



# Solidarity!

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## A New Resource to Fight the “Ed Reform Machine” and Save Public Schools

As school resumes, *The Progressive Magazine* is revving up the movement to save public schools. On their new web site, created specifically for the anti-voucher/save public schools project, [www.publicschoolshakedown.org](http://www.publicschoolshakedown.org), *The Progressive* is pulling together education experts including **Diane Ravich** (education historian and former Assistant Secretary of Education), activists, bloggers, and concerned citizens from across the country.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL SHAKEDOWN** is dedicated to EXPOSING the behind-the-scenes effort to privatize public schools, and CONNECTING pro-public school activists nationwide.

*“Public School Shakedown will be a fantastic addition to the debate”, says Diane Ravitch. “The Progressive is performing a great public service by helping spread the word about the galloping privatization of our public schools.”*

*“Free public education, doors open to all, no lotteries, is a cornerstone of our democracy. If we allow large chunks of it to be handed over to private operators, religious schools, for-profit enterprises, and hucksters, we put our democracy at risk”, Ravitch adds.*

That's where **Public School Shakedown** comes in. While there are already groups such as the *National Education Policy Center* doing terrific research on education privatization and its effects, and bloggers writing pointed, hilarious reports, there is still not a great deal of understanding in the general population of how the education privatization movement works.

Teachers understand that the attack on public education is an attack on the very heart of our democracy. Yet the "school choice" movement has succeeded in setting the terms of the conversation. To the unknowing layperson, "school choice" and "education reform" sound like benign policy goals that aim to improve children's access to high-quality education.

The time is right for a journalistic platform like *The Progressive* to put the pieces together.

From its base in Madison, *The Progressive* has made the attack on public schools a primary focus of its reporting.

**Wisconsin is ground-zero for the school voucher movement.** The first school voucher program started in Milwaukee back in 1990. But the last few years of the Walker Administration really brought home the importance of this issue.

The 2011 protests called attention to the public as to **how much is at stake** - a great public school system, open to all, and a democracy - not just a pay-as-you-go system of winners and losers that leaves the poor and middle classes behind.

## Students in Need Check It Out: DonorsChoose.org

An online charity to help students in need, [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org), makes it easy for anyone to help. The site enables public school teachers to post classroom project requests on the site, and people viewing the site can choose to donate any amount to the project that most inspires them. This is a great way to fund those projects and materials you need in your classroom. Teachers can request up to \$500 per project. Once one's project is totally funded by donors, the teacher receives the materials requested. There is no cost to register a project and donors' contributions are tax-deductible. In addition, the *NEA Foundation* will match the public's donations that any NEA member receives. MTI members from Hawthorne, Emerson, Glendale, Nuestro Mundo, Black Hawk and others have already taken advantage of **DonorsChoose.org**. Read their requests on the website and consider posting your own.

## Delegation from Japan Hosted by MTI

A third contingent of progressive educators and unionists visited MTI leaders to learn what it is that makes MTI the successful member advocate it is. For the last week, MTI President **Peg Coyne** and Executive Director **John Matthews** hosted union leaders and two labor lawyers from Osaka and Tokyo. They included **Motoaki Nakaoka**, *General Secretary, Japan National Trade Union Council*; **Takahiro Wada**, *Vice President, Federation of Tokyo Metropolitan Government Workers*; and **Neo Yamashita**, *President, Osaka Trades Union Council and Executive Officer, Education Workers & Amalgamated Union*.

**Yamashita** and **Matthews** spoke at the *Fighting Bob Fest*. **Yamashita** compared the challenge the right-wing government poses to the rights and economic benefits of educators and unionists, while **Matthews** spoke of the similar negative impact of *Act 10* on public employees.

The group met with arbitrators, MTI's attorneys, MTI staff, the MTI Board of Directors, State Representative Melissa Sargent and briefly joined the *Solidarity Sing Along* in the Capitol Rotunda.



