Talks Continue on 2017-18 School Calendar; Member Feedback Received on Winter Break

As school year employees return from winter break this week, MTI’s Calendar Committee will be meeting with the District to discuss the 2017-18 school calendar. One of the items the Calendar Committee will be discussing is the timing and length of winter break next year. MTI has solicited member feedback on this issue in a variety of ways, including an on-line Facebook poll of members on the MTI Facebook page; e-mail feedback elicited from members via the 12/19/16 Solidarity! article; e-mail feedback from MTI leaders, faculty representatives, and member organizers; and conversations with members at the workplace. This member feedback has shown a strong preference for a longer ten (10)-day winter break over a shorter, seven (7)-day option suggested by the District. In addition to the timing and length of winter break, the Calendar Committee will also be discussing the scheduling of parent-teacher conferences, staff only days, and spring break for the 2017-18 school year.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday January 16

As a result of MTI’s successful negotiation several years ago, all District employees now have a paid holiday, a day off, in recognition of the accomplished civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Given the terms of Employee Handbook, members of MTI’s teacher, educational assistant, clerical/technical, and school security assistant bargaining units will be paid for the day. MTI encourages members’ observance of this important holiday which signifies the importance of Dr. King’s legacy.

"The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old age pensions, government relief to the destitute, and above all new wage levels that meant not mere survival, but a tolerable life."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Important February Deadlines

- Salary Advancement Credit for passage over a salary barrier or for salary track advancement, effective with the beginning of the second semester, are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., February 1.

- Sabbatical Leave applications for either the first semester of the 2017-18 school year or for the entire school year are due in the MTI office by 5:00 p.m., February 1.

- Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP) enrollment applications are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., February 15.

(Note: If a deadline occurs on a weekend, it is extended to the following Monday.)

“Staff Only” Day February 3; Structure of Day Determined by Principal and SBLT

There is no school for students on the February 3 “staff only” day (formerly known as PD days). The Employee Handbook provides that there will be one (1) full staff only day per quarter. “The structure of the day is to be determined collaboratively at the building level by the principal and SBLT. Such time shall include collaborative learning that supports and enhances the quality of teaching and is aligned to each school’s SIP goals and strategies.”

Educational Assistants and School Security Assistants have a mandatory workday on February 3. Various professional development opportunities may be made available to specific groups within these bargaining units, at the District or individual school level.
30-Minute Free Financial Consultations

MTI/WEA Member Benefits Individual MTI Member Financial Consultations. See MTI’s website: www.madisonteachers.org to sign up for a free 30-minute financial consultation. Consultations are held at MTI headquarters.

MTI Members: National Board Certification Support Workshops Continuing

MTI members currently working on National Board Certification are invited to attend monthly NBC Support Workshops provided at no cost by MTI and WEAC Region 6. Sessions are currently scheduled January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, and May 10. Please contact MTI if you are interested in attending or would like additional information at 608-257-0491 or at mti@madisonteachers.org.


After three years of raising over $30,000 for the Briarpatch Homeless Shelter that opened last October, MTI Cares is partnering with Safe Harbor for its fourth annual MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon on April 30. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Safe Harbor serves as Dane County’s only fully accredited child advocacy center. Mark your calendar, watch for more information and start prepping your team of 4-6 bowlers to have some fun and raise some money for a worthy cause, our children! See www.madisonteachers.org/bowl-a-thon2017/ for more information.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, January 9, 5:00 p.m., Doyle (Rm. 103) BOE Instruction Work Group
- Tuesday, January 10, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI Board of Directors
- Thursday, January 12, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI Constitution Committee
- January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Tuesday, January 17, 4:15 p.m., SCFL MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, January 18, 4:15 p.m., MTI EA-MTI Building Representatives
- Monday, January 23, 5:00 p.m., Doyle (Rm. 103) BOE Operations Work Group
- Tuesday, January 24, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI VOTERS Spring Candidate Interviews
- Thursday, January 26, 4:15 p.m., MTI USO-MTI General Membership

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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

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