



821 Williamson Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4503 • Phone (608) 257-0491 • Fax (608) 257-1168

# Solidarity!

## \*\*\*Important Reminder\*\*\* Signed Contracts Due June 15

Because of the **impact of the Governor's Budget Repair Proposal**, MTI and the District entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which moved *the date of issuance of individual contracts, for 2011 only, to May 1*. MTI strongly recommends that teachers return their signed contracts, ***AS SOON AS POSSIBLE***, to the District Office of Human Resources in person to assure that it is received on time. *Take your copy with you and ask that it be stamped "received"*. **Failure to return a signed contract by June 15 will result in the District accepting such as one's resignation.**

## New GOP Bill Provides no Relief

Unions and other public education advocates have, for years, been sounding alarms about the burdens of unfunded mandates from the state and federal governments. Oftentimes, politicians pass bills that force schools to pay for new things with the same budget and meet new work requirements with the same amount of staff.

The Wisconsin Republicans who authored the so-called "**K-12 Mandate Relief Legislation**" are not concerned with *unfunded mandates*. Instead, they have written a *right-wing wish list for school privatization and called it mandate relief*.

### The Bill, if it passes, would:

- Allow *students' scores on standardized tests to be used as criteria for disciplining, firing or non-renewing teachers.*
- Permit *students involved in extracurricular sports to opt-out of physical education classes.*
- Permit school districts that have committed to the SAGE class-size reduction program to *opt-out of the commitment in some elementary school grades.*
- Open the door for *school districts to receive categorical aid funds for services they contract out to private companies.*
- Authorize school districts to *divert money away from libraries in the Common School Fund, where current law requires 25 percent of this money to go.*

*Use of WKCE and other such standardized tests as a basis for punishing teachers has been a cause near and dear to school privatization advocates for a long time. Teaching to these tests takes education out of the hands of qualified, committed professionals and replaces them with test giving and test preparation companies. To slip a measure like this into a bill called "mandate relief" is false advertising as well as bad education policy. **It has nothing to do with educating students and everything to do with diverting public resources to private, for-profit companies.***

## Walker Courts D.C. Billionaire School Voucher Advocates

When he was in Washington, D.C. recently, **Governor Scott Walker delivered a keynote address on the virtues of school choice to the second annual National Policy Summit of the ultra-right-wing American Federation for Children (AFC)**. Walker also announced intentions to expand Milwaukee's program to Beloit, Racine, Green Bay, and, eventually, everywhere in Wisconsin.

Walker, whose proposed state budget cuts nearly \$900 million from public schools while also expanding Milwaukee's private and religious school voucher program to include students from wealthy families, told the AFC audience that *"every kid deserves to have a great education because they each have limitless potential."*

Walker departed from his speech to praise disgraced former Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, who is now a paid AFC adviser.

**Michelle Rhee**, who is under investigation for attempting to cover up widespread cheating on standardized tests while she was chancellor of Washington, D.C.'s public schools, was another keynote speaker at the AFC event.

**AFC is funded by billionaire school choice activist and religious conservative Betsy DeVos.** When she announced Walker's appearance at the conference in April, DeVos said, *"Governor Walker is one of the country's most visible leaders in the fight to provide children with enhanced educational options, and we're excited to welcome him to our signature annual event."*

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## Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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

## Save Our Schools March July 30

MTI members will be joining thousands of other concerned Union members and others from across America in a "Save Our Schools" (SOS) March on July 30 in Washington, D.C. The SOS March is being held in response to recent destructive "reform" efforts across the country which has undermined our public education system and demoralized educators. MTI is chartering a bus and has reserved a block of hotel rooms for this important event. Reserve your spot by contacting MTI member and event organizer Lauren Mikol at [laurmikol@gmail.com](mailto:laurmikol@gmail.com). The MTI registration deadline is June 1. For additional information visit [www.saveourschoolsmarch.org](http://www.saveourschoolsmarch.org).

## Extended Employment or Extended Contract: What's the Difference?

**Plenty!** For teachers, work during the summer recess is paid for at two different levels of compensation, **Extended Employment and Extended Contract.**

**Extended Employment** is a negotiated *pay rate for one doing specific facets of summer work; i.e. not the same as work performed during the school year.* See Section III-I of MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement for details.

**Extended Contract** provides compensation at one's regular salary, **paid at an hourly rate**, for teachers performing work over the summer with EEN students and which is an extension of work done during the school year (i.e. IEPs, M-Teams, etc.) and work performed with EEN students at vocational settings. See Section III-J of MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## Sabbatical Leave Applications Due September 1

Under the terms of MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Board of Education budgets **\$45,000 for sabbatical leaves** for members of MTI's "teacher" bargaining unit. Such is for the purpose of advanced study and/or research. **Either a one-year leave at half pay or a one-semester leave at full pay may be granted.** The recipient of a sabbatical leave must agree to return to the Madison District for at least two full years of service following the sabbatical leave or repay the compensation received for the sabbatical leave. MTI's Contract guarantees that one who receives a sabbatical leave returns to the position held at the time the leave was granted.

Applications for the second semester of the **2011-12 school year** are due at MTI Headquarters by **September 1, 2011.** An application and the MTI/MMSD agreed upon policy can be obtained by calling MTI or by visiting MTI's web page. MTI's appointees to the Sabbatical Leave Selection Committee are **Jane Allen-Jauch** (Muir), **Janet Tuccinardi** (West) and **Betsy Barnard** (West).

## MTI Night at the Overture September 28 *Billy Elliot the Musical!*

Among MTI's efforts to build an even stronger Union is to promote social events to bring MTI members and their families together. Our last "MTI night at the Overture" was such a smashing success, which many requested a repeat this fall!

Thrilling audiences worldwide and winning ten 2009 Tony Awards® including Best Musical, "THE BEST SHOW YOU WILL EVER SEE" (*New York Post*) is coming to Madison! Billy Elliot the Musical is a joyous celebration of one young boy's journey to make his dreams come true. Set in a small town, the story follows Billy as he stumbles out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class, discovering a surprising passion that inspires his family and his whole community... "A big musical with an even bigger heart, Billy Elliot will enchant the dreamer in all of us."

If that wasn't good enough, Billy Elliot is a son of a union man. One of the score's songs is "SOLIDARITY!" It is set in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's time during the miners strike in 1984. Billy's father is a leader in the strike and he is a typical working class man, conventional, tough and loyal to the union.

Fifty (50) excellent advance sale tickets are available. Call/email MTI (257-0491; [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)) now to reserve tickets. **Cost is \$63.75 on a first come, first serve basis.** One must pay for tickets before they will be reserved.

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## Calendar of Events

- **Tuesday, May 31, 4:15 p.m., Harmony Grill**  
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Wednesday, June 8, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Crisis Committee
- **Friday, June 10, Semester Ends**