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Solidarity!

MTI General Election

Voting by members of MTI's Teacher collective bargaining unit for MTI Officers and Bargaining Committee will occur April 28-May 2. MTI Faculty Representatives will provide members with information regarding balloting procedures and the voting location at each work site. Completed ballots are to be returned to your MTI Faculty Representative, in accordance with his/her instructions. To be included in the official tally, ballots for Officers and the Bargaining Committee must be turned in to MTI headquarters by 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 5.

Reminder: Election of MTI Faculty Representatives & EA-MTI Building Representatives

MTI Bylaws provide that the members of the teacher bargaining unit for each school/work site are entitled to one representative to the MTI Faculty Representative Council for each fifteen members or major fraction thereof. The Council is MTI's legislative/policy-making body. Faculty Representatives for the 2014-15 school year are to be elected at the time of MTI's general election which is held April 28-May 2.

Bylaws for MTI's Educational Assistants bargaining unit provide that EA-MTI members at each school/work site are entitled to a Building Representative. EA-MTI Building Representatives are also elected April 28-May 2.

MTI Faculty Representatives and EA-MTI Building Representatives have been provided information to complete and return to MTI as regards the referenced elections. Anyone with questions regarding the election should contact Eve Degen at MTI (degene@madisonteachers.org / 257-0491). Information regarding these elections will be posted by the MTI Teacher Faculty Representative and by the EA-MTI Building Representatives at each school/work site.

Michael Flores Elected

Replacing former teacher Marj Passman on the Board of Education will be Madison Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Flores. Passman did not seek re-election. Flores will be seated later this month. In a hard-fought campaign, Flores garnered an amazing 62% of the vote. His campaign manager, Karen Vieth, is a Sennett teacher who also serves as the school's MTI Faculty Representative. Vieth is also a member of the MTI Board of Directors and Political Action Committee.

Flores had the backing of Firefighters Local 311, AFSCME, and the South Central Federation of Labor, as well as MTI. He was also supported by former School Board Presidents Carol Carstensen, Nan Brien, Barbara Arnold, Anne Arneson, Juan Lopez, and Bill Keys.

Elated on election night, Flores said, "I'm excited and hopefully ... I can make some good things happen for our kids, that growing up in a bilingual/low income household would provide a needed voice on the Board."

Teacher Vacancy Postings

As advised in the March 10 edition of *MTI Solidarity!*, revisions in MTI's Teacher Contract relative to the surplus reassignment process this school year allow for surplus staff to be reassigned to vacant teaching positions prior to posting. Any positions which remain vacant as of May 1 will then be posted for voluntary internal transfer. Therefore, it is anticipated that the majority of vacant teaching positions for 2014-15 will not be posted until May 2. However, numerous vacancies in hard-to-fill areas such as Bilingual, DLI, LMS, Social Worker and other areas are now being posted.

In order to allow for expedited early hiring in hopes of attracting the strongest external candidates, teacher positions which become vacant after June 14 through the first four weeks of school are not subject to postings. Therefore, teachers interested in voluntary transfer should watch the weekly postings between now and June 14. In accordance with MTI's Contract, the notice will be posted for four (4) working days on the District's Employment website, and at each work site in the office and faculty lounge. Directions for applying and the deadline for applying are on the posting as well as the District's Employment website.

Important Reminder

Teacher Contracts to be Issued in May

Pursuant to changes in MTI's 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 the MMSD Human Resources Office no later than **June 16**. MTI *strongly recommends* that teachers return their signed contracts **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, in person, to assure timely delivery. 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.**

SSA-MTI Election Results

At their April 2 General Membership meeting, members of MTI's School Security Assistant (SSA-MTI) bargaining unit re-elected the following to the SSA-MTI Board of Directors: **Jeff Kriese** (Hamilton) as President, **Kevin McGuire** (La Follette) as Vice-President, and **Bennie Brown** (La Follette) as Secretary. Terms are for one year.

Ready Set Goal Compensation Deadline May 1

Pursuant to the MTI/MMSD agreed-upon Memorandum of Understanding *elementary teachers who have completed Ready, Set, Goal (RSG) Conferences, and whose request for compensatory time cannot be accommodated due to the unavailability of a substitute teacher, may, upon written notice to their principal by May 1, choose among the following options: (1) request to be compensated for RSG conferences, travel time, and up to 15 minutes per conference for any reasonable administrative time associated with each conference; or (2) have said day(s) added to the teacher's Personal Sick Leave Account (PSLA) or, if the teacher has the maximum amount in that account, the day(s) may be added to the teacher's Retirement Insurance Account (RIA) [any such days accumulated to one's RIA from RSG services are not subject to the PSLA or RIA maximum]; or (3) carryover one (1) paid RSG leave day into the following school year; or (4) a combination of items 1-3 above.*

Contact MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen (degene@madisonteachers.org) with questions regarding RSG compensation.

Administrative Professionals Day April 23

Administrative Professionals Week is the last week of April, with Wednesday of that week being designated Administrative Professionals Day. *Administrative Professionals Day recognizes and celebrates the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, and other office professionals for their growing and diverse contributions to the workplace.*

Administrative Professionals Week was formerly "National Secretaries Week". In 2000, Professional Secretaries International changed its name to the "International Association of Administrative Professionals" to reflect the expanding role of office staff. Take time to say "thanks" to those who perform this important role.

Substitute Teachers! Organizing Mixer April 23

On Wednesday, April 23rd, the USO-MTI Board of Directors is hosting a semi-social "Organizing Mixer" at the Labor Temple beginning at 4:15 p.m. There will be light fare and beverages to enable substitute and off-campus program teachers who are members of the USO-MTI bargaining unit to socialize and discuss concerns related to the work of a substitute teacher in the District. Join your Board of Directors and colleagues to continue the discussion on how USO-MTI can most effectively advocate for substitute teachers. RSVP to Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org / 257-0491).

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

MTI Moves to Increase Community Involvement

With an ever increasing need among Madison residents, there is no place where it is more noticeable than in our schools. **Because that need impacts student achievement, "MTI Cares" was created as a means for MTI to reach-out and to provide even greater service to community members.**

"MTI Cares" kick-off provided assistance to **100 Black Men of Madison** with their "Backpack for Success" project. Prior to the commencement of the current school year, numerous MTI members, clad in MTI red, joined together with 100 Black Men and other volunteers to *fill backpacks with school supplies* - to ensure that all students had the needed tools for school.

The second "MTI Cares" event was the **Willy Street Fair**. MTI members, again clad in MTI red, not only marched in the Willy Street Fair Parade, but held a cake-walk in the parking lot of the MTI Building, and supplied kids with face painting and MTI balloons. Fun was had by all.

These two events laid the foundation for the April 6, "MTI Cares" Bowl-a-Thon, an effort to raise needed funds for the **Briar Patch Youth Shelter, a project with Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin to provide a safe living space for homeless children aged 14-18.**

The Bowl-a-Thon was a huge success, with District administrators **joining MTI members**, those from general public, and **State Representatives Melissa Sargent and Chris Taylor**. "MTI Cares" raised over **\$11,000 for the Briar Patch Youth Shelter**. Hundreds of dollars in door prizes were also donated.

MTI members who deserve special recognition for working to organize this event include **Committee Chair Kerry Motoviloff, MTI President Peg Coyne, Amy Noble, Erin Proctor, Jani Koester** and a *special shout-out to Lora Schmid-Dolan* for spearheading the sponsorship effort and keeping the Bowl-a-Thon on track. The Committee was assisted by MTI Assistant Director Jeff Knight.

A special thanks goes to **Firefighters Local 311 Past-President Joe Conway and Vice President Kevin Sherry for their guidance in making "MTI Cares" a functional organization**. The Firefighters Union established "311 Charities" several years ago when gasoline was set on fire in a City bus, severely burning several people. "311 Charities" raised funds to help with medical expenses and has continued to raise funds to assist those with special needs.

Calendar & Events

- **Wednesday, April 23, 4:15 p.m., Labor Temple**
USO-MTI Organizing Mixer
- **April 25-27, WEAC Representative Assembly**
- **April 28-May 2, MTI and EA-MTI Election**
- **Monday, April 28, Doyle McDaniels Auditorium**
BOE Special Meeting (5:00 p.m.)
- **Monday, April 28, Doyle McDaniels Auditorium**
BOE Regular Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- **May 1, Diane Ravitch at Monona Terrace (7:00 p.m.)**
Tickets available at MTI
- **May 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week**
- **Monday, May 5, 4:00 p.m., MTI**
MTI Elections Committee

