



Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

June 1, 2018

Paul Brownlow, Superintendent  
Verndale Public Schools  
411 S Brown St  
Verndale, MN 56481-3000

Dear Superintendent,

MREA took the lead and collaborated with many stakeholders to advocate for Verndale Public Schools this past legislative session. Our constant presence at the Capitol on your behalf is a cornerstone of our legislative advocacy and progress.

**Help Keep Our Voice Strong**

As you look forward to next school year, please renew your MREA membership to keep our voice strong for Greater Minnesota education. With your continued support we'll persevere on your behalf with our advocacy, awareness, and communications, just as we have in past legislative sessions:

- Fixing TRA within the pensions bill was MREA's number one priority going into the 2018 session, and it passed unanimously in both the House and Senate.
- MREA supported \$25 million in school district grants (up to \$500,000) to reinforce facilities and security.
- MREA addressed ever-escalating SPED costs with a re-insurance solution for equity in SPED funding.
- MREA included cooperatives in proposed safe schools funding and worked to address statutory barriers for rural cooperatives to remodel, lease, build and maintain facilities for high need students.
- The 40% Ag2School bond credit, passed in 2017, took effect in 2018 across Greater Minnesota.
- The LTFMR, passed in 2015, will reach \$380 per APU in FY '19.
- *Read more about our collaborative efforts on the enclosed flyer.*

**Renew Your MREA Membership**

We're already planning and looking forward to the 2018-19 school year. Your membership in Greater Minnesota's voice will be needed more than ever as we renew efforts to prioritize SPED, teacher shortages, funding, cooperative facilities for high-need students, and more.

To ensure we continue to be your voice in St. Paul, **renew your MREA membership by July 15** with the enclosed invoice. Contact Diane Vosen, MREA Administrative Coordinator, at (320) 762-6574 with questions.

Thank you for the privilege of representing Verndale Public Schools. Together, we are the Voice for Greater Minnesota Education.

Sincerely,

Todd Holthaus, MREA Board President  
Superintendent, Hills-Beaver Creek Schools

Fred Nolan, MREA Executive Director

**P.S. Plan now to attend our 2018 Annual Conference: Engaging Students Now Nov. 11-13 at Cragun's Resort.** Learn more at [mreavoice.org/annualconference](http://mreavoice.org/annualconference).



Voice for Greater Minnesota Education

PO BOX 187 | ST. CLOUD, MN 56302 | (320) 762-6574 | [MREAVOICE.ORG](http://MREAVOICE.ORG)



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# RENEWAL INVOICE 2018-19 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

**BILL TO:**

Paul Brownlow, Superintendent  
Verndale Public Schools  
411 S Brown St  
Verndale MN 56481-3000

**INVOICE #:** 2019-1506  
**INVOICE DATE:** June 1, 2018  
**DUE DATE:** July 15, 2018

**Membership expiration:** June 30, 2018  
**New membership year:** July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019  
**2018 Membership type:** Full ISD Membership  
**2019 Membership type:** Full ISD Membership  
**APU =** 601  
**Shared district:** NA

<b>Base Fee:</b>	\$1100.00
<b>*Legislative Fee:</b>	\$601.00
<b>**Discount:</b>	-\$0.00
<b>Total 2018-19 Dues:</b>	<b>\$1701.00</b>

*\*\$1.00 per Adjusted Pupil Unit (APU) to \$1,400 maximum, based on MDE APU estimates for 2018-19.  
\*\*Districts with Shared Superintendents must BOTH join MREA to qualify for discount.*

**Please verify the information below and correct as needed:**

**Organization Phone:** 218 - 445-5184  
**Website:** www.verndale.k12.mn.us  
**County:** Wadena  
**Service Coop:** NJPA  
**MASA Region:** 5  
**State House District:** 09A  
**State Senate District:** 009  
**Federal District:** 08

**Return payment and copy of invoice to:**  
MINNESOTA RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 187, St. Cloud MN 56302-0187

**Questions?**

Diane Vosen, Administrative Coordinator  
(320) 762.6574 or Toll-Free (833)-MNVOICE  
diane@mreavoice.org



Voice for Greater Minnesota Education

**Leading Advocacy for Greater Minnesota Students.** Under the leadership of school board members, administrators, teachers and community members, MREA focuses on what puts first the education, growth and development of learners to bring about our best possible future.



## IN 2017

MREA's advocacy helped to:

- Add 2% and 2% to the education formula
- Expand Voluntary Pre-K funding with new School Readiness Plus (SR+) program
- Establish tiered teacher licensure
- Expand statewide support for concurrent enrollment teacher credentialing with \$375,000 annually for four years
- Secure \$500,000 one-time funding for teacher loan forgiveness in FY 2018
- Gain an additional \$20 million in broadband expansion grants



## AG2SCHOOL TAX CREDIT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES

School districts across Greater Minnesota are seeing the benefits of a new Ag2School 40% agriculture credit for school facility bonds.

## IN 2018

MREA led and collaborated to gain legislative approval to:

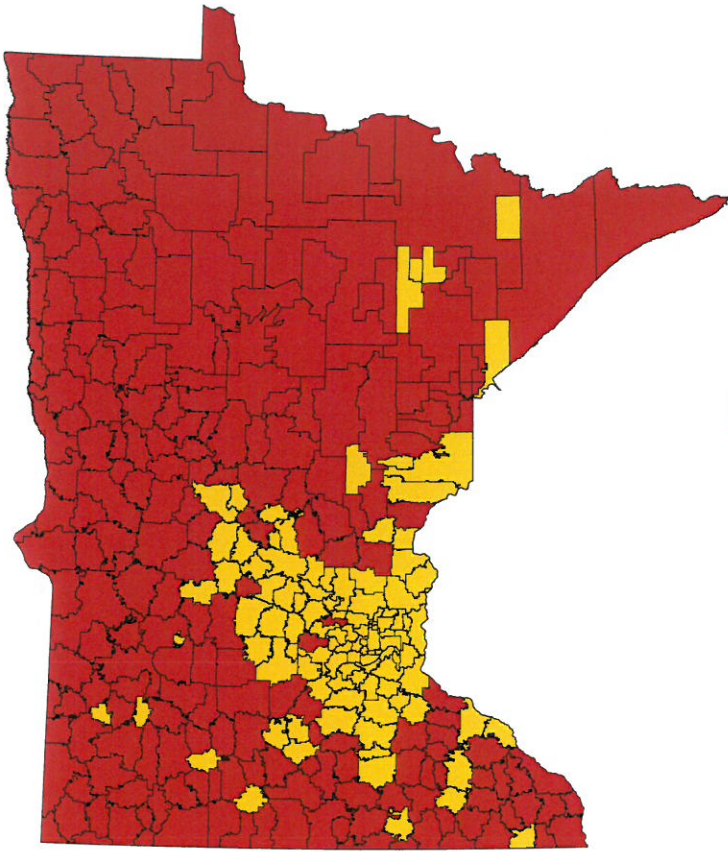
- Include cooperatives in safe schools revenue and recognition of the role of rural cooperatives
- Address growing SPED cross subsidy issue in student funding through a re-insurance solution that maintains better equity in formula
- Remove statutory impediments to members of rural cooperatives to remodel, lease, build, and maintain specialized school facilities for specialized instructional programs and facilities for high-need students

MREA participated in collaborative efforts to urge the legislature to:

- Stabilize TRA defined-benefit retirement plan through shared responsibility of the state, teachers and retirees
- Increase safe schools revenue, establish a minimum for smaller districts, and open avenues to remodel facilities for security, including flexibility in Long-Term Facility Maintenance and grants
- Expand broadband grants to under served rural communities to provide home access to high-speed Internet
- Reduce the number and scope of numerous new proposed mandates
- Continue to fund School Readiness Plus districts past the 2018-19 school year
- Stop proposed constitutional amendment to take a projected \$362 million from the state's general fund permanently and assign it to road projects

“Thank you for your watchful eye at the Capitol and your diligence watching for legislation that largely affects rural Minnesota schools. Without your voice at the Capitol, we would not have anywhere close to the support that is needed for rural schools throughout the state of Minnesota.”

David Fjeldheim, Superintendent, Sebeka School District



■ MREA Member School Districts

# 98%

of members rate MREA's communications as effective.

## WAYS WE SERVE OUR MEMBERS

- Weekly insider briefings on key issues and news
- Action alerts to help you effect change on issues
- Email alerts detailing impact when key legislation is passed
- Interactive maps and analysis that illustrate the impact of a change on district, regional and state levels
- Lobbyists focused on key issues impacting schools
- Website sharing news in our schools and at the Capitol
- Professional development and networking at Annual Conference
- Regional meetings to discuss issues and connect with other school leaders
- Reduced ACT prep costs for districts through OnToCollege
- Social media strategy and training on using tools to connect with parents and communities
- Significant discounts on liability premiums through SchoolGuard partnership.

## IN ADDITION TO GREATER MINNESOTA SCHOOL DISTRICTS, MREA MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- Service Cooperatives
- Minnesota Education Districts Association
- Special Education Cooperatives
- Colleges & Universities
- Businesses & Nonprofits
- Individuals

“I am very happy that we became a member of MREA. It is apparent we have a great lobbyist. I appreciate your responsiveness to concerns that I have had.”

Bob Indihar, Superintendent, Moose Lake Schools

