



821 Williamson St. \* Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4503 \* Phone (608) 257-0491 \* Fax (608) 257-1168

# Solidarity!

## Accountability Bill Really Enables STATE TAKEOVER

The January 14 hearing by the Assembly Education Committee produced ONLY ONE speaker who favored the Accountability proposal, Assembly Bill 1 (AB 1), and that was the Bill's author, Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt. During his testimony, **Thiesfeldt refused to name either the person or organization who asked him to introduce it, the source of the information from which the Bill was produced, or who additional sponsors of the Bill are.** Much appears to have come from the far-right group, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Thiesfeldt did say that *additional* COMMON CORE STANDARDS would be added to his Accountability Bill proposal, as it proceeds through the legislative process.

**Major opposition** was heard from DPI policy advisor **Jeff Pertl** who testified that if AB 1 was in effect in 2015, **\$587 million in State education funds would be diverted from public schools to for-profit charter schools.**

Senator **Dave Hansen** (Green Bay) said, "*Some of the special interests in the Capitol might not like that fact, but a lot of the problems we're seeing with AB 1 could have been avoided if a more inclusive effort had been made by the author.*"

**PRIVATIZATION** - the goal of AB 1 was made clear as the intent of the proposal in remarks by Rep. **Eric Genrich** (Green Bay) who said, "*Today's hearing has made clear that this most recent effort to take over certain public schools and further privatize public education is hastily and poorly crafted. This legislation is being rammed through the legislative process without giving deference to or seeking real input from the educational professionals and local school boards who serve our school kids every day.*"

## SEE-MTI Election Results

Election results for MTI's Supportive Educational Employees bargaining unit (SEE-MTI) have been tabulated. Elected to the SEE-MTI Board of Directors are Former President **Travis Grover** for President; incumbent **Larry Palm** for Vice-President; incumbent **Jane Ninmann** for Secretary; incumbent **Ann Jesse-Schwabe** for Elementary Representative, and **Elizabeth Contrucci** for Middle School Representative.

## 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)

## MTI Board Says Vote YES for OUR Schools!

The Board of Education has approved a referendum which will be on the ballot on Tuesday, April 7. The \$41 million referendum includes **\$39 million for building improvements, classroom additions, and improved accessibility at 16 District schools, and an additional \$2 million for upgrades to technology infrastructure.** The MTI Board of Directors adopted a motion *recommending that MTI members vote FOR the referendum.* As state resources for education continue to decline, the District must rely on Madison residents to ensure that kids and community have adequate facilities.

*"Madison Community and Schools Together"* (CAST) is a public advocacy group that is working to provide information to the community about the need for this referendum. CAST needs volunteers to help. Interested MTI members should contact: [madisoncast@sbcglobal.net](mailto:madisoncast@sbcglobal.net).

More detailed information about the projects to be completed if this referendum is approved can be found on the MMSD Website at: <https://buildings.madison.k12.wi.us/referendum-school-facilities>.

## Feedback Important on the Behavior Education Plan Survey

The MTI/MMSD Joint Safety Committee has developed and distributed a survey to collect staff feedback on the Behavior Education Plan (BEP). The survey was distributed to all school-based staff via e-mail. All staff are encouraged to provide their feedback by completing the survey by **Wednesday, February 4, 2015.** The MTI/MMSD Joint Safety Committee will then review the compiled survey results at their meeting on February 12. The Committee will also review the information shared via the BEP feedback form available on the MMSD webpage for the past month. The data collected will be used to inform the Central Office Behavior Education Leadership Team in designing implementation outcomes and corresponding action steps. **(NOTE: survey responses are not personally identifiable.)**

As with the Joint Employee Handbook Committee and the Joint Wellness Committee, the Joint Safety Committee represents MTI members' vehicle to continue to have a collective voice represented in matters of importance. The MTI appointees to the Joint Safety Committee include **Art Camosy** (Memorial), **Steve Pike** (West), **Karen Vieth** (Sherman), **Greg Vallee** (Thoreau), **Katrina Ladopoulos** (Crestwood), **Cheryl Olson** (Black Hawk) and MTI Staff Representatives **Doug Keillor** and **Sara Bringman**.

**Inclement Weather & Closing School**

All five MTI Collective Bargaining Agreements with the District contain provisions that deal with the impact on members when schools are closed. Given winter’s sometimes severe weather, these Contract provisions are called to the attention of those who are represented by MTI.

**The pivotal Contract is that governing members of MTI’s teacher bargaining unit.** Section V-K provides that *should schools be closed or the opening of school delayed, notice will be on local radio stations by 6:30 a.m.* Should schools be closed, *teachers will be compensated for the day on their regular monthly payroll check.* Section V-K of MTI’s Teacher Contract also covers therapy assistants, interpreters, science materials specialists and special needs nurses.

**Bilingual Resources Specialists:** BRS are governed by Addendum F of MTI’s Teacher Contract. Under this Addendum, BRS who are tardy or absent due to inclement weather are allowed to receive compensation by using personal illness leave or electing to makeup the time by performing their regular duties or participating in staff development/training opportunities offered by the District.

**EA-MTI:** The EA-MTI Contract provides that EAs are allowed the **option of using personal illness leave** to receive payment for time missed due to school closings, *along with being able to be paid up-front provided one makes up the missed time* by attending District-provided staff development/training or by performing her/his regular duties within one week of the end of the school year.

**SEE-MTI:** The SEE-MTI Contract provides that when a member of the SEE-MTI bargaining unit is absent from work for more than one hour on a “snow day”, or other emergency school closing, in addition to vacation time and compensatory time, the employee shall have the option to use **floating holidays** or **personal illness leave** to receive compensation for such days. In addition, said individuals are provided the option of receiving pay for the snow day **during the payroll period in which the snow day occurs** (without utilizing any accrued time) provided the employee makes up the time by attending District-offered **staff development/training** opportunities by the end of the school year. Said individuals will also continue to have the option to make up the time by performing their regular duties provided they have their supervisor’s approval.

**SSA-MTI:** The SSA-MTI Contract provides the options of using **personal illness or floating holiday time to receive payment for time missed**, *along with being able to be paid up-front, provided one makes up the missed time* by attending District-provided staff development/training or by performing her/his regular duties within one week of the end of the school year.

**Joint Committees on Wellness & Handbook to Get Underway**

In Contract negotiations, MTI and the District agreed to create two joint committees, one to develop the agreed-upon **Wellness Program** and the other to discuss the Act 10-mandated **Employee Handbook**.

The Board of Education has adopted the process for development of the Handbook, which was designed by District management, MTI, AFSCME and the Building Trades Council. The process enables collaborative development of the Handbook. **The Agreement provides that the 2015-16 Collective Bargaining Agreements of the above-referenced Unions will serve as the foundation for the Handbook.** The Handbook development process will begin soon, with the first draft expected to be completed in August.

The Joint Committee on Wellness will commence their work within the next two weeks, and **all employees will receive a communication about the initial steps.**

MTI appointees to the Joint Committee on Wellness are: **Kathy Chrisler** (SEE-MTI, Doyle), **Cheryl Nelson** (EA-MTI, Chavez), **Amy Taebel** (MTI, Lapham), **Andy Waity** (MTI, Crestwood), and MTI Assistant Director **Doug Keillor**. District appointees are: **Tammy Thompson-Kapp**, **Irish Tirado**, **Jean O’Leary**, **Jessica Cady Barthlomew** and **Tony Rodriguez**.

MTI will be represented on the joint committee on Handbook by: MTI President **Mike Lipp**, President-Elect **Peg Coyne**, SEE-MTI President **Kris Schiltz**, EA-MTI President **Erin Proctor**, and MTI Assistant Director **Doug Keillor**. Also, on the Union’s Committee are: AFSCME Staff Representatives **Neil Rainford** and **Rob Larsen**, as well as Building Trades Executive Director **Dave Branson**. District representatives have not yet been appointed.

**Calendar of Events**



- Wednesday, February 4, 4:30 p.m., MTI SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- Friday, February 6, Professional Development Day
- Monday, February 9, 4:15 p.m., SCFL Room 201B MTI Board of Directors
- Monday, February 9, 4:45 p.m., SCFL Room 201B All MTI Boards & Bargaining Teams
- Wednesday, February 11, 4:15 p.m., MTI EA-MTI Board & Building Representatives
- Thursday, February 12, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- Monday, February 16, TERP Deadline
- Tuesday, February 17, **PRIMARY ELECTION-VOTE**
- Tuesday, February 17, 4:15 p.m., SCFL Room 201C MTI Faculty Representative Council

Show **SOLIDARITY!**  
Wear **MTI RED** on  
Mondays &  
**MTI LANYARDS**  
every day!

