



Minnesota Guild of Public Charter Schools MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Single-purpose authorizer of public chartered schools in Minnesota

www.guildschools.org

Director's Update



Greetings school leaders,

As this school year races to the finish line I'm excited to share some important updates...

Firstly, your votes are in, and it looks like the best date for hosting this year's summer

convening is **Wednesday August 9, 2023**, so please mark your calendars! It will take place at the Minnesota Humanities Center again from 9:30am to 1pm. We're asking that school leaders and board chairs attend at a minimum, as our goal is to present the Guild's Approved Authorizing Plan (AAP) guidelines for the next five years. Watch your email for more information in the coming months.

Secondly, and in response to your feedback, we have made the decision to cease using Epicenter for records management at the close of FY2023. This will both offer the Guild savings which can be utilized for greater school support, and allow added efficiencies by bringing school records to a secure online server we administer directly, and which utilizes applications most are familiar with already (Google Documents and Google Classroom). This new process was designed and pressure tested by no other than the Guild's own Tech Guru [Buddy Ferrari](#). Which means you can expect more of the same in terms of wonderful Technical Assistance (with a smile). So please let your current Epicenter administrator know (if it's not you) they can expect to hear from Buddy in July to set up and support the transition. In the meantime please continue to upload to Epicenter all required records for the remainder of FY23.

Thirdly, the end of the school year also means it's a season of reflection. As I mentioned last month we are looking for your help to let us know how we're doing, and how we can better serve you in the future. Please be on the lookout for the Guild survey in your mailbox shortly. If you have any questions or want to share it with additional board members or staff, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Guild's Administrative Force [Debbie Weckman](#) for assistance.

Finally, please note the following **Annual Reporting Updates/Timeline**:

- ASAP: The MN Guild will be sending FY22 report feedback to every portfolio school along with an updated guidance document.
- by June 30: School feedback and questions on annual reporting to the Guild
- by July 31: Final guidance on FY23 Annual Report
- August 9: Summer Convening / Technical Assistance; 9:30am to 1pm

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns at any point.

Warm regards,

Jim

School Spotlight



Community School of Excellence

This month we are highlighting Community School of Excellence and sharing these two events the school is sponsoring and is also free to the community. We wish you the best in celebrating your cultural event and applaud the students participating in the Hmong Spelling Bee event.



**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE COMMUNITY**

The 2023 Program is a partnership between Hmong American Partnership and the Community School of Excellence. The program is made possible with grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) using federal funding (Title III) and the Center Community Learning Center. The program also was awarded support from the office of the School Department of Education (MDE) and was awarded our summer maintenance by the school and the government.

Community School of Excellence

Hmong Language & Culture School

270 Larpeur Avenue West | Saint Paul, MN 55113 | (651) 917-0073 | www.csemn.org

[International Culture Celebration](#)



**3HC
THREE HMONG CHARTERS**

As part of a unified effort to support Hmong language and culture programming and provide targeted Hmong teacher development, we partnered up as 3 Hmong charter schools to work on the innovation Zone designation provided to us by the MN Dept of Education. For 3 years we collaborated in this work from SY 2019/20 - SY 2021/22.

WHY WE DO THIS

In our ongoing collegial partnership, each of the 3 charters: New Millenium Academy, Community School of Excellence, and Prairie Seeds Academy are holding our 1st annual 3HC spelling bee event to motivate students to continue to stay engaged in Hmong language learning, foster appreciation for the Hmong language and maintain excellence towards our Hmong RPA writing system.

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

TIME: PROMPT START @10:15AM - 2:00PM

DOORS OPEN 10AM & CLOSE AT 2:30PM

WHERE: COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

In Main Campus gymnasium
270 Larpeur Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN. 55113

FAMILIES ARE INVITED!

EMAIL THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL THAT YOUR CHILD ATTENDS IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS:

PRAIRIE SEEDS: MALTHA@PSEAK12.ORG

NEW MILLENIUM: KHOU.VAND@NHMAEDU.ORG

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE: LENGX976@CSEM.N.ORG



505 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center MN 55429
Phone: 763-233-7920



4308 WEST BROOKDALE AVE. W.
BROOKDALE PARK, MN. 55428
763-499-8388



270 LARPEUR AVENUE WEST
SAINT PAUL, MN 55113
651-917-0073
www.csemn.org

[Hmong Spelling Bee](#)

Also congratulations to you and your staff on being awarded the 2023 MDE School Finance Award for FY22 Financial Reporting! That is a wonderful accomplishment.

MN Guild Partners & Resources

Leading the way to excellence



Apply now for the Stronger Connections Grant ~ deadline June 9, 2023

The Minnesota Department of Education's Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Center invites applications to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant. This competitive program is focused on reducing the risk of gun violence in our schools and communities. Local educational agencies (LEAs) are eligible to receive grants from \$200,000 up to \$500,000 for planning, training, and implementing a wide range of programs and practices that promote a safe and healthy learning environment.

Applications are due June 9 at 5pm. The grant program will begin in mid-August. To learn more about the grant program, **please visit** [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act \(BSCA\) Stronger Connections Grant](#) .

