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Solidarity!

MTI Red Fills Doyle Auditorium; Bargaining to Begin

Board of Education meetings on May 12 and 15 were a sea of red, as *MTI members produced an overflow crowd, calling for Contract negotiations for the 2015-16 school year.* Numerous MTI members, supported by four past-presidents on the Board of Education, State Representatives **Melissa Sargent**, **Dianne Hesselbein** and **Chris Taylor**, spoke to the Board. **Congressman Pocan** sent a strong statement of support for MTI which was read into the record by Rep. Sargent.

Rep. Sargent also read into the record *a petition calling for negotiations.* It was signed by **Senators Jon Erpenbach, Mark Miller, Fred Risser** and **Representatives Sargent, Hesselbein, Taylor, Pope, Berceau** and **Kahl.** The petition stated, in part:

"We all share a common interest in making sure every child has access to a quality public education and in supporting our teachers' efforts to create the best public schools in the state and nation. When teachers are prohibited from coming to the bargaining table, our public school children and schools suffer. Our teachers' firsthand experience in the classroom gives them a unique perspective in developing best practices and firsthand knowledge of the needs of our public school children.

In Dane County, we have seen 50 years of positive and productive labor relations. This benefits our children and helps create strong schools and communities. Positive employee relations are developed, in part, through the collective bargaining process where employers and employees create the best possible working environment together. Unfortunately, Act 10 eroded the ability to negotiate in good faith.

Guaranteeing that teachers have a voice in what goes on in their classrooms is critically important in ensuring every child is learning in the best possible environment."

Congressman **Pocan's** statement, in part, follows: *"Employees are the most important component to the success of any employer, and working with these unions makes good sense, as the employees have the institutional knowledge of the operation. Collective bargaining is an opportunity to address important issues together."*

Also stepping up to the plate in calling for negotiations was the District's Student Senate. Led by Student BOE representative **Luke Gangler** (Memorial), they submitted a petition to the Board which stated, in part, *"... Whereas, international courts and human rights organizations have since identified collective bargaining as a fundamental right of workers; and Whereas, the right of school staff to collectively bargain has a direct impact on the learning environment of students ... Resolved, that the MMSD Student Senate recommend that the MMSD Board of Education approve extensions of employee contracts with MTI, AFSCME, and the Building Trades Council through 2015-16."*

Bargaining will begin today. Those represented by MTI, in all five bargaining units, are reminded to **watch the MTI website and MTI Facebook for an urgent call to a Contract ratification meeting.** Notice will be sent to all members for whom MTI has a personal email address. Notice will also be sent

to the members of all MTI Boards of Directors & Bargaining Committees, MTI Faculty Representatives and EA-MTI Building Representatives.

The presentations to the Board can be viewed on the District's website.

MTI to Sponsor Film "Citizen Koch"

Reserve Friday evening, June 13, for the premier showing of Citizen Koch. One can view a trailer of the film on Google/YouTube. **The film exposes the ultra-rich Koch brothers and their efforts to control elections in Wisconsin and other areas of the country.** With funding by the Koch brothers, Diane Hendricks (ABC Building Materials), the Waltons (Walmart/Sam's Club), the DeVos Family (Amway), and the Tea Party have become a force in American politics, driving anti-union, anti-public employee legislation such as Act 10. **MTI members are able to purchase discounted tickets for the special showing for MTI and AFL-CIO members.** Details of this event will be distributed by MTI leaders and in *MTI Solidarity!* newsletter, when available.

MTI Officers Installed

At last Tuesday's meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council, **Mike Lipp** (West) **was installed as MTI President for 2014-15.** He also served as President for 2010-11 and is a member of the MTI Bargaining Committee. Outgoing President **Peggy Coyne** (Black Hawk) will serve as Past President for 2014-15. In MTI's recent election, **Coyne** was elected President-elect and will serve as the Union's President for 2015-16. Other MTI officers elected in MTI's April general election and installed at the Faculty Representative Council meeting were: incumbent **Art Camosy** (Memorial) as **Vice President**; incumbent **Greg Vallee** (Thoreau) as **Treasurer**; and incumbent **Liz Donnelly** (Elvehjem) as **Secretary.** The MTI Board of Directors consists of ten members - the six above-referenced officers, who are elected by the general membership, and four at-large representatives elected by the MTI Faculty Representative Council.

Installed on the MTI Bargaining Committee were: **Art Camosy** (incumbent-Memorial); Middle School Representative - **Nichole Von Haden** (incumbent-Sherman); Elementary School Representative - **Laurie Solchenberger** (incumbent - Lincoln); At-Large Representative - **Steve Pike** (incumbent-West); and Educational Services Representative-Middle School - **Gabe Chavez** (incumbent-Jefferson). One from each of the referenced areas is elected each year.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

2,890 Years of Service

Combined service of 2,890 years are departing the District, as 124 employees retire. Their pending June retirement was cause for celebration at the annual joint MTI-MMSD reception at Olbrich Gardens on May 21. Topping the list of MTI represented employees in years of service to Madison's children are:

Teachers (MTI): Paul DuVair (50); Nancy Curtin (42); Carl Horstmeyer (42); Frances Wong (40); Kerry Berns (39); Gwen Gillon (39); Terry Shermeister (38); Janice Jackson (37); Jane Allen-Jauch (36); and Sheryl Drewsen (36).

Educational Assistants (EA-MTI): Karen McGuire (31); Terry Parker (31); Sue Barnett (30); Lynn Replogle (29); Patricia Schumacher (29); Susan Meyer (28); Jane McDermott (25);

Supportive Educational Employees (SEE-MTI): Darlene Vitzthum (48); Debra Ready (38); Terri Kleist (33); Gloria Thering (26); Sandra Rupnow (24); and Janet Hayes (16).

Security Assistant (SSA-MTI): Kim White (23).

Four MTI leaders are among those retiring: **Paul DuVair**, 1971-72 President; and Bargaining Committee members **Nancy Curtin**, **Karlton Porter** and **Jane Allen-Jauch**.

May 29 Webinar to Learn More about the Educator Effectiveness System

Tune into the MMSD Educator Effectiveness webinar from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29th. In this live webinar you will have an opportunity to get an overview of the new MMSD Educator Effectiveness website, learn more about the evaluation rating year and get answers to your questions about the evaluation process. Join this session through the following link Guest Link: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.CBC9CCCCF2957EB712275E9DC9D8E4>. There is also a link that describes how to participate in this web session: [?Web Session - How to Participants?](#)

MMSD School Closings Result in Adjustments to Instructional Minutes

The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) has announced adjustments to schedules in order to make up instructional time, as a result of school closings on three days due to extreme cold this year. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requires schools to meet statewide standards for number of days and hours of instruction during the school year. Because of the unscheduled school closures, some changes were needed to meet these requirements. **The Contract workday for teachers has not changed; only the instructional day for students.** The modifications, as communicated by the MMSD, follow:

Four-year-old kindergarten: Afternoon sessions of 4K will add six minutes to the end of each day starting Monday, February 3. Morning sessions will add one additional session on June 12.

Elementary Schools: All elementary schools will add six minutes to the end of each school day starting Monday, February 3. Early start schools will dismiss at 2:37 p.m. (1:05 p.m. on Mondays), and late start schools will dismiss at 3:22 p.m. (1:50 p.m. on Mondays). The last day of school, June 12, will also be a full day.

Middle Schools: There will be no changes to middle school schedules.

High Schools: There will only be changes to the La Follette High School schedule. There will be no changes to other high schools. La Follette High School will add four minutes to the beginning and end of the school day, so regular days will run from 8:16 a.m. to 3:34 p.m. The last day of school will dismiss at 12:30 p.m.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement requires that when such modifications are necessary to meet DPI standards, the modifications should be made *"in consultation with MTI."* This worked as intended after the first two closing days and the parties agreed to extend the elementary day to provide the necessary minutes. The feedback MTI received from Elementary Faculty Representatives was that teachers preferred an extended school day over adding time to the last day of school. However, once the third closure occurred, rather than further increasing the elementary instructional day as requested by MTI, the District opted to also make the last day of school a full day for elementary students. This modification was **not** supported by MTI, but the District indicated it was necessary due to bus transportation issues and therefore made the decision unilaterally. The changes to the instructional day at La Follette were made in consultation between the building principal and the MTI Faculty Representatives at La Follette.

MTI Cares Summer Food Drive: Get Your Building on Board TODAY!!

Second Harvest Food Bank will drop off and pick up a Food Drive collection barrel at any school or work location where staff wants to participate in this year's Food Drive. The barrels will be at participating schools from June 2 through June 12. In order to have a Food Drive collection barrel at your work location, the District requires that a building administrator agree to participate. In last Thursday's principal newsletter, administrators were provided a link to a Google form to enable them to sign on to participate in this event. **An administrator must sign on to the Google form before the MMSD will allow a barrel to be placed in the building.** Additionally, *MTI Cares* is seeking an MTI member in each school or work location to coordinate this effort with administration. We ask that the building liaison sign up at the link provided on the MTI Website at www.madisonteachers.org/summer_food_drive. Please join with MTI members, AFSCME Local 60, the MMSD and Second Harvest Food Bank to stock the food pantries for the summer. The summer months are traditionally slower for donations while struggling families have additional needs without assistance available through school programs. Contact MTI with any questions about the Food Drive. **The deadline for signing on to participate is Tuesday, May 27.**

Calendar & Events

- Monday, May 26, MEMORIAL DAY
- Thursday, May 29, 7:00 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian *"Do Not Stand Idly By"*, Dane County United's plan to reduce Gun Violence
- Monday, June 2, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103 BOE Instruction Work Group
- Wednesday, June 11, EA-MTI Building Reps - CANCELED
- Thursday, June 12, SEMESTER ENDS