



# Minnesota Educational Facility Management Professionals

# The Messenger

March 2020  
Newsletter

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ruth@masms.org



MASMS.ORG

## MASMS State Meeting | Thursday May 14, 2020 Allianz Field



**Each year MASMS holds the May State Meeting at a unique location.  
This year it is at the Allianz Field!**

Allianz Field is a soccer-specific stadium in Saint Paul, Minnesota, home to Minnesota United FC of Major League Soccer. The 19,400-seat stadium was designed by Populous and opened on April 13, 2019. Don't miss this opportunity to tour the Allianz Field!

Allianz Field (400 Snelling Ave North, St. Paul, MN) Meet in the Brew Hall. Agenda for the day:

9:00, 9:30 and 10:00 AM Tours  
10:30 AM Keynote Speakers | Nick Hall, Morrison Hershfield  
Chris Bubser, LHB  
Design of the Allianz Field building envelope & exterior.  
11:30 AM Legislative Update & Business Meeting  
Noon Lunch and Networking

**Please note:** If you already signed up for this event, please signup again, and select the tour time you would like. We can only have 40 people in each tour time slot. If a time slot fills up you will be notified if we need to move you to a different time.

**To Register :** Go to [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org); Select "Member Login" (Top of the window). Enter your username (first initial and last name); Enter password "masms" (unless you changed it). Select "Meeting Registration" (left hand side); Select the State Meeting. Enter your name and organization. Select the send button.

## MASMS 2020 Custodial/Maintenance/Grounds Appreciation Day Registration is Now Open!

**Educational and Business Members are invited to participate in the  
2020 MASMS Custodial, Maintenance & Grounds Day.**

For Educational Members it is a great way to thank your staff!

For Business Members it is a great way to connect with the custodial, maintenance & grounds staff at the schools around the state!

**Education | Networking | Vendor Expo | Door Prizes | Great Food | Fun  
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**Metro Area | Wednesday June 17, 2020 OR Thursday June 18, 2020**

**Hastings High School, 200 General Sieben Drive, Hastings, Minnesota**

Same program is being offered two days. (Gives you the option to send 1/2 your staff each day!)

**Northern, Northwest & West Central Area | Tuesday June 23, 2020**

**Hill City Schools, 500 Ione Avenue, Hill City, Minnesota**

**Southern Area | Thursday June 25, 2020**

**Prairie Winds Middle School, 1200 Prairie Winds Drive, Mankato, Minnesota**

To Register : Click here [Registration Forms](#). Or go to [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org); select "2020 Custodial Day Registration Forms" on the left hand side of the screen.

You may select a download form to print; or a download Excel fill in file.  
Also, watch your mailbox for forms!



**Health & Safety** The MASMS Health & Safety Committee supplies information for this section. If you have a specific topic you would like to see covered, let the MASMS office know.

## Looking Ahead Three Workplace Safety Trends for 2020

*Author: Nicole Chaudet*

Worker safety is now an on-the-job priority—most companies, across all industries, have realized this throughout 2019. And, more organizations are also realizing the fact that a proactive approach to injury prevention and treatment demonstrates a strong commitment to employee wellbeing. And they should—according to the National Safety Council, a worker is injured on the job every seven seconds.

While these injuries obviously have a negative effect on employees, they can also significantly impact a company's productivity. Workplace injuries often mean lost work days and lost production days. Regardless of the setting—whether it's a manufacturing or office environment—employers increasingly recognize that addressing the work and non-work-related physical capabilities of employees optimizes their workforce and lowers the cost of injury and illness. It is good for the bottom line.

Given that backdrop, I'm starting to see a few different workplace safety trends emerge for 2020. Based on my collaborations with industry peers and what I've seen in client locations throughout the country, here are three key trends I envision playing out significantly in 2020.

