



Solidarity!

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MTI Prevails in Act 21 Case on Behalf of Public Education



The Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a decision last Wednesday (5/18/16) in *Coyne v. Walker*, striking down legislation that would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction to obtain the Governor's permission before drafting any administrative rules relative to public education in the State of Wisconsin. The legislation, known as Act 21, was an attempt to transfer control over public education to the Governor, usurping the Superintendent of Public Instruction's constitutional authority. *Coyne v. Walker* was brought by a group of MTI teachers and parents with children in public schools.

In an opinion supported by a four-justice majority, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held that:

"[T]he will of the people as expressed by Article X, Section 1 also requires the Legislature to keep the supervision of public instruction in the hands of the officers of supervision of public instruction... Because Act 21 does not allow the SPI and DPI to proceed with their duties of supervision without the Governor's, and in some circumstances the Secretary of Administration's approval, Act 21 unconstitutionally vests the Governor and Secretary of Administration with the supervision of public instruction in violation of Article X, Section 1."

The Court's decision upholds and preserves the Superintendent's constitutional role in supervising public instruction in Wisconsin, consistent with longstanding precedent. The Superintendent is an independently-elected constitutional officer charged with overseeing public instruction. As the Wisconsin Supreme Court recognized, the Superintendent is not the Governor's subordinate in carrying out this role. Act 21 was a coordinated effort by the Governor and the Legislature to force the Superintendent to answer to the Governor, just like the department heads who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Wisconsin Supreme Court properly rejected this power grab. "This is a huge victory for public education in Wisconsin," said MTI Past President Peggy Coyne.

MTI brought this case forward to protect public education and the importance of maintaining an independent, nonpartisan elected Superintendent to oversee that system. MTI was presented in these proceedings by Susan Crawford, Lester Pines and Aaron Dumas of Cullen, Weston, Pines & Bach. *This is one more example of how our Union can continue to advocate for our public schools and one more reason for MTI members to RENEW.*

If you have not yet renewed your MTI membership for 2016-17, please do so now at www.madisonteachers.org.

MTI Membership Ratifies 2016-17 Collective Bargaining Agreements

Last Tuesday (May 17) members from MTI's five (5) bargaining units gathered for a general membership meeting to: 1) ratify the 2016-17 Collective Bargaining Agreements, and 2) discuss issues to address in the upcoming Employee Handbook discussions. *Given the restrictions of Act 10, MTI can legally bargain only one item with the District, base wages.* And base-wage increases are further limited to no more than the consumer price increase as determined by the Department of Revenue. **For Contracts effective July 1, 2016, such allows for a maximum 0.12% base-wage increase.** MTI and the MMSD reached tentative agreement on this base-wage increase on April 6 and the MTI membership from all five (5) bargaining units have now

ratified the agreements. The Board of Education will now act on ratification.

Recognizing the limitations of "bargaining" post-Act 10, the majority of the MTI membership meeting entailed a discussion of the items that members would like to see prioritized and advanced by their representatives in this summer's collaborative Employee Handbook review process. *The Handbook discussions are where issues like the salary schedule, planning time, work year, and other critical issues are discussed.* MTI members who were unable to attend the membership meeting are still encouraged to share their feedback via the [MTI Membership Survey](http://www.madisonteachers.org) available via e-mail link or via the MTI website www.madisonteachers.org.

MTI Officers Installed

At last Tuesday's meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council, **Andrew Waity** (Crestwood) was installed again as MTI President. **Kerry Motoviloff** (Doyle) was installed as MTI President-Elect. She will serve as President for 2017-18. Other MTI officers elected in MTI's April general election and installed at the Faculty Representative Council meeting were: **Karen Vieth** (Sherman) as **Vice President**; incumbent **Greg Vallee** (Thoreau) as **Treasurer**; and **Cari Hauge** (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 incumbents: High School Representative - **Andrew McCuaig** (LaFollette); Middle School Representative - **Jessica Wahl** (Whitehorse); Elementary School Representative - **Kerry Motoviloff** (Doyle); At-Large Representative - **Andy Waity** (Crestwood); and Educational Services-Elementary - **Holly Hansen** (Lapham). The MTI Bargaining Committee consists of 15 members. One from each of the referenced areas is elected each year.

GHC Effort Successful

Given GHC's financial losses and the probable impact of such on MTI members, *MTI joined with the Madison Firefighters, Police Officers, AFSCME, Building Trades Council, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW 2304/MG&E)* in support of three candidates for the GHC Board of Directors. The unions organized their members who have selected GHC as their health insurance provider to vote by absentee ballot in the GHC election, and all overwhelmingly prevailed in the election. **The three new Board members have pledged to reverse the downward financial trend.**

The MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon Another Success for Briarpatch Youth Services

MTI Cares teamed up with Briarpatch Youth Services for a third consecutive year on Sunday, April 24, to raise funds for the Briarpatch Youth Shelter for Homeless Teens. Thanks to generous contributions from local labor and business sponsors, participants, and countless donors, MTI Cares has raised over \$30,000 for this important cause in these three years. Special thanks goes to Lora Schmid-Dolan of the MTI Cares Committee who drives much of the fundraising and push to get things done! You can find a list of sponsors at the MTI Cares website. Thanks MTI! You show time and time again through your tireless dedication to Madison's children, that you care!

Earn up to six PAC credits for completing your PDP!

Teachers who have completed a Professional Development Plan (PDP) to renew a license with DPI can earn up to six Professional Advancement Credits (PAC) to be applied toward Track advancement, or for crossing an Improvement Level, on the salary schedule. Section III-H-4 of the Teacher's Collective Bargaining Agreement (Addendum A, Section 1.06 of the Handbook) entitles teachers to earn these credits, which was negotiated by MTI after DPI changed the requirement to renew a license from six academic credits to completing a PDP. Academic credits earned as part of the PDP will count, but will be deducted from the six PAC credits. These credits are earned whether moving from an initial educator to a professional license, or for renewing one's professional license. To receive these credits, one must complete and return the Request for PAC Credit for PDP Completion form, which is available in the Department of Human Resources.

MTI Cares Second Harvest Summer Food Drive with AFSCME and MMSD – Ends May 27!

Participating schools have Second Harvest Blue Barrels located in their buildings. Please bring non-perishable food items as well personal hygiene products to place in the barrels. The MTI website has a food drive page with additional information, including the most needed items.

http://www.madisonteachers.org/mti_cares_food_drive2016/

Keep MTI Updated on Changes

Please call, write, or email MTI if you have a change in name, home address, home email address, telephone number, work location, certification, or hours of work. Having this information allows MTI to serve you better, both personally and contractually.

Calendar of Events



- Monday, May 23, 6:00 p.m.,
Doyle Auditorium
BOE Regular Meeting
- Monday, May 30, Memorial Day
- Wednesday, June 1, 4:15 p.m., MTI
MTI-VOTERS Political Action Committee
- Thursday, June 9, Last Day of School for Students
- Friday, June 10, Staff Only Day

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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