



# Solidarity!

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## Bargaining Around the Corner

**Contracts for MTI's teacher and substitute teacher bargaining units are in two-year increments, in odd years.** Contracts for MTI's clerical/technical, educational assistants, and school security assistants are also in two-year increments, in even years. **This means Teacher Contract bargaining is about to begin.**

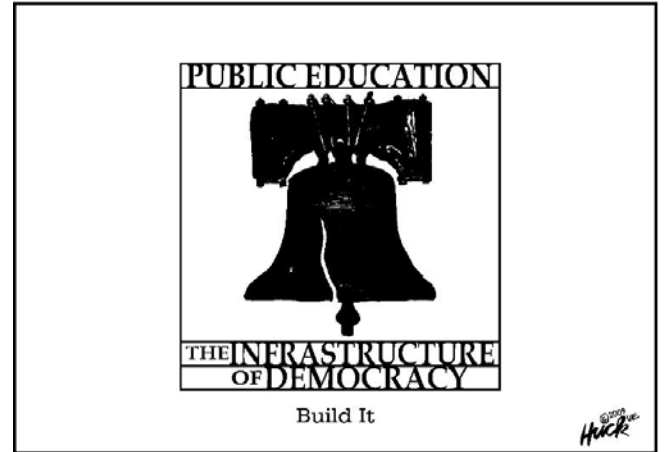
The MTI Board and Bargaining Committee will put the final touches on the Union's proposals at tonight's meeting. *The Union's proposals are primarily based on member input from the Union's Bargaining Survey.* Negotiations are expected to get underway in late February or early March.

## MTI Endorsements for Spring Election

MTI's Political Action Committee, MTI VOTERS, interviewed candidates on January 13 for this spring's election for Madison School Board, Supreme Court, Circuit Court, State Superintendent and Dane County Executive.

MTI members have ratified the Political Action Committee's recommended candidates: **Arlene Silveira** for BOE Seat 1; **Lucy Mathiak** for BOE Seat 2; **Stephen Ehlke** for Circuit Court (Branch 13); **Shirley Abrahamson** for Supreme Court; **Kathleen Falk** for County Executive; and **Tony Evers** for State Superintendent. Following interviews, the Union's Political Action Committee advised MTI members that these candidates are clearly the better qualified candidates and are enthusiastically committed to public education.

This year's primary election is next **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**. *The general election will be held on April 7 during spring break. It is recommended that MTI members request an absentee ballot to assure their vote is counted. Applications for an absentee ballot (City of Madison) are available from your MTI Faculty Representative or on MTI's website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)).*



## Educational Finance

**It is time for legislators to put children first and that means to make funding public schools their #1 priority.** The economic crisis is well-known, but children and their education must not be put on the back burner. Call or email your legislator to demand that adequately funding education be their #1 priority.

### State Senators

Scott Fitzgerald	<a href="mailto:sen.fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov">sen.fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-5660
Mark Miller	<a href="mailto:sen.miller@legis.wisconsin.gov">sen.miller@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-9170
Dale Schultz	<a href="mailto:sen.schultz@legis.wisconsin.gov">sen.schultz@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-0703
Fred Risser	<a href="mailto:sen.risser@legis.wisconsin.gov">sen.risser@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-1627
Jon Erpenbach	<a href="mailto:sen.erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov">sen.erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-6670

### State Representatives:

Gary Hebl	<a href="mailto:rep.hebl@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.hebl@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-7678
Keith Lipp	<a href="mailto:rep.ripp@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.ripp@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-3404
Joseph Parisi	<a href="mailto:rep.parisi@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.parisi@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-5342
Terese Berceau	<a href="mailto:rep.berceau@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.berceau@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-3784
Spencer Black	<a href="mailto:rep.black@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.black@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-7521
Mark Pocan	<a href="mailto:rep.pocan@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.pocan@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-8570
Sondy Pope-Roberts	<a href="mailto:rep.pope-roberts@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.pope-roberts@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-3520
Kelda Helen Roys	<a href="mailto:rep.roys@legis.wisconsin.gov">rep.roys@legis.wisconsin.gov</a>	266-5340

## Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)  
MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)

*"The moral test of a government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."*

Hubert Humphrey, 1976

## Important Deadlines

**Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program** enrollment applications are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **February 15**.