### **Trend #1: Safety professionals continue to wear more "hats".**

Gone are the days where safety professionals have one or two areas of focus or accountability. A continued trend for 2020 is that safety professionals will wear many "hats." With streamlining and downsizing now increasingly common, and workplaces rapidly evolving, the days of safety specialization in a single category (fire, security, environmental, etc.) have become a thing of the past. Instead, safety professionals are now tasked with multiple responsibilities and are more generalized in their respective approaches. The important opportunity for our industry is to steer safety professionals toward tools and resources that they can integrate into the workplace and help improve worker lives.

### **Trend #2: A more holistic approach to health and wellbeing.**

We have seen a substantial shift within the industry toward a more comprehensive approach to wellbeing that goes beyond physical health. The National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOSH) outlines a Total Worker Health concept, which has proven helpful for Health Fitness and many other companies alike. The concept is a holistic approach to employee wellbeing that integrates safety and health protection with injury and illness. This multi-faceted approach includes social, emotional, financial and environmental dimensions of health.

The concept of Total Worker Health takes a broad view of worker wellbeing and encourages a more proactive approach to overall health and wellness. Looking ahead, this standard will be increasingly adopted by employers seeking ways to truly care for their employees.

### **Trend #3: High tech AND high-touch.**

Health is personal. When it comes to their own well-being, employees seek a highly personalized experience. In some cases, this includes technology as a means to increase personalization. This is especially poignant within injury prevention and treatment programs. And as the workplace becomes more diverse and adapts to economic and regulatory factors, I expect that the need, and the demand, for personalization will continue well into the future.

For instance, one large manufacturing company was facing past and present challenges with sprain and strain injuries among new hires. It was adding a third shift at one of its production sites. In planning for this addition, its goal was to reduce the incidence of these musculoskeletal disorders. A solution to the problem was implementing a "high-touch" approach featuring seven full-time associates that seamlessly integrated with union leadership, operations supervisors and onsite medical staff.

These onsite safety professionals conducted work conditioning programs, lineside coaching and First Aid and early intervention. This individualized and high-touch approach yielded significant results, decreasing sprains and strains and immediately positively impacting production.

The bottom line is this: educating yourself, leaders and clients on these important employee safety trends now can set the building blocks in place for optimal safety and wellbeing success in 2020.



MESSAGE FROM  
THE BOARD



Reed McFarlane  
Northwest Chapter Director

*The one thing that has been on my mind is that our words to each other really do matter.... it was something that Fred King really stressed.*

Our words to each other really do matter. Words are our most powerful way of communicating. The words we choose convey our thoughts and feelings. Words are the heartbeat of our relationships.

It is so easy to speak without thinking. To not genuinely listen and connect with people. When words are used in the wrong way it can be devastating.

Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble.

Being a practitioner of careful, thoughtful and deliberate positive communication with words, not only takes practice, but also requires us to be in the moment – really saying the right words that convey our thoughts and feelings.

Thinking before you speak is an important skill to master for all kinds of situations. It can improve your relationships with other people and enable you to express yourself in a more effective way. Start by using the **THINK** acronym to decide if what you have to say is **T**True, **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary, or **K**ind.

Hope you have a great March, and start to Spring, Reed

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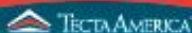


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## WECLOME NEW MASMS MEMBERS!

### Educational Members

Jeff Jensen, Waseca Schools  
Dustin Wroolie, Nevis Schools  
Matt Verdick, Rochester Schools  
Jerry Peters, Rochester Schools  
Troy Castle, Rochester Schools  
Danny Wiltgen, Rochester Schools  
Freddie Martinez, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Schools  
Joanna Hanek, Northfield Public Schools

### Business Members

Kirk Wahlstrom, Egan Company  
Cory Johnson, Mavo Systems  
Ilan Klages-Mundt, IPS Solar  
Brian Keenan, IPS Solar  
Chad Helmonds, Advanced Wireless  
Robbie Schultz, Knutson Construction  
Cliff Blaisdell, Fremont Industries a Kurita Co.  
Matt LeVine, MovingMinds  
Andrew Heeter, Teknoflor  
Colt Moninger, M & E Plastic Repair LLC  
Steve Engelhart, M & E Plastic Repair LLC  
David Leslie, Portico Systems Commercial Flooring  
Mike Bedford, Portico Systems Commercial Flooring

## Update on MASMS Sustainable \$1000 School Grant ROCORI schools received one of the \$1000 Grants in 2019. Here is an update on the progress of their project!

