

Education Finance Committee

MINUTES

Representative Kresha, Chair of the Education Finance Committee, began the meeting at 1:01PM, on February 24, 2026, in Room 120 of the Capitol Building. A quorum was present.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

Members present:

KRESHA, Ron, GOP Chair
YOUAKIM, Cheryl, DFL Chair
BAKEBERG, Ben, GOP Vice Chair
CLARDY, Mary Frances, DFL Vice Chair
ALTENDORF, Pam
BAHNER, Kristin
BENNETT, Peggy
DIPPEL, Tom
ENGEN, Elliot
GREENE, Julie
HILL, Josiah
HUDSON, Walter
JOHNSON, Pete
LEE, Liz
KNUDSEN, Krista
LAWRENCE, Bryan
MUELLER, Patricia
PEREZ-VEGA, Maria Isa
QUAM, Duane
REHM, Lucy
REHRAUER, Kari
RYMER, Max
SENCER-MURA, Samantha
VIRNIG, Bianca

Representative Bennett moved the minutes of April 28, 2025, be approved. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

Representative Mueller moved the minutes of February 19, 2026, be approved. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF3492 (DURAN, JR.) - COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORIZED TO AWARD SCHOOL SAFETY FACILITY GRANTS TO SCHOOLS TO ENHANCE SAFETY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF, NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS FUNDS CANCELLED, AND MONEY APPROPRIATED.

Chair Kresha moved HF3492 before the committee.

Representative Duran presented on HF3492.

Testifiers:

Jeremy Olson, Superintendent, Bemidji Schools (Remote)
Casey Reiersen, Principal, St. Philips School (Remote)

Chair Kresha laid over HF3492 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill or further consideration at a later date. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF3495 (DURAN, JR.) - SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED TO NONPUBLIC AND TRIBAL CONTRACT SCHOOLS, AND MONEY APPROPRIATED.

Chair Kresha moved HF3495 before the committee.

Representative Duran presented on HF3495.

Testifier:

Kate Lynne Snyder, Education Minnesota

Adosh Unni, Director of Government Relations, Minnesota Department of Education

Chair Kresha laid over HF3495 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill or further consideration at a later date. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

HF3493 (LAWRENCE) - SAFE SCHOOLS REVENUE INCREASED; SAFE SCHOOLS REVENUE AVAILABLE TO CHARTER SCHOOLS, COOPERATIVE UNITS, NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND TRIBAL CONTRACT SCHOOLS MADE; AND MONEY APPROPRIATED.

Chair Kresha moved HF3493 before the committee.

Representative Lawrence presented on HF3493.

Testifiers:

Cally Proctor, Annunciation Catholic School Parent

Simon Osamoh, Founder & President, Kingwood Security Consulting

Shannon Mitchell, Minnesota Association of Charter Schools

Tammy Rackliffe, Executive Director, Duluth Edison Charter School

April and Ka'Milla, students

Tim Benz, President, MINNDEPENDENT

Dr. Nathan Flansburg, Superintendent, PACT Charter School

Sabrina Williams, Excell Academy for Higher Learning

Lisa Olson, Elk River Education Association

Chair Kresha laid over HF3493 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill or further consideration at a later date.

HF3602 (CURRAN) – SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS, SCHOOL SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED, MINNESOTA SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER FUNDING PROVIDED, AND MONEY APPROPRIATED.

Kresha moved HF3602 before committee.

Chair Kresha moved the H3602A1 amendment. **THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Representative Curran presented on HF3602, as amended.

Representative Witte presented on HF3602, as amended.

Testifiers:

Aurora Vasquez, Senior VP of State Policy, Sandy Hook Promise

Rick Kaufman, Association of Metropolitan School District

Chair Kresha laid over HF3602, as amended for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill or further consideration at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45PM.


Representative Ron Kresha, Chair


Jynell Boulka, Committee Legislative Assistant