



Solidarity!

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Ravitch Presentation Set for May 1

Plan now to attend celebrated **Professor Diane Ravitch's** presentation at the Monona Terrace on May 1. The program, commencing at 7:00 p.m., is part of The Progressive Magazine's **PUBLIC SCHOOL SHAKEDOWN** (www.publicschoolshakedown.org) campaign which is designed to **illustrate the negative impact on public school education, because of the financial drain caused by private/parochial charter and voucher schools.** While admission is free, a suggested \$5 donation is requested to support the project.

The Progressive is pulling together education experts including **Ravitch** (*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 **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.

Contract Deadlines Today

MTI's Contract setting forth the terms and conditions of employment for teachers, enables **Temporary Reduction of Contract to Part-Time with the Right to Return to Full-Time** (see Contract Section IV-W). Full-time teachers who wish to work part-time may do so for one year and have the Contract right to return to full-time regular employment commencing with the subsequent school year. Requests for participation must be made in writing to the District Office of Human Resources on or before **March 1* for the 2014-15 school year.** *Reducing one's contract without doing so by using this contract provision has major negative implications. Members considering this are urged to contact MTI.*

Section VI-B (Leaves of Absences) of **MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement** provides that all *non-medical leaves except academic, adoption and childrearing leaves, must be for a minimum of one full school year* and must commence at the beginning of the first semester. Academic or childrearing leaves must be for a minimum of one semester. Other than for *academic* leaves of absence or extension of same, leave of absence requests for the first semester or the full school year for 2014-15, or to extend a leave of absence, must be made in writing through the principal/supervisor to Human Resources by

March 1*, 2014. A request for an *academic* leave or for an extension of same must be made to the Department of Human Resources by **May 1, 2014** for the first semester or the ensuing school year.

(*Contract deadlines which occur on weekends are extended to the following Monday.)

Important Reminder Teacher Contracts to be Issued in May

Pursuant to changes in the teacher collective bargaining agreement, **teacher contracts for the 2014-15 school year will be issued in MAY instead of March.** Signed contracts of all returning teachers must be received in Human Resources not later than **June 16.** **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 a copy with you, ask that it be stamped "received", and keep it for your personal records. **Failure to return a signed contract by June 16 may result in the District accepting such as one's resignation.**

Rockwell Award for Outstanding Cooperating Teachers

Have you observed an outstanding cooperating teacher mentoring and sharing their expertise with the next generation of teachers? Through the generosity of Roland and Ruth Rockwell, the University of Wisconsin-Madison offers three \$500 awards to outstanding cooperating teachers. *The Rockwell Awards recognize excellent teachers who have chosen to pass on their expertise by providing professional experiences for UW-Madison student teachers.* The awards will be presented at the annual Partners in Education Banquet in the Varsity Hall III, Union South on Thursday, May 8, 2014.

Cooperating teachers may be nominated by other teachers, administrators, peers, university faculty and supervisors or former student teachers. In the past, former student teachers' letters have been particularly persuasive. Information on how to nominate a cooperating teacher is available on the UW School of Education's website (<http://www.education.wisc.edu>) in the PK-12 Education tab, for Cooperating Teachers.

Contact Nancy Kuehn by email at nkuehn@wisc.edu to determine the candidate's number of student teachers and/or program coordinator, or other relevant information. Completed nomination packets should be mailed to: Rockwell Nominations, Education Academic Services, 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. **Nominations are accepted through Friday, March 21, 2014.**

Sabbatical Leave *Not* Granted

The MTI/MMSD Joint Sabbatical Leave Committee concluded that there will not be a recommendation for sabbatical leave for the first semester of the 2014-15 school year. The MTI/MMSD Joint Committee consists of MTI appointees Co-Chair **Jane Allen-Jauch** (Muir), **Betsy Barnard** (West) and **Matt Gray** (Jefferson), and MMSD appointees Mike Hertting, Lisa Kvistad and Alex Fralin.

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. The 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 2014-15 school year are due **September 1, 2014.**

Sign-Up Now for MTI's Milwaukee Brewer Outing - June 25

Believe it or not, spring is coming and shortly thereafter summer and the annual MTI outing to Miller Park. This year's **MTI Day at Miller Park** will take place on **Wednesday, June 25**, with the Milwaukee Brewers taking on the Washington Nationals at 1:10 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per person and includes charter bus, pre-game tailgate party and game ticket. Space is limited so call MTI (257-0491) to reserve your spot now.

Attention EA-MTI: Attend Your General Membership Meeting on March 12!

Members of MTI's Educational Assistants' bargaining unit (EA-MTI) will meet on **Wednesday, March 12**, commencing at **4:15 p.m.** There are many issues of importance for EAs, NAs and SEAs to discuss, including the *future of the EA bargaining unit*. **Attend this meeting! Make your voice heard!** Nominations for positions on the EA-MTI Board of Directors will also be taken at the March 12 meeting. EAs may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent out to all EA-MTI bargaining unit members. **GET INVOLVED IN YOUR UNION.** (Note: the meeting location has been changed to the Labor Temple, 1602 S. Park Street.)

MTI Delegates Nominated to SCFL

At its February meeting, MTI Faculty Representatives nominated as MTI Delegates to the South Central Federation of Labor **Susan Stern** (Lapham) and **Laurie Solchenberger** (Lincoln) for the two vacant seats. **Donna Fogell** (Cherokee) was nominated, but withdrew. The election will be held at the March 18 meeting of the Council.

Calendar & Events



- **Monday, March 3, 5:00 p.m., Doyle**
BOE Instruction Work Group
- **Tuesday, March 4, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
SEE-MTI Work Group
- **Thursday, March 6, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- **Monday, March 10, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, March 10, 5:15 p.m., Doyle**
BOE Special Meeting
- **Tuesday, March 11, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Finance Committee
- **Wednesday, March 12, 4:15 p.m., Labor Temple**
EA-MTI General Membership
- **Thursday, March 13, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Monday, March 17, 5:00 p.m., Doyle**
BOE Operations Work Group
- **Tuesday, March 18, 4:15 p.m., Labor Temple**
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Wednesday, March 19, 4:00 p.m., MTI**
USO-MTI Organizing Workshop
- **Thursday, March 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
SEE-MTI Organizing Workshop

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org



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