



SAINT PAUL FEDERATION
OF EDUCATORS LOCAL 28

November 6, 2024

Greetings,

The results of last night's election have many of us feeling pain, distress, confusion, and worry. Those feelings are real, and they deserve to be acknowledged.

As educators, we know that when faced with the overwhelming, it is important to clearly identify and name the challenges we are facing, and make a plan on how to address them.

There will be a great deal of post-election dissection about what went wrong and there will be the temptation to ignore the role that white supremacy, sexism, transphobia, and xenophobia played in this election. There will be calls that we should "moderate" our goals – focus on economics and ignore everything else. To just put our heads down and try to get by. Some may have that option. But we don't. To do these things would put many of our members, our students, their families, and potentially our union at even greater risk.

Our National Unions (NEA, AFT, AFL-CIO) and our State Union (Education Minnesota) are making plans right now, and will share them as soon as they can. Over the following days SPFE will share resources and guidance with our members as much as possible.

For today, take time to be with your people. Love and care for each other. And remember that while the history of the Labor Movement absolutely has its very dark moments, it also has a history of hope, mutual aid, and solidarity. As we know from the history of WWII and post-war Europe (including Eastern Europe), the labor movement was one of the largest, and most effective methods of fighting for democratic freedoms. The history of our own local is rooted in caring for, and fighting for each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leah VanDassor".

Leah VanDassor, President
Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Local #28