



MN Guild of Public Charter Schools MAY 2024 Newsletter

Single-purpose authorizer of chartered schools in Minnesota

www.guildschools.org



Our Vision:

The Minnesota Guild of Public Charter Schools advances positive educational outcomes for students that leads to success in life.

Our Mission:

The Guild advocates for teacher leadership, professional autonomy, and the creation of innovative schools for student engagement and the ownership of learning. The Guild strives to

support students, families, and communities most affected by the achievement gap and low graduation rates.

Director's Update

Jim Zacchini, Executive Director



Hello School Leaders,

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do every day. The school year is rapidly moving toward summer break given the lack of snow days, and I am very proud to acknowledge and congratulate three of our schools for their nominations for the Innovation and Leadership awards from the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS).

Finally, I wish to draw your attention to a fantastic and free resource. Please find a registration link below for the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Boards" webinar. This specifically focuses on charter boards and contract renewal which is particularly timely as we have six schools renewing their contracts next year. I hope you can take a look.

Jim



**[Congratulations to Career Pathways,
Lincoln International High School
& New Heights Schools](#)**

We are honored to recognize the following schools that were nominated at the Minnesota

Association of Charter Schools (MACS) Award Luncheon held at the Minnesota Humanities Center in St. Paul. Three Guild schools were nominated for various awards. Two schools were nominated for "Innovation Awards." Career Pathways was nominated for the category of ***Increasing Learning Opportunities for Pupils***. Lincoln International High School won the award for *Creating New Professional Opportunities for Teachers*. And last but in no way least, Tom Kearney from New Heights in Stillwater won the ***MN Charter School Leadership Award***. Both Tom and Manyi gave beautiful acceptance speeches, praising their teams for putting students first every single day!



Lincoln International High School:

Pictured left to right: **Pablo Ochoa**, Mathematics Teacher, **Roger Hanson**, Special Education Teacher,

Kadie Becker Assistant Director & ESL, **Claudia Girod**, English Language Arts Teacher, **Jim Zacchini**, MN Guild Executive Director and **Manyi Tambe**, Director Lincoln Int'l HS



New Heights Schools:

Pictured left to right: **Jim Zacchini**, MN Guild Executive Director, **Annah Massmann** School Counselor, **Tom Kearney** New Heights Schools, Superintendent/Principal, **Stephanie Bagwell**, English/Language Arts, **Angie Bohnert**, Special Education

PLEASE GIVE US A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME...

[Annual School Leader Survey FY24](#)

Dear School Leaders,

It's that time of year when we reach out to gather your valuable insight through our Annual School Leader Survey.

We kindly ask you to take a few moments to review the survey and share your feedback if you haven't already done so. Your input is highly valued, and we eagerly anticipate using it to assess and improve our performance.

As always, we express our gratitude for your contributions and eagerly await your response.

[SURVEY](#) (click here)



The MN Guild is looking for volunteers to join our board. The only requirements are to have interest in supporting the charter school community, share your time and talents and support our vision and mission. We hold a board meeting on a monthly basis (with exceptions for holidays) in person and virtually. We are looking for individuals with a passion for education and support the philosophy that all children and teachers deserve a positive educational environment and opportunity.

If you are interested, please email Jim Zacchini at jim.zacchini@guildschools.org

MN Guild Partners & Resources

Leading the way to excellence



[Upcoming Deadlines](#)

Reminder: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Application Deadline

CEP applications for SY 2024–25 are due by June 30, 2024.

- MN-FSM Program requires schools with an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) $\geq$ (greater than or equal to) 62.5% to participate in CEP.
- School Food Authorities (SFAs) and/or schools must have a minimum ISP of 25% as of April 1, 2024, to participate in CEP.
- CEP application instructions are available on the [MDE CEP webpage](#).
- Contact cep.mde@state.mn.us with questions.

[School Nutrition Program \(SNP\)](#) List of Sponsors to Receive Administrative Review for School Year 2024–2025 (SY 2024–25) Available

School Year 2024–25 Renewal Applications Available for Current Sponsors

The following SY 2024–25 CLiCS Sponsor and Site renewal applications are available:

- SNP / Minnesota Free School Meals (MN-FSM)
- Federal Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Minnesota Kindergarten Milk Program (MKMP)

How to Apply:

- [Access CLiCS](#) to renew applications.
- Refer to [Application Renewal Instructions for School Nutrition Programs and Application Renewal Instructions for Milk Programs](#) on the MDE website for more details.

Application Reminders:

- Sponsors must ensure the email address and contact information on the sponsor and site application(s) are current and accurate.
- CLiCS-generated email will be sent to first contact person listed on sponsor application when approved.
- For questions, [email the Applications Team](#) or call 651-582-8526 or 1-800-366-8922 (Minnesota toll-free).
- Please include CLiCS sponsor identification (ID) number in all correspondence.



Ethnic Studies Working Group

In support of the Ethnic Studies legislation passed in the 2023 legislative session, the Minnesota Department of Education Ethnic Studies Working Group met April 15–16. This working group consists of teachers with experience teaching Ethnic Studies to students in kindergarten to grade 8, parents or guardians of public kindergarten through grade 12 students, Ethnic Studies high school teachers, school board members or school administrators (including curriculum directors or directors of teaching and learning), Minnesota-based college-level faculty experts in Ethnic Studies, and community members with a demonstrated commitment to Ethnic Studies or education about Minnesota’s racial, ethnic, religious, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or cultural diversity. The working group members are listed in the [2024 Ethnic Studies Working Group Member document](#).

Additionally, the working group includes public school students in grades 11 and 12 during either the 2023–24 or 2024–25 school year. See the [Ethnic Studies Working Group Assumptions for Students](#).

The working group is responsible for developing an Ethnic Studies framework and resources to support school districts and charter schools in implementing the Ethnic Studies requirements. Dates for the working group meetings can be found in the Ethnic Studies Working Group Assumptions for Students document.

Statewide Testing Report Redesign Survey is Open

The Minnesota Department of Education is excited to launch the [Statewide Testing Redesign Survey](#). Your voice and the perspectives of your community are important to this effort as new academic standards are adopted in science, reading, and math, along with new assessments. The survey asks about how you receive, interpret, and use statewide assessment results. Your feedback will help MDE ensure the results from the new assessments students take beginning in Spring 2025 are as clear and useful as possible.

[The survey is now open for submissions until May 19](#). It should take no more than 15 minutes and responses will be anonymous.

MDE is hoping individuals in these groups will share their perspective:

- Students in grades 8–12
- Families of students in grades K–12
- Classroom educators
- School-level leadership staff
- District-level leadership staff
- Assessment coordinators
- Community group members and leaders
- State agency staff

Please share the link with your staff and families. MDE appreciates your support in gathering feedback from these groups and thanks you in advance. Your expertise is critical to this process and we know your time is valuable. If you have any questions, please contact mde.testing@state.mn.us.



NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS
INSTITUTE

BOARD
NETWORK

7 Habits of Highly Effective Boards - BN May Webinar

Date & Time: May 23, 2024 03:00 PM

Description

Highly effective boards know their charter contracts inside and out and begin with the end in mind when it comes to successful renewal. Join Institute VP of Leadership and Learning, Mark Weinberg, as he helps you get "revved up" for charter contract renewal during this 60-minute session.

FREE REGISTRATION [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



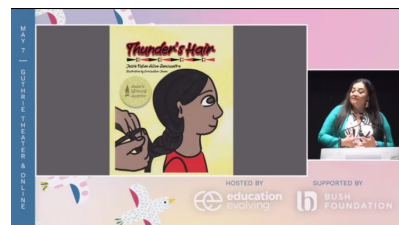
education
evolving

Special thanks to Education Evolving



Educators, community and system leaders, and students joined to share their knowledge and tools for equitable, student-centered learning in powerful breakout sessions at the 2024 conference held May 7, 2024 hosted by Education Evolving & The Bush Foundation.

Seeing Learners, Building Leaders means students' assets and identities are valued—and the schools and communities they will transform have their backs. Breakout sessions will embody these beliefs.



[Click here to hear the story of Thunder's Hair](#)

Sessions included the following topics:

- **Keep students at the center** and include students as co-presenters.
- **Emulate immersive** student-centered learning experiences for attendees.
- **Provide actionable tools**—new skills, approaches, frameworks, resources, etc.

[VIDEO a must see...](#)

[Intergenerational problem solving conversation](#)



Special thanks to Education Evolving for hosting the 2024 Seeing Learners and Building Leaders conference held May 7, 2024. It was a day filled with so many wonderful speakers and was informative and entertaining.

The MN Guild would like to recognize Dave Heighington and his team at Exploration High School for presenting at the Education Evolving 2024 conference. Here are a few highlights on their session.

[Click here to watch Exploration HS presentation](#)

Dave and his team presented a virtual session sharing the "hands on" approach of learning at Exploration High School. The students are given the opportunity to live in a real-world, project based environment where they learn about a profession before they actually live it. The students shared how once they complete a project they walk away knowing if the profession is something of interest for them to pursue in their future or are able to walk away knowing it's not for them. The students get real-life experience that will benefit their future decisions and career choices so they are better prepared for the real-world work when the students graduate.



Presenters

- **Dave Heighington**
DIRECTOR
- **Curran Brooks**
10TH GRADE
- **Alycia Monserrate**
INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR/
SOCIAL STUDIES FACILITATOR
- **Lynlee Sandoval**
11TH GRADE

The Exploration Way

A public school for public good:

ExHS is a real-world, project-based 9–12 school in Minneapolis. We are led by students, powered by teachers, and rooted in community.



ACRONYM OF THE MONTH: [PFDA](#)

PFDA to mean “any student (1) without a disability under 21 years of age; or (2) **with a disability under 22 years old** who has not received a regular high school diploma; and (3) who remains eligible to attend a public elementary or secondary school,” consistent with the amendment in Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.20, subd. 1, setting the age limitations for public school enrollment. Minn. Stat. § 121A.41, subd. 7 (2023).

We Want to Hear from You

As your authorizer we want you to know we are here to support you. If you would like to bounce ideas off someone, or need a sounding board, we are happy to be that person. Please feel free to email us whenever you need additional support, we are here to listen.

Please send an email to one of the addresses listed below:

Jim Zacchini,

MN Guild Executive Director

jim.zacchini@guildschools.org

Debbie Weckman,

MN Guild Administrative Assistant

debbie.weckman@guildschools.org

Buddy Ferrari,

MN Guild Project Tech

buddy.ferrari@guildschools.org

Thank you and as always, we appreciate all you do.

“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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