Dear MMSD Staff,

The new school year is off to a terrific beginning. The School District’s new professional development program for new teachers was a success, as was MTI’s luncheon for them, where a former District teacher discussed the huge difference MTI made in her family’s life. We are off to a great start together.

The undersigned have been working together and agree that there is a lot of hard work ahead of us this year to ensure that every school is a thriving school that prepares every student for college, career and community, and we strongly agree that one of the strengths of the District is that MMSD has a very high-quality, committed staff who are up to the challenge.

Further, we agree that to be successful this year and in the years to come, District employees must have a work environment that is both challenging and rewarding. Having high expectations of employees’ performance and supporting them in meeting those high expectations, benefits everyone – especially students. And, we agree that to achieve such accomplishments employees need both economic and employment security.

In May, MTI requested that the District collectively bargain a successor agreement to the current Collective Bargaining Agreements between them. MTI has five bargaining units of District employees. The current contracts run through June, 2014. We are pleased to announce that we have agreed to commence negotiations later this month with MTI units, as well as with AFSCME-Local 60 and Trades units.

The District and MTI, working together, can make decisions in the best interest of students and ensure that employees have a collective voice which will provide a stable environment that will allow us to stay focused on what we need to accomplish.

We are going to hold true to the central theory of our framework – that schools must be the driving force of our District. Each employee will focus on the day-to-day work of great teaching and learning and supporting schools in that work.

We are pleased that we have been able to establish a positive working relationship which will enable the District and MTI to proceed together on the important task of securing these necessary components of a good learning and working environment. We look forward to working with each of you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cheatham
MMSD Superintendent

John Matthews
MTI Executive Director