The EDI center will host an informational webinar and answer questions on May 25, 2023 from 3-4 p.m. via zoom. [Please register for the Stronger Connections webinar.](#)

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## [Submit Read Well by 3rd Grade by July 1st](#)

The 2023 Read Well by Third Grade (RWBTG) online submission platform is now open. This data is required of all Minnesota districts and charter schools that enroll students in grades K-2 and is due to MDE annually by July 1.

**Please see the [RWBTG Launch Memo](#) for further information.**



The University of St. Thomas, has been preparing educators to lead effectively and inclusively in diverse settings for over 50 years. Here is a great opportunity to take the

next step in your career: **Education Specialist degree with [Director of Special Education](#) or [Principal](#) licensure**

**Beginning this fall, the curriculum will be differentiated for charter school leaders!** See the [EdS with Administrative Licensure flyer](#) for more information on courses, requirements, and schedule.

### **NOMINATE A FUTURE EDUCATIONAL LEADER**

Do you know a teacher or leader in your school or district who might be interested in learning more about our EdS with Administrative Licensure? Sometimes it takes a personal invitation or word of encouragement to take that first step. [Send them our way!](#)

### **NEW: SCHOLARSHIP!**

The School of Education is offering up to \$6,000 scholarships for Fall 2023 for qualified applicants who are pursuing their initial administrative licensure. Priority goes to Tier 3/4 teachers with 3-5+ years of experience. [Simply apply to the EdS program to be considered for the scholarship!](#) Review of completed applications will begin June 1 until scholarship funds are exhausted.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY](#)



**Monday, June 12-Wednesday June 14, 2023**  
**2023 Charter School Leadership Conference Schedule**

Join Volunteers of America-Minnesota at the 2023 Charter School Leadership where we will be ***Navigating the Course of Excellence in Charter Schooling!***

[To register click here](#)

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MINNESOTA  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

**Charter School Day at the St. Paul Saints** will be **Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**. This is the second year in a row we have hosted this event with the St. Paul Saints, following the successful Charter School Day at the Twins game from two years prior.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend at St. Paul Saints baseball game, you are missing out on a fantastic experience – not only good baseball, but also a variety of entertaining field events and a dedicated, passionate fanbase.

**Tickets for the June 11<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Saints vs. Iowa Cubs are only \$18 each**, which includes a St. Paul Saints Baseball Cap.

**All charter school families are invited to participate in this fun event.**

To purchase tickets, go to [saints-groups.com](https://saints-groups.com) and use the code: **charter2023**



### **Conference to Restore Humanity 2023 ~ July 24-27 / Virtual**

The simple act of having hope for a better future breaks the doom-loop and builds a platform for action.

This one-of-a-kind conference connects young people, educators, activists, and academics in reimagining education.

[More about the event & register](#)



## MN teacher standards get a 21st century update

The [“Standards of Effective Practice”](#) are the knowledge and skills a teacher needs to demonstrate before they enter the classroom.

- The new standards **sharpen focus on equity** and culturally-sustaining teaching practices —pushing teachers to check their own biases.
- They emphasize belief in students—adapting to meet **each learner’s unique assets and needs**—and include students, families, and communities in learning design.

### Why it matters

Students thrive when teachers are able to see them for who they are, what they’re capable of.

EE gave continuous input to **make the standards more student-centered**—and our influence is evident in the final record.

### What's next

Teacher prep providers have until July 2025 to implement the new standards.



Q: If our board is meeting in person, can some board members join the meeting and participate virtually?

A: Open Meeting Law does allow for board members to participate by video-conference technology (including Zoom) under the following guidelines:

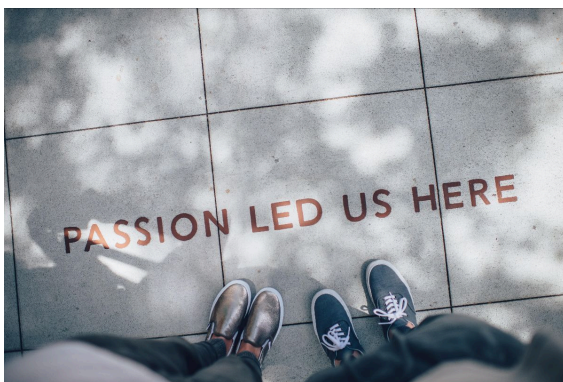
### JIM MARTIN LAW FIRM PLLC

#### Managing Open Meeting Law Post Pandemic

- A meeting must take place in a space that is publicly accessible.
- All board members, whatever their physical location must be able to see and hear each other and see and hear all discussion and testimony presented at any location where at least one member is present.

- Members of the public present at the regular meeting location must be able to see and hear all testimony and all votes of members of the board.
  - At least one member of the body is present at the regular meeting location.
  - All votes are conducted by roll call.
  - The public body must give notice of the regular meeting location, of the fact that some members may participate by telephone or other electronic means, and of the right of the public to monitor the meeting from another location.
  - Each location at which a member of the board is present is open and accessible to the public.
  - This requirement that the remote location is open and accessible to the public need not be met IF the board member has not participated more than three times in a calendar year from a location that is not open and accessible to the public.
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“If you want  
to go fast  
go alone.  
If you want  
to go far  
go together.”  
-African Proverb



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<https://www.guildschools.org>



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