Due to the uncertainties regarding the impact of recent stock market declines on the estimated retirement annuities for those teachers considering retiring at the end of the current school year, MTI and the MMSD have negotiated a memorandum of understanding which **extends the retirement notification deadline** from February 15 to **March 15, 2009, for those teachers who have a portion of their WRS funds in the Variable Fund**. WRS has indicated that they are unable to project the impact of 2008 investment performance until late-February or early-March.

**Part-time Contract Reduction** enables *full-time* teachers who wish to work part-time to do so for a period of one year and have the right to return to full-time regular employment commencing with the subsequent school year. Requests for part-time contracts must be made in writing to Human Resources on or before **March 1** for the 2009-10 school year.

Note: *Contractual deadlines which occur on a weekend are extended to the following Monday.*

## Educational Assistants' Union Meetings to Commence

The EA-MTI Board of Directors has determined that it may be useful to members of MTI's Educational Assistants' bargaining unit to hold area-wide union meetings, in addition to the several membership-wide union meetings that are held every year.

The initial area-wide meeting will take place on **Wednesday, February 18, commencing at 4:00 p.m., at LaFollette High School in the staff lounge**. The schools included in the LaFollette Area are: Allis, Nuestro Mundo, Elvehjem, Glendale, Kennedy, and Schenk Elementary Schools; Sennett and Whitehorse Middle Schools; and LaFollette High School.

The purpose of the meeting is twofold: 1) to allow your Union staff and elected leaders to share the ways one can be involved in the Union; and 2) to hear from EA members about issues and concerns at their individual schools, so that we may work together, as a Union, to address them. Members who do not work in the LaFollette Area and would like to attend the meeting are welcome to do so.

Area-wide union meetings in the other three attendance areas will be scheduled over the next several months.

Contact MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen ([degene@madisonteachers.org](mailto:degene@madisonteachers.org)) with questions.

## Union Task Force to Study Standards-Based Middle School Report Cards

Given the numerous concerns over the new **Standards-Based Middle School Report Card**, MTI President Steve Pike will be appointing a **Union Task Force of middle school teachers who will meet with District representatives to affect changes in the process**.

A group of MTI Faculty Representatives and other teachers have indicated an interest in serving on the Task Force. The initial meeting of that group will take place on **Thursday, February 12, at 4:00 p.m., at MTI Headquarters**.

Following the February 12 meeting, a sub-group of teachers will be selected by President Pike to meet with District representatives on this important issue. *Through a similar process, MTI was able to generate beneficial changes in the implementation of the Standards-Based Elementary Report Card. MTI is currently working to achieve changes in the implementation of SIMS.*

## Harassment Inservices

Among the few MTI/MMSD mutually agreed upon obligatory inservices in which all District employees must participate is a one and one-half hour inservice on harassment. One need only attend the inservice once. For those who have not yet attended the course, it will be offered during the 2008-09 school year on the following dates:

Feb. 10 LaFollette C17 at 4:15 p.m.  
March 12 Memorial Auditorium at 4:15 p.m.  
April 27 LaFollette C17 at 4:15 p.m.

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## Calendar of Events

- **Monday, February 9, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors & Bargaining Committee
- **Monday, February 9, MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors (to follow above meeting)
- **Wednesday, February 11, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- **February 15**  
Deadline for Teacher Retirement & TERP
- **Tuesday, February 17, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Faculty Representative Council  
Spring Primary Election
- **Thursday, February 26, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
USO-MTI Board & Bargaining Team