"I want to update you on our projects. We have completed the construction of bird houses, benches, and our sprinkler project is also complete. We will place the benches and bird houses in the spring.

There were many kids involved in these projects. The H.S. carpentry class cut all materials, my 4th graders assembled them, and a H.S. DNR class will assist with placing the birdhouses.



We will continue to enhance the trail and garden area as weather permits.

We recently had 60 kids and parents out in that area for night games and Hot chocolate. Kids enjoy it out there!

Thanks so much for your support!!!"

**Mr. Greg Spanier, ROCORI Schools**

Year One | Vice President      Year Two | President Elect  
Year Three | President      Year Four | Past President

Considerations include:

- Commitment to MASMS Leadership Ability
- Appreciation for the Respective Roles on the Board
- Ability and Willingness to Serve (disclosed their intent to their employer to serve on the MASMS Executive Board as well as understand the time commitment necessary to fulfill this role).

**Past President** | Shall provide support and leadership as requested.

## Nomination and Election Timeline

- Nomination forms will be emailed to membership and posted on the MASMS website no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Completed forms are due back to the MASMS office no later than August 15th of each year.
- Nominations will not be accepted at the Annual MASMS Conference.
- Ballots will be distributed at the Annual MASMS Conference.
- Voting will be completed at the annual business meeting at the Annual MASMS Conference.
- Job duties start at the close of the Annual MASMS Conference.

**Nomination Process**  
To nominate yourself or another MASMS member please complete and follow the instructions on the nomination form.

[Click here for the nomination form](#); or go to [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org) and select membership information under “quick links”.



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## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS MASMS 2020 FALL CONFERENCE

MASMS is soliciting presentations and session speakers for the 2020 MASMS Conference. Education is a very important part of our conference each year and our member's assistance in delivering these sessions is truly appreciated. **We depend on our members, both Educational and Business, to share their knowledge at our conference with educational sessions.**

### Conference dates:

Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 & Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

### Location:

St. Cloud MN Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud Minnesota

If you are selected you could be scheduled for either of the two days. **Submittals are due by March 13, 2020.** Presentations should be product and vendor neutral, and that the endorsements of certain products or vendors be avoided.

### Instructions:

- Presentations should be 50 minutes in length (including answer/question)
- Prepare a 100-word descriptor of the course
- Please include all requested information.**
- Provide a short professional bio of the presenter
- Email this to [ruth@masms.org](mailto:ruth@masms.org)

### Suggested topics.

**Please feel free to come up with your own!**

**Hiring Procedures** How to interview and be interviewed; roundtable "practice sessions on interviewing.

**Custodial Operations:** Custodial Staffing Levels; Effective Hiring Procedures; Custodial Supervision & Evaluation; Product Equipment & Selection

**Building Systems:** Boiler Operator Review; HVAC Maintenance; Energy Benchmarking; Lighting Building Automation Systems

**Environmental Health & Safety:** Health & Safety; Indoor Air Quality; Playground Safety; Health & Safety Funding Basics; ADA Education; Crisis Planning

**Maintenance Operations:** Building Envelope Maintenance; Roof Maintenance; Preventive Maintenance; Grounds Maintenance;

**Financial Management:** Capital Plan Development; School Finance 101; Life Cycle Cost Analysis; Public Relations Skills; MN Buildings Codes

**Leadership:** Public Relations; Labor Negotiations; Bargaining Basics; How to Build Consensus; Public Relations Skills; Staff Development

### Education Committee Members:

Jim Leuer - [leuerj@rockford.k12.mn.us](mailto:leuerj@rockford.k12.mn.us)

Mat Miller [miller.mathew@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US](mailto:miller.mathew@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US)

Maureen Mullen - [mmullen@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:mmullen@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us)

Jeff Arthurs - [ArthursJ@District279.org](mailto:ArthursJ@District279.org)

Margaret Bishop - [mbishop@nexussolutions.com](mailto:mbishop@nexussolutions.com)

Tracy Closson [TClosson@northfieldschools.org](mailto:TClosson@northfieldschools.org)

Todd Lieser, [todd.lieser@isd623.org](mailto:todd.lieser@isd623.org)

Cole Nelson, [conelson1@rochester.k12.mn.us](mailto:conelson1@rochester.k12.mn.us)



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# Vendor Corner

## How Much Will It Cost?



*Mike Remington, Inspector  
MASMS Vendor Rep*

Many of us MASMS Business Members get asked that question often. Before people commit to doing something, it is usually very important for them to know how much it will cost. Many times, they are looking for an approximate budget number, not an exact quote or bid right away.

As you see all the time in the news, large construction projects nearly always end up going over budget. Some famous examples of cost overruns include the Big Dig project in Boston that went 421% over budget and the Denver International Airport that was 167% over. While your projects aren't that large, it is still important to provide a reliable budget number to your clients.

Common mistakes when determining cost estimates include not factoring in: the scale of the project (smaller projects cost more than larger projects on a per square foot basis for example), the schedule of the project, where the project is located and what access is like, or forgetting to include soft costs and a contingency. On top of all that, you also need to realize how little you might actually know as far as schedule, time of year, weather, material and labor cost increases, and other items that could significantly influence the actual cost of the project.

Be careful when providing budgets and estimated costs, you don't want to create one of those "surprises" that no one likes!

### QUICKLINKS ON THE MASMS WEB PAGE

Find out all  
the answers to  
the questions  
you see MASMS  
Members Posting  
during the  
month!

Go to  
[www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org)  
and select the  
QUICKLINK  
labeled  
Questions  
and Answers  
from MASMS  
Members

**You can quickly find information on  
MASMS Monthly Meetings!**

**Location | Topics | Agendas**

**Go to [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org) and select the QUICKLINK labeled Monthly  
MASMS Chapter Meetings.**



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## MASMS Scholarship Applications are Now Being Accepted

The MASMS Scholarship Committee is accepting essays from sons and daughters of all dues-paying and life members (educational and business members) of MASMS who are high school seniors graduating in 2020 or are currently a post-secondary student attending a post secondary school in the United States

The MASMS Tom Robinson Memorial Scholarship program is in memory of a long time employee with the Hopkins School District in the field of maintenance. He was instrumental in writing software for the State Department of Energy, and served on multiple MASMS committees for many years.

### HOW TO APPLY

**All applications and essays will be submitted electronically.** If you have any questions, please email Scott Clemente at: [scott@servpro10278.com](mailto:scott@servpro10278.com). You will receive an email confirmation once you submit your application.

Complete the application form and submit your essay by April 15, 2020. Go to [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org) and select "2020 Student Scholarship" to submit your information or click on this link: <https://forms.gle/SfPD3D2yMp9Sgm6Z7>

***Applicants will need to have a google account to submit this form.***

All information will be reviewed by the MASMS scholarship Selection Committee. Awards will be announced by letter in early May 2020. Checks will be issued after proof of enrollment has been received.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The number of scholarships awarded will be based on available funds. Awards will range from \$250 to \$1500 per person. Each person may receive a lifetime limit of \$2000.

***Please note: You must be a registered member of MASMS; grandchildren are NOT eligible.***

## CPS Class Scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in St. Cloud MN

The CPS certification is part of the requirements for the MASMS Certification Program.

We have 15 openings available for this class. The AFE fee for this training and examination is \$500. MASMS covers the cost of hotel rooms and lunches. This class is a review of the study materials, and is not meant to be complete instruction. You must spend the necessary time studying the materials prior to the class.

**How to register:** Email the MASMS office that you will be applying for this class ([ruth@masms.org](mailto:ruth@masms.org)) and you will be emailed the application. Fill out the application and send it back with the \$500 check (or credit card info) to the MASMS office (give yourself at least 5 weeks of study time).

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**Karen Lee Virnig**  
**Milliken & Company**  
**Sr. Territory Manager**  
**C 612-940-8731**  
**[Karen.Virnig@Milliken.com](mailto:Karen.Virnig@Milliken.com)**



## MASMS Boot Camp | Offered in July 2020

**Dates & time:** Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, dinner at 6:00 PM on Wednesday evening

**Location:** Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, MN

**Cost:** MASMS will cover the cost of this training, including hotel & meals.

**Boot Camp Information:** The MASMS Boot Camp is specifically designed to provide training for facility professionals.

### The following topics will be covered:

Custodial | Grounds | Maintenance Management | Security | Health & Safety | Transportation Standards | Best Practices | Training | Equipment | Management Tools | Inspections | Budgets | Staff Management & Development

**Instructors** This course is taught by seasoned experienced facility staff from public schools. Mike Boland (ISD #622), Scott Hogen (Mankato Schools), Chis Pint (ISD#196) and Laura Masley (Elk River Schools), who have over 75 years of combined experience!

**Contact the MASMS Office to Register**  
**ruth @ masms.org | 320-685-4585**

Please indicate if you need a hotel reservation, and number of nights.

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*Sam Walseth, MASMS Lobbyist*

### Battle Lines Being Drawn

The 2020 legislative session is running on all cylinders. Committee agendas are full and legislative leaders have staked out their priorities as they look to the end of session and the November election. The House DFL majority is rolling forward with several bills on hot topics like expanded insulin coverage, gun violence prevention, \$500M in new spending on early childhood education programs and is positioning themselves for a large bonding bill that will likely eclipse the Governor's \$2B request.

The Senate GOP is moving quickly in the opposite direction. They have different, more limited ideas on the policy agenda and instead of new spending they want to return \$1B of the now projected \$1.5B surplus to taxpayers. As for the bonding bill, they will work to hold the line on the total price tag, historically around \$1B, but some in their caucus have quietly acknowledged they will need to do more than \$1B in bonding this session.

### Budget Forecast -

Minnesota Management & Budget released an updated budget forecast on Thursday, February 27. The latest projections show a surplus of \$1.5 billion, an increase of \$181 million from the November forecast. While that is good news, it is important to note that the majority of that surplus is only one time money. There were two main factors in the increased forecast. The first is an increase of \$96 million in revenues. The second was a decrease in spending of \$91 million. While there were slight increase in spending in the areas of Property tax aids and credits and Health and Human Services that were very minimal, there was a reduction in E-12 Education spending based on a reduced number of students.

*Continued on Page 10*

## MANAGING A BUILDING HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS!

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## Legislative Update Continued from Page 9

MMB noted several forecast risks. The key risks were trade policy uncertainty, financial market volatility, consumer confidence, and the fact that there are still 16 months remaining until the end of FY 20-21. An unusual factor that was included in this forecast was the effect the coronavirus could have on the state economy. If the outbreak is prolonged and widespread it could have a seriously detrimental effect on the State's finances.

While the news on Tuesday was good, there are still factors that need to be remembered. The bulk of the forecast is one-time money, meaning that ongoing funding proposals will be much harder to accomplish. Care needs to be taken in how the majority of the surplus is used and discussions on the best use of the surplus will certainly be the second most important conversation at the Capitol in the coming weeks behind the crafting of the bonding bill for the legislative session.

We will likely see a Supplemental Budget request from Governor Walz in the weeks to come. However, Walz has indicated he wants to bank the bulk of the surplus for the 2021 budget session. Walz will deliver his state of the state address to the legislature at 7pm on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Education Policy -

The House Education Policy committee is working on several bills of interest to MASMS. Legislation on unclaimed drugs and radon testing were passed out of committee late February. The radon bill is very similar to what the House passed last session and would require testing be done at least once every five years. However, new language was added to this year's version of the bill and would require all radon measurement and mitigation be completed by licensed individuals.

Legislation was introduced to add safety and security measures to the LTFMR program, however, the bill (SF 3611) doesn't increase the funding cap. We will express our perspective on this bill to the author and relevant committee chairs.



## Safe School Property | Accurately Locating the Source of the Leak

Article provided by Leak Detection

No solution is black and white unless the problem can be identified. Now with leak detection services to assist the facility management professional in locating the issues and identifying the pipes in the area, the engineer can be extremely efficient at their management of the properties.

Accurately locating the source or origin of the leak is very instrumental in reducing costs of repairs. Often leaks go undetected as they are under concrete or in the walls. A property can experience increase of high-water bills without any signs of visible water.

It is imperative to use state-of-the-art electronic equipment to inspect property from rooftop to basement, finding all types of concealed leaks and locating pipes for remodeling, including:

Water Intrusion Evaluation  
Sewer Odor Leaks  
Failed Inspection Air Tests

Drain & Waste Lines  
Utility Line Locate

Radiant Heat Systems  
Main & Service Lines

Under Concrete Slabs  
Swimming Pools & Spas

### Signs of Hidden Leaks

Running toilets and dripping faucets are obvious problems. Hidden leaks are, by definition, harder to find.

#### Here are some signs to look for:

- Unusually high-water bills.
- Musty odors from floors or walls near drains or sewers.
- Spongy, soft or discolored walls.
- The sound of running water when nothing is turned on.
- A water meter reading that changes when you are not using any water. (You can test this by marking the indicator and not using any water for an hour.)



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## Accurately Locating the Source of the Leak *(Continued from Page 11)*

- A cracked or unusually damp foundation or slab.
- Warm spots on concrete slab floors, or mildew or excessive moisture under carpets.
- Chronic sewer backup problems.
- Areas in the yard that are unusually wet.

### In pools or spas, look for:

- Loss of water in pool. Can be evaluated with a bucket test-loss verses evaporation.
- Algae formation too soon after a chemical treatment.
- Loose or falling tiles or pool deck cracks.
- An automatic fill that is continually releasing water.
- Cracks or gaps in the pool shell or concrete deck, or a settling or raising of the pool or spa structure from the ground.

### Water Loss can be staggering:

- A 1/8-inch hole in a metal pipe, at 60 psi, leaks 3,096 gal of water/24 hours
- A leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gal/yr, enough to fill 12,000 bathtubs to the overflow mark
- A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days
- A dripping faucet/hose bibb can lose up to 180 gallons a month, 2160 gallons per year
- Approximately 1 in every 20 pools has a leak
- Approximately 1 in every 318 homes or buildings has a leak
- A typical toilet leak at today's rates can add \$500 to a single water bill
- A main line leak @60 psi ¼ inch hole can lose approximately 15,000 gallons a day.

A leak detection specialist can evaluate leaks in walls, buried under a slab, in a pool deck or structure, in boiler lines, snow melt or fire suppression systems. They can also evaluate an existing sewer line, even locate the source of foul odors or venting problems in a property or leaks out in the yard.



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## UPCOMING MASMS EVENTS

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 3/10/20  | Metro Chapter Meeting             |
| 3/18/20  | West Chapter Meeting              |
| 3/19/20  | Northern Chapter Meeting          |
| 4/14/20  | Metro Chapter Meeting             |
| 4/15/20  | Southern Chapter Meeting          |
| 4/16/20  | Northern Chapter Meeting          |
| 4/22/20  | Northwest Chapter Meeting         |
| 5/6/20   | West Chapter Meeting              |
| 5/14/20  | State Meeting                     |
| 6/17/20  | MASMS Metro Custodial Days        |
| 6/18/20  | MASMS Metro Custodial Days        |
| 6/23/20  | MASMS No/NW/West Custodial Day    |
| 6/25/20  | MASMS Southern Custodial Day      |
| 9/30/20  | MASMS Fall Scholarship Golf Event |
| 10/1/20  | MASMS Fall Conference             |
| 10/2/20  | MASMS Fall Conference             |
| 10/21/20 | MASMS Southern Chapter Meeting    |
| 10/28/20 | MASMS Northwest Chapter Meeting   |
| 11/10/20 | MASMS Metro Chapter Meeting       |
| 11/18/20 | MASMS West Chapter Meeting        |
| 11/19/20 | MASMS Northern Chapter Meeting    |
| 12/8/20  | MASMS Metro Chapter Meeting       |
| 12/16/20 | MASMS Southern Chapter Meeting    |
| 12/17/20 | MASMS Northern Chapter Meeting    |
| 12/23/20 | MASMS Northwest Chapter Meeting   |

## MASMS EXECUTIVE BOARD

|   |
|---|
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| <b>PRESIDENT ELECT</b>   COLIN GREEN, WASECA SCHOOLS    |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>   CHRIS WIRZ, ST. FRANCIS SCHOOLS |
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**Employment Opportunities:**  
Check it out at [www.masms.org](http://www.masms.org)  
New postings weekly.

## Last Minute Update from the State Capital

Last Friday was a bit of a zoo in House Education Finance. Colin Green can attest to it as he was witness to most of what was about 4.5 hours of debate on 'non-exclusionary' discipline practices. After that the committee finally got to the two bills we're interested in.

The first is HF 244 (Rep. Anne Claflin) dealing with Radon Testing in schools. The "DE" on the radon testing requirement attachment stands for "delete-all" and means this admendment replaces the original bill language as introduced. It gets tricky tracking language through the process. The subsequent amendment was added to the DE, and that's the one that requires all radon measurement and mitigation work to be completed by licensed individuals (under Minnesota Statutes, section 144.4961), which is a MN Department of Health statute.

The final bill that was sent out of Education Policy to the House floor is consistent with our platform and the Exec Board's decision to support the licensure provision. While the bill has advanced in the House process, it's unclear if the Senate intends to move on this legislation this session. The companion bill, SF 201, is chief authored by Sen. Karla Bigham who is in the minority caucus in the Senate. The Chair of the Senate E-12 committee, Sen. Carla Nelson, introduced SF 2961, which is a different version of the radon testing bill and it's unclear what she intends to do with it. Her bill doesn't have a companion bill in the Senate. MASMS, MSBA and Minneapolis Public Schools lobbyists put a lot of thought and effort into the latest version of HF 244, and my understanding is all three groups would rather see HF 244 pass than starting a new version/process in the Senate.

The second bill we're tracking is HF 575 (Rep. John Huot) dealing with Unclaimed Drugs. The bill is consistent with our platform position. Our members would likely prefer stronger language requiring Law Enforcement to pick up and transport unclaimed drugs, but the bill language states:

The school district must request that a law enforcement agency transport the prescription drug or medication to a collection bin that complies with Drug Enforcement Agency regulations, or if a site is not available, under the agency's procedure for transporting drugs.

I spoke with Rep. Huot about the language and said our members would prefer a stronger requirement on Law Enforcement. He agreed, but said he wanted to do this last session and LE fought him on stronger language so he had to settle for the "school district must request..." version. He said he wants to pass this bill and in the future he's hoping to find an option where by pharmaceutical companies are responsible for transport and disposal of unclaimed drugs. Huot's bill passed out of committee and was sent to the House floor.

Unlike the Radon bill, the Unclaimed Drugs bill seems to have a smoother path toward the Governor's desk. Next Wednesday the Senate E-12 committee will hear the companion bill, SF 247 (Sen. Eric Pratt) and it sounds like this bill will also travel on it's own to the Senate floor. The implication is this legislation will make 'bill deadlines' and be viable to pass the House and Senate as stand-alone legislation (as opposed to be wrapped up in an omnibus education policy bill).

One more item; I want you to know that MASMS was represented at a large school lobbyist group meeting last week with Senate E-12 Chair Carla Nelson. The lobbyist for MASBO suggested the Chair consider SF 3611 (Sen. Steve Cwodzinski) which would add school safety measures to LTFM. I chirped up immediately and said "we don't all support that." Chair Nelson was interested and asked why. I explained that most LTFM districts are at the revenue cap and this is an important "like for like" deferred maintenance program and adding new allowable uses would hinder the 10-year facility maintenance plans in place in over 300 school districts. For what it's worth, better to be at the table than on the menu.

Sincerely, Samuel P. Walseth