



# 2023 Legislative Priorities

Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

## MESPA Supports Professional Principal Leadership

Strong, effective leadership is best achieved by the assignment of a full-time, licensed principal in each elementary and middle-level school site. Principals are responsible for quality education programs, teacher evaluation, staff development, parent involvement, school safety, and a positive school climate.

### MESPA SUPPORTS INCREASED FUNDING FOR:

- Foundation Formula increase of 5% in each year of the biennium
- Linking the Formula to inflation and include pre-K funding
- Fully fund the Special Education Cross Subsidy
- Mental Health initiatives serving students and adults
- Increasing student support through assistant principals, counselors, and Social workers
- Programs attracting teachers and principals, especially of color
- Funding to reduce class size
- Pension reform reducing the age of retirement from 66 and other options

### MESPA OPPOSES:

The diversion of public funds to private schools in any form

### MESPA SUPPORTS LEGISLATIVE POLICIES DESIGNED TO:

- Ensure a Positive Learning Environment for students and teachers
- Support the local control of school educational programs, policies, and management
- Increase the availability of substitute teachers
- Protecting the classroom, teachers, and students
- Protect the employment and due process rights of teachers and principals
- Reduce mandates on public schools
- Provide opportunities to teach professional standards to pre-service teachers

### MESPA SUPPORTS STUDENT BEHAVIOR INITIATIVES THAT ENSURE:

- Protection of the rights of all students and promotes a healthy environment for all members of the educational community
- Reasonable limitations on suspensions of K-3 students

# LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE



**Dr. Fatima Lawson**  
*Legislative Resolutions  
Committee Chair*  
Highwood Hills Elementary  
2188 Londin Ln St. Paul, MN 55119  
(651) 744-3290  
fatima.lawson@spps.org



**Mary Holmberg**  
*Central Division*  
Paynesville Area Elementary School  
205 W Mill St  
Paynesville, MN 56362  
(320) 243-3725  
mholmberg@isd741.org

**Darren Sheldon, Ed.D.**  
*Northeast Division*  
Lakewood Elementary  
5207 North Tischer Road  
Duluth, MN 55804  
(218) 336-8870 x 1011  
darren.sheldon@isd709.org

**Tracy Sexton-Oliver**  
*Southeast Division*  
Bluff View Elementary  
1156 W. Lakewood Ave  
Lake City, MN 55041  
(651) 345-4551  
toliver@lake-city.k12.mn.us

**Jodi Husting**  
*East Suburban Division*  
Crestview Elementary  
7830 80th Street South  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
(651) 425-3803  
jhusting@sowashco.org

**Melissa Hesch**  
*Northern Division*  
Eagle View Elementary  
30805 Olson Street  
Pequot Lakes, MN 56742  
(218) 562-6102  
mhesch@isd186.org

**Stacy Gillette**  
*Southwest Division*  
Luverne Elementary  
709 North Kniss Avenue  
Luverne, MN 56156  
(507) 283-4497  
s.gillette@isd2184.net

**Pao Vue**  
*Minneapolis Division*  
Jenny Lind Elementary  
5025 Bryant Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55430  
(612) 668-2020  
pao.vue@mpls.k12.mn.us

**Lydia Kabaka, Ed.D.**  
*Saint Paul Division*  
Mississippi Creative Arts  
Elementary  
1472 L'Orient Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55117

**Scott Eidsness**  
*West Suburban Division*  
Shirley Hills Primary School  
2450 Wilshire Boulevard  
Mound, MN 55364  
(952) 491-8401  
eidsnesss@westonka.k12.mn.us

**Shawn Stibbins**  
*North Suburban Division*  
Crest View Elementary  
8200 Zane Avenue  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
(763) 561-5165  
stibbinss@district279.org

**Nicole Garcia**  
*South Suburban Division* Parkview  
Elementary  
6795 Gerdine Path  
Rosemount, MN 55068  
(952) 431-8350  
nicole.garcia@district196.org

**Chris Ellingson**  
*Western Division*  
Hawley Elementary  
915 7th Street, PO Box 608  
Hawley, MN 56549  
(218) 483-3316 x 3169  
cellingson@hawley.k12.mn.us

## Jason Luksik

MESPA President  
Principal, Lincoln Elementary  
School: 218.333.3250  
jason\_luksik@isd31.net

## Roger Aronson

MESPA Legislative Counsel  
Mobile: 612.865.1459  
rogeraronsonlaw@gmail.com

## Jon Millerhagen

MESPA Executive Director  
Office: 952.297.8673  
jhm@mespa.net  
www.mespa.net