed at improving starting teacher salaries to \$60,000 minimum.
- Improving TRA by either lowering combination of normal retirement age and total years of service OR minimizing reduction in retirement benefits paid before normal retirement age.
- Amending MDE Grow Your Own application requirements so rural districts can qualify.
- Reforming QComp so all schools qualify for basic \$169/pupil and ensure allowable uses include paid student teaching.
- Providing direct underwriting to state colleges for teacher preparation programs so credits are free to undergrads seeking teaching degrees.

# Recommended 2024 MREA Platform

## Clean up from 2023:

- On-going financial support for UI costs
- Clarify instances of and professional judgement by school employees for use of restraints
- Additional funding for Read Act
- Establish new proxy for Compensatory Revenue
- Eliminate \$200 daily rate required for short call substitute pilot program

# Recommended 2024 MREA Platform

## Close Funding Gaps:

- Increase LTFM allowance and allow roofs/pavements/HVAC projects in Health & Safety
- Increase Basic Formula & Local Optional Revenues to address inflationary pressures
- Restore Seasonal & Recreational Property to RMV tax base, eliminating it from state's Commercial/Industrial levy.
- Ensure minimum revenues for small schools & cooperatives for meaningful revenue generation across all public-school entities.
- Expand VPK to all 4-year-olds qualifying for free and reduced-price meals

## Policy Flexibility, Not Mandates:

- Create flexible pathways to licensure, in addition to broader licensure categories
- Oppose unfunded mandates and “one-size-fits-all” education policy

*\*Membership Vote*

# Advocacy Briefings for 2024 Session

## Kickoff: Wednesday, December 13 | 12 pm

- Review November State Budget Forecast (Check MREA email Dec. 6)
- Review MREA 2024 Legislative Platform
- Must register -- Dec 11 Insider Brief or scan QR code:



## Regular Tuesday schedule:

- February 13 - March 26 | 7 am
- TBD after legislature spring break

# Recommended MREA By-Laws Revisions

**Article 1 | Name and purpose**

**Article 2 | Membership**

- **Eligibility defined**
- **Voting class clarified:** Located in Greater Minnesota, need MDE org ID number. Board exempt current members as needed. *All others non-voting.*
- **Member rights**, ability to terminate

**Article 3 | Board roles and duties, compensation, conflicts**

**Article 4 | Member meeting decorum, guiding principals**

**Article 5 | Board meeting voting**

**Article 6 | Officer compensation and duties**

# Recommended MREA By-Laws Revisions\*

**Article 7 | Committee authority**

**Article 8 | Executive Director duties**

**Article 9 | Indemnification**

**Article 10 | Miscellaneous**

- **Books and accounts**, emergency expenditure authority, right to examine
- **Legal instruments**
- **Loan conformity** with state statute
- **Review of** compensation, partnership, legal filings
- **Policies and procedures**
- **Private inurement**

**Article 11 | Amendments**

*\*Membership Vote*

# MREA BOARD RECOGNITION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND  
COMMITTMENT TO ADVANCING  
GREATER MINNESOTA EDUCATION.



## **Todd Holthaus**

Hills-Beaver Creek School District | 10 years

## **Dennis Laumeyer**

Benson School District | 8 years

# Your MREA Team

**SAM WALSETH**

Advocacy Director

**BOB INDIHAR**

Executive Director

**DIANE VOSEN**

Operations Director

**KAYLA SCHOENBERG**

Communications Director

**JULIE MELVILLE (NOT PICTURED)**

Membership Assistant



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# Connect & Stay Connected

Invite your School Board and Educators to sign up for email updates at [mreavoice.org/subscribe](https://mreavoice.org/subscribe)



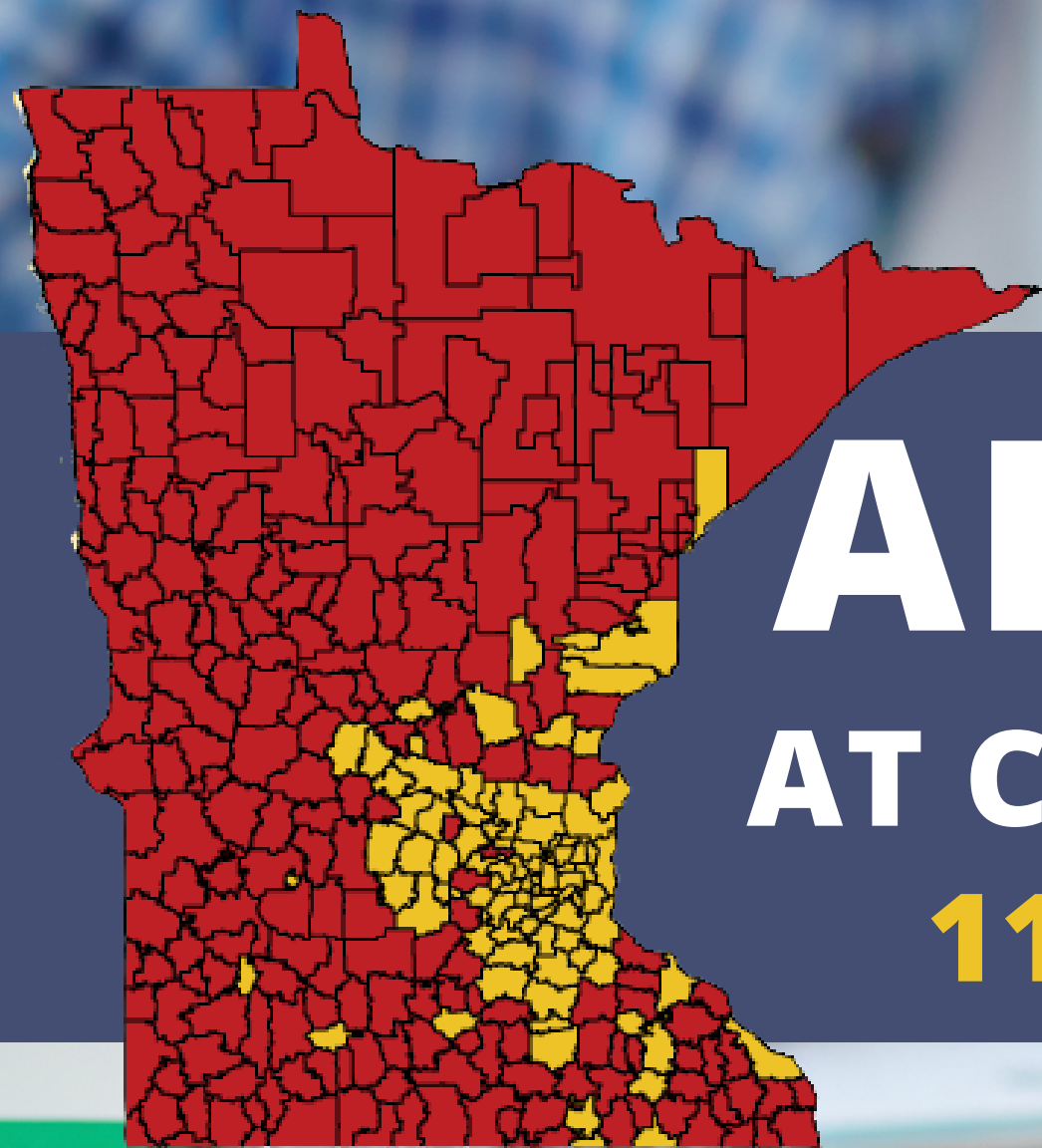
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# ADJOURNMENT

## AT CLOSE OF BOARD ELECTIONS

**11:45 PM DECEMBER 31, 2023**

