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# Solidarity!

## Walker's Budget the Worst of the Worst for Public Schools

Governor Walker's proposed Budget and the gamesmanship being played in the legislature has been compared to the game "whack-a-mole". **Representative Melissa Sargent**, a champion for public education, teachers and progressive causes, said of the Budget proposals, "Just when you think we've averted one crisis, another initiative is introduced to threaten the progressive traditions of our state." Sargent added, "The Budget process provides a look inside the corporate-driven policy agenda of the Republican party. Their goal is comprehensive privatization."

That concept came through loud and clear last week, when the **Republican majority on the Joint Finance Committee introduced a proposal which would enable even more funds to be diverted from money-starved public schools to private schools, by expanding the number of parents who can use a State-issued voucher to pay the cost of sending their child to a private school.** The funds would come from that child's area public school system. An investigation by **One Wisconsin Now** illustrates that a pro-voucher front group donated \$122,000 to the campaigns of the Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee.

**Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling** said education must be the top Budget priority, that "the needs of children and schools must be addressed before tax breaks for the wealthy and giveaways to special interests (voucher supporters)." Shilling continued, "To fully restore the cuts our schools have seen over the past four years, we need to invest an additional \$200 per student above what Walker has proposed." While the Republican majority brags that they are adding \$208 million in school aids, it amounts to only 1/2 of 1% over the two-year Budget, and more than 50% of that will not go to schools, but to reducing property taxes.

The Walker Budget would also **enable State takeover of the Milwaukee Public Schools, and perhaps the Madison Metropolitan School District.** The Budget proposal would enable a "commissioner to convert these schools to charter or voucher schools." The "**commissioner**" would have the authority to fire all teachers and administrators in a school district taken over, given the provisions of the proposed law.

A recent amendment would **enable anyone with any BA degree** to teach English, social studies, math or science, and **enable anyone - even without a degree** - to teach business, art, music, agriculture or special education.

The Budget will be acted upon this month. **It is time** to let your objections be heard regarding the school funding crisis being created by the proposed Budget. Contact majority party members of the Joint Finance Committee:

### Senators:

Alberta Darling 266-5830 [Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Luther Olsen 266-0751 [Sen.Olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Sheila Harsdorf 266-7745 [Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Leah Vukmir 266-2512 [Sen.Vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Tom Tiffany 266-2509 [Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Howard Marklein 266-0703 [Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov)

### Representatives:

John Nygren 266-2343 [Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Dale Kooyenga 266-9180 [Rep.Kooyenga@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Kooyenga@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Amy Loudonbeck 266-9967 [Rep.Loudonbeck@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Loudonbeck@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Dean Knudson 266-1526 [Rep.Knudson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Knudson@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Michael Schraa 267-7990 [Rep.Schraa@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Schraa@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Mary Czaja 266-7694 [Rep.Czaja@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Czaja@legis.wisconsin.gov)

### \*\*\*Important Reminder -Teacher Contract Deadline June 15\*\*\*

Teacher's individual contracts for the 2015-16 school year have been issued by the District. Signed contracts of all returning teachers **must be received by the District's Human Resources Department not later than June 15.** *MTI strongly recommends that teachers return their signed contracts in person to assure that they are received on time, and that it be done soon after receipt of the contract offer.* Take along a copy and ask that it be stamped "received," and retain it with your personal records.

**Failure to return a signed contract by June 15 may result in the District accepting such as one's resignation.**

## Sabbatical Leave Applications Due September 1

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. MTI's 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 **2015-16 school year** are due at MTI Headquarters by **September 1, 2015**. An application and the MTI/MMSD agreed upon policy can be obtained by calling MTI or by visiting MTI's web page.

## SEA License Renewal

Many SEAs received notice from the District's Human Resources Office that their **Special Education Program Aide license will expire on June 30**. *By law, all SEAs must hold a current DPI license in order to work in their field.* As of January 1, 2014, all DPI licensing is done via DPI's online application process. SEAs must pay the \$75 license renewal fee to DPI, *but MTI has negotiated the reimbursement of said fee.* **Under the terms of MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement, SEAs will be reimbursed after sending their receipt to the HR office.** MTI suggests that one keep a copy of the receipt.

Any SEA having difficulty with the DPI online application process is encouraged to call Susan Harris in the District's HR office (663-1696) or visit DPI's help-line for further assistance: [elo.help@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:elo.help@dpi.wi.gov). The District advises that they are working with DPI to create a better system for SEAs to renew their license.

## Bike Ride for Boys and Girls Club July 18 - Join Team MTI Cares

Following up on last year's success, **MTI Cares** is participating in the annual Bike Ride for Boys and Girls Club on July 18. **Join the team from a link on the MTI website** and select a ride distance of 8, 25 or 50 miles. Each rider is asked to raise \$250. Last year, Team MTI Cares raised over \$2,000 for this event and had a wonderful time biking through Dane County on a beautiful summer day. *Pledges raised support the ongoing mission*

*of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County to provide programs that inspire and enable our youth to realize their full potential.* Contact MTI Cares Team Captain, **Jeff Knight**, ([knightj@madisonteachers.org](mailto:knightj@madisonteachers.org)) for any questions related to this event.

## Beware! It's Not Your Computer

When the District installed its computer system, management told staff, *"Use it as your own!"* Most District employees did so. However, **MTI WARNS, USE IT AS YOUR OWN NO MORE!** One must assume that District management will review everything one writes or accesses on a District owned computer. The District has **forensic software which enables District management to review every stroke one makes on a District computer, as well as every website visited, no matter how long ago, and no matter the time of day.** This includes *what you access on your home computer*, if you access it using a District computer. As a result of requests by the public, under Wisconsin's Open Records Law, **MMSD archives ALL emails and research (websites accessed) performed on District computers.**

## Calendar of Events



- **Monday, June 8**, 4:30 p.m., MTI MTI Board of Directors
- **Thursday, June 11**- Semester Ends
- **Wednesday, July 8** - MTI Brewer Game
- **August 25, 26 and 27** are required workdays for all members of the Teacher Unit.
- **Friday, August 28** and **Monday, August 31** are New Teacher Days. *New Teacher Days are VOLUNTARY for returning staff.*
- **Tuesday, September 1**, is the first day of school with students.

## 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)