Show **SOLIDARITY**  
with your **MTI**  
Sisters & Brothers.  
Wear **MTI RED** on  
**MONDAYS!**

## Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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

MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)

## Show Solidarity with Substitute Teachers

Support your hard-working colleagues in MTI's Substitute Teacher bargaining unit (USO-MTI) when they are in your building. They serve a vital role in keeping things functioning during both planned and unexpected absences. One challenge of being a Substitute Teacher is being the only or one of a few in a given building on a given day. And, given the hustle and bustle of the school day, being a Substitute can be a very isolating experience. Given this, MTI asks staff to take time to introduce yourself, say hello and offer assistance. Substitutes are often given little guidance when they arrive at a building and the job is a difficult one, but an essential one to keep consistency in the classroom and allow teachers to use sick time, personal time and other time off of work.

## Beware! It's Not Your Computer

When the District installed its computer system, management told staff, "*Use it as your own!*" Most District employees did so. However, **MTI WARNS, USE IT AS YOUR OWN NO MORE!**

One must assume that District management will review everything one writes or accesses on a District owned computer. **Snoops!** The District has a forensic software program which enables District management to review every stroke made on every District computer, every web-site visited, no matter how long ago, no matter the time of day. This includes *what you access on your home computer* if you access it using a District computer. As a result of requests by the public, under Wisconsin's Open Records Law, MMSD archives ALL emails and research (web-sites accessed) performed on District computers.

## SSA-MTI Board Vacancy

Given Diana Morales has left District employment, the position of Secretary in MTI's School Security Assistants bargaining unit is vacant. Any member of SSA-MTI interested in the position, or wishing to nominate a person for the position, should contact Vicky Bernards at MTI headquarters ([bernardsv@madisonteachers.org](mailto:bernardsv@madisonteachers.org) or 257-0491).

## Political Action Committee (PAC) Rebates

MTI VOTERS' Political Action Committee is funded to assist in promoting political causes of interest and benefit to MTI members via an assessment of 5% of one's annual Union dues. Deductions are made from each member's monthly wage. If one does not wish to assist their Union's political efforts, by delivering **WRITTEN NOTICE** to MTI Headquarters by **October 1**, an advance refund of the school year's PAC deductions will be issued. Payment will be made by November 30. MTI VOTERS endorses candidates who pledge to support education and educators.

## School Security Assistants: Know Your Contract -Uniforms

Under Section VII-D of the MTI/MMSD Collective Bargaining Agreement covering Security Assistants, **whatever clothing the District requires an SSA to wear, as a condition of employment, must be provided, at no cost to the employee,** by the District. In previous years, there have been issues with the timeliness of the District providing uniforms. MTI continues to monitor this matter. New employees should be provided uniforms soon after beginning employment with the District. Anyone who requests new clothing and does not receive it within a reasonable time frame, should contact Eve Degen ([degene@madisonteachers.org](mailto:degene@madisonteachers.org)) at MTI.

## MTI Discounts On-Line: WPS Bank & AAA

The MTI Discount Brochure is available on-line and is located on MTI's website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)). This gives advertisers more flexibility throughout the year to continuously update discount opportunities for MTI members and be a bit more "green". By reducing MTI's cost of printing, we have been able to decrease the cost to the advertisers which we hope the savings to be passed on to you in their offers and encourage interest of more advertisers in providing discounts.

**WPS Bank**, which opened in January 2009, has offered significant banking advantages to MTI members; and **AAA** provides discounted membership for MTI members.

## Why Einstein Joined the Union

*"I consider it important, indeed urgently necessary, for intellectual workers to get together, both to protect their own economic status and, also, generally speaking, to secure their influence in the political field."* Albert Einstein joined the American Federation of Teachers, Local 522, at Princeton University, in 1938.

## Calendar of Events



- **Monday, September 16, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**  
BOE Operation Work Group
- **Tuesday, September 17, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**  
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Monday, September 30, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**  
BOE Regular Meeting
- **Tuesday, October 1, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Wednesday, October 9, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
EA-MTI Building Representatives
- **Monday, October 14, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors