



# Solidarity!

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## MTI-Voters Candidate Interviews Update Primary Election February 21

This spring's election is important to MTI Members, our system of public education, our students and our community. *Be a voter in every election!* We cannot afford to abdicate the responsibility of selecting our political representatives to others at this critical time. Last week, MTI Voters (MTI's political action committee) interviewed candidates for MMSD Board of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Dane County Circuit Court Judge.

**Board of Education:** Seats 6 and 7 are both up for election. Cris Carusi, Ali Janae Muldrow, and Kate Toews are competing for seat 6 (currently held by Michael Flores). Matt Andrzejewski, Ed Hughes (incumbent), and Nicki Vander Meulen are competing for seat 7. Given the number of highly qualified candidates, the MTI-Voters Committee concluded to make no recommendation for endorsement for the Board of Education seats prior to the **February 21 primary**. Rather, we encourage all MTI members to learn about each candidate and make their own decision for the primary election. Once the primary election is complete, MTI Voters will reconvene to discuss whether to make an endorsement for the **April 4 general election**. Candidate responses to the MTI-Voters Candidate Questionnaire are available on the MTI website under the top menu, [Elections-Spring 2017](#). Copies have been sent to MTI Faculty Representatives to place in staff lounges. Please take a few minutes to review these questionnaires before the primary election.

**State Superintendent and Circuit Court Judge:** MTI-Voters is recommending endorsements in the race for State Superintendent and Circuit Court Judge. All MTI members who contribute to MTI's political action committee have been sent an e-mail advising of the recommendation and requesting their vote on the Committee's recommendation. Voting will be by electronic ballot only and will be open until Sunday, February 5. If you did not receive this e-mail and would like to complete a ballot, please ensure MTI has a valid personal e-mail address or contact MTI directly for directions on how to access the ballot on-line.

### EA-MTI Living Wage Campaign

EAs will address the Board of Education at their meeting tonight (6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium). Please support these hard-working members by attending and wear your MTI red to show your solidarity!

### Inclement Weather & Closing School

The Employee Handbook contains provisions that deal with the impact on members when schools are closed. Given last week's school closing, these provisions are called to the attention of those who are represented by MTI.

**Teacher bargaining unit:** The Employee Handbook (Section 4.05, page 114) 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.

**Bilingual Resources Specialists:** The Employee Handbook (Section 13.09, page 139) provides that employees who are tardy or absent due to inclement weather are allowed to receive compensation by using personal illness leave or electing to make up the time by performing their regular duties or participating in staff development/training opportunities offered by the District.

**EA-MTI:** The Employee Handbook (Section 1.06, page 242) allows 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 Employee Handbook (Section 1.09, page 154) 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 Employee Handbook (Section 1.08, page 263) 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.

## 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.)*

## Ballots Sent for SEE-MTI Board Election

Ballots have been sent out for the SEE-MTI Board of Directors' positions that expired on December 31, 2016. Nominated are the following: incumbent **Travