



June 11, 2021

Joel Whitehurst
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public School
500 E Paquin St
Waterville MN 56096-1533

Hi, Joel,

During this last school year MREA was committed to supporting Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public School, providing extensive pandemic planning and distance learning guidance. On behalf of all our Greater Minnesota students and educators, we were also actively engaged with legislators and state officials to address E-12 funding, policy, tax, and budget issues.

Thank you for your continued membership that is essential to advocating for equitable educational opportunities and policies across Greater Minnesota.

Your Voice at the Capitol

As you know, MREA’s voice at the Capitol is *your* voice at the Capitol. We lead and collaborated to secure critical approvals and keep legislators and policy officials informed of the impact of their decisions. We also helped position and prioritize rural education for the legislative special session, including:

- 2&2 percent increases on the general education formula
- Pandemic enrollment aid
- Opposing unfunded mandates
- More equitable distribution of ESSER funds to rural school districts
- See more on the enclosed flyer or at [MREAvoice.org/progressreport](https://mreavoice.org/progressreport)

Emerging Rural Strong

We all want students, educators, and schools to emerge Rural Strong from the upheaval of the 2020-21 school year. Your district’s renewed membership is vital to creating pathways through this still-evolving environment. Send in your renewal with your updated information by July 15 to ensure your voice is heard.

Thank you for the privilege of representing Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public School. We look forward to welcoming you in person to our events this year!

Karen Jacobson, Board President
Executive Director, MN River Valley Education District

Bob Indihar, Executive Director

P.S. Plan now to attend our in-person 2021 Annual Conference. Learn more at mreavoice.org/mreacon



MAIL

PO Box 187
St. Cloud, MN 56302-0187

VISIT

2233 Roosevelt Rd, Suite 7
St. Cloud, MN 56301

CALL

(320) 762-6574
Toll-Free (833)-MNVOICE

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[MREAvoice.org](https://mreavoice.org)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVOICE

2021-22 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Date: June 11, 2021

Invoice #: 2022-1452

Due: July 15, 2021

BILL TO:

Joel Whitehurst
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public School
500 E Paquin St
Waterville MN 56096-1533

Current expiration: June 30, 2021
New membership year: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022
2021-22 Membership type: Full ISD Membership
***Shared District:** NA
****APU =** 845

***Base Fee:** \$1100.00
****Legislative Fee:**..... +\$845.00
2021-22 Dues: **\$1945.00**

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Base Fee of \$1100, or \$875 if Shared District is listed. Districts with shared superintendents must each join MREA to obtain discount.*

***\$1.00 per Adjusted Pupil Unit (APU) to \$1,400 maximum.*

UPDATE/CORRECT as needed:

Member: Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public School
Primary Contact: Joel Whitehurst
Email Address: jwhitehurst@wem.k12.mn.us
Address: 500 E Paquin St
City, State, Zip: Waterville MN 56096-1533

Organization Phone: 507 - 362-4432
Superintendent Cell Phone:
Website Address: www.wem.k12.mn.us
County: LeSueur

COMPLETE AND RETURN this form with payment by July 15, 2021.

MREA is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) membership association. Dues are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. We estimate 34.9% of FY22 dues will be attributable to nondeductible lobbying activity and are NOT deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 162 as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Provide a copy of this notice to your accountant and/or tax preparer.

QUESTIONS? Contact Diane Vosen, Administrative Coordinator



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MREAVoice.org



Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

Leading Advocacy for Greater Minnesota Students

Led by school board members, administrators, teachers and other education-focused partners, MREA elevates Greater Minnesota schools through advocacy, education and recognition.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

MREA served as a resource for schools in their continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic with training for school leaders, planning guides, news updates, legislative highlights and other key tools.



AG2SCHOOL TAX CREDIT

School districts across Greater Minnesota are seeing the benefits of the MREA-led Ag2School agriculture credit for school facility bonds, currently at 55% and scheduled to increase to 70% by 2023.

In 2021

MREA helped position and prioritize rural education for the June budget-setting Legislative Special Session including:

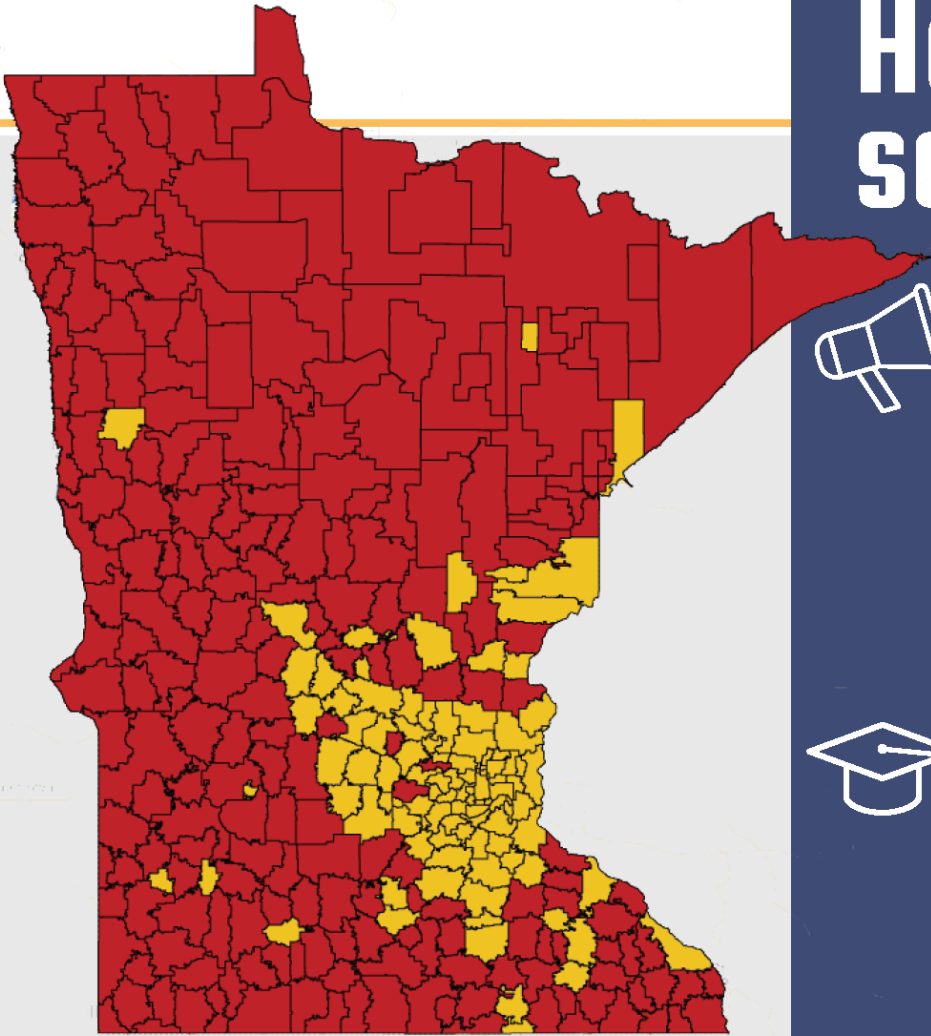
- 2&2% increases on the general education formula
- Pandemic Enrollment Aid
- Compensatory Aid Hold Harmless
- Oppose unfunded mandates
- ESSER funds more evenly distributed to rural school districts
- Continued Special Education cross-subsidy support
- Continued funding for voluntary Pre-K slots
- Financial tools to address cooperative facility needs for specialized services for high-need students
- Additional funding for concurrent enrollment credentialing
- Increased funding for Rural Career and Technical Education Consortia
- Enhanced debt service equalization for newly consolidating districts
- Allowing school boards to renew existing operating referendums

IN 2020

Some of the outcomes from MREA's advocacy include:

- Preserved funding for special education and other categorical programs despite service interruptions due to distance learning
- Extended renewal deadlines for teacher licenses
- Fund transfer authority to school boards for fiscal years 2020-21
- Promoted local flexibility and improved clarity in COVID-19 guidelines

How MREA serves YOU



 MREA Member School District



ADVOCATE

- Weekly insider briefings on key issues
- Lobbyists at the Capitol every day
- Interactive maps and analysis showing impacts of major changes
- Action alerts to help encourage engagement



EDUCATE

- Professional development and networking at the Annual Conference
- Regional meetings and trainings to provide input and stay informed
- Discounts on partner programs



SUPPORT AND RECOGNIZE

- Awards for teachers and innovative school programs
- Promotions that elevate rural schools and teachers
- Collaborative visioning with key education partners



MREA does a great job of cutting through the legislative clutter, identifying what applies to greater MN schools and letting us know what needs our attention. Their updates allow me to better articulate the impact of the bills and our next steps."

DR. REGGIE ENGBRITSON
Superintendent, St. Louis County Schools



0621.500

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Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

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CONTACT US AT
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