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Solidarity!

It's Time to Vote "YES" for MTI Recertification!

Balloting for all five (5) MTI recertification elections begins **Wednesday, November 5, at Noon**. All MTI-represented staff were sent a recertification "fish" flyer and a palm card with specific voting instructions. Information has also been posted in your workplace with directions for voting. All those represented by MTI are eligible to vote. This includes:

- Union members and fair-share contributors;
- Employees on leave of absence;
- Employees in two bargaining units (such staff need to vote in elections for both units);
- Teachers, BRS, Interpreters; Educational Assistants, Special Educational Assistants, Nurse's Assistants; Clerical/Technical Employees; School Security Assistants; Substitute Teachers; Substitute SEAs; Substitute Clerical Employees; and Coaches and Non-Faculty Coaches; and anyone else represented by MTI.



Please take a few minutes and **vote "YES" for recertification**, and be sure your co-workers do the same. **Remember to confirm your vote**. After you vote, complete the reverse side of your recertification palm card and return it to your MTI Faculty Representative or Member Organizer so we can coordinate our get-out-the-vote campaign. Then, proudly wear your "I VOTED MTI" pin. **Stand together, vote to recertify your Union!**



Elections are Won One Vote at a Time

Tomorrow's general election is likely the most important of your career. Supporters of public education should win - if you be sure to vote and if you be sure your colleagues, family and friends vote.

Wisconsin polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Wisconsin is one of the *highest priority battleground states in the country for Governor*. *We know that Dane County has a reputation for very high voter turnout and good results will depend on that.* Don't leave your voice out of this election, **vote for MTI-endorsed candidates** (see your MTI palm card). **Your future and education depend on you voting.**

Remember, *anyone can register at the polls with proof of residence!* No ID is required to vote, unless one is not registered. Then, a utility bill or another document with one's name and address is sufficient. **Voting is a special right; take advantage of it.**

A list of MTI-recommended candidates and voting procedures, including a link to find your polling place, can be found at: www.madisonteachers.org/elections-2014.

MTI's Michele Ritt Honored

AFL-CIO Wisconsin President **Phil Neuenfeldt** presented MTI activist **Michele Ritt** with the State Union's *Public Sector Organizer of the Year Award*, at last Tuesday's MTI Faculty Representative Council meeting. Neuenfeldt commented that in spite of Governor Walker's pledge to "divide and conquer" public sector Unions, that he sees the opposite as he travels Wisconsin. He said, **"Solidarity among working people is really strong - and that it is because of activists like Michele Ritt, and Unions like MTI."** Neuenfeldt said success is built on one-to-one organizing and that MTI is in the forefront of that.

Michele enthusiastically recruited numerous new MTI members last school year and began recruiting during the summer at the school to which she transferred last school year. Last spring, Michele was elected to the Dane County Board. She also chairs MTI's Special Education Subcommittee.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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

Sabbatical Leave Granted

The MTI/MMSD Joint Sabbatical Leave Committee has granted a leave to **Chris Vander Ark** (Memorial High School) for the second semester of the 2014-15 school year. The MTI/MMSD Joint Committee consists of MTI appointees **Betsy Barnard** (West), **Matt Gray** (Jefferson) and **Laurie Solchenberger** (Lincoln); 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 MMSD 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 first semester or full school year for 2015-16 are due **February 1, 2015.**

Leave of Absence Deadlines

Pursuant to Section VI-B (Leaves of Absences) of MTI's "Teacher" Collective Bargaining Agreement, 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. Leaves and leave extensions are granted to teachers as follows:

Initial Request: One semester (academic or childrearing).

Extension: One extension will be allowed for the semester following the semester of the initial leave, unless the initial request is for the second semester or the school year, then the extension must be for the entire school year.

Initial Request: One full school year. **Extension:** One extension consisting of the following school year.

Requests for an academic or childrearing leave of absence for the second semester of the 2014-15 school year are due by **DECEMBER 1, 2014.**

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 2015-16, or to extend a leave of absence, must be made in writing through the principal/supervisor to Human Resources by **March 1, 2015.** A request for an academic leave or for an extension of same must be made to the Department of Human Resources by **May 1, 2015** for the first semester or the ensuing school year.

Given that one remains represented by MTI and has benefits available while on leave, partial dues for the period one is on leave can be paid either during the leave or upon return.

MMSD-MTI Combined Campaign What Your Dollars Can Provide

- **Community Health Charities** - \$5 per month pays for a blood pressure cuff.
- **Community Shares of Wisconsin** - \$5 per month helps pay for hydro-geologists and environmental health specialists to assess the quality, and the need for safety, of our drinking water.
- **Access to Community Services** - \$5 per month can buy footballs and flags for one Special Olympics flag football team.
- **United Way of Dane County** - \$5 per month provides **two and a half weeks** of school lunches for a child - so a family doesn't have to choose between paying for rent and providing healthy food for their child.
- **Earth Share** - \$4 per month will adopt an acre in the Northern Rockies and create a network of wildlife corridors connecting large tracts of land.
- **Global Impact** - \$26 per year can provide a school uniform, socks and shoes for a child in Kenya.
- **America's Charities** - \$26 per year will buy 5 swim goggles for an adaptive water-ski program.

Calendar of Events

- **Tuesday, November 4, ELECTION DAY - VOTE!**
- **Wednesday, November 5, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- **November 5-25,**
MTI Recertification Election - Vote YES!
- **Wednesday, November 12, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
EA-MTI Building Representatives
(Recertification Phone Bank following meeting)
- **Friday, November 14, Professional Development Day**
- **November 17-21 American Education Week**
- **Monday, November 17, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Tuesday, November 18, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
MTI Faculty Representative Council

Show **SOLIDARITY** with your
MTI Sisters & Brothers.



Wear **MTI RED** on
Mondays, **MTI**
LANYARDS everyday,
and sport your
"I VOTED MTI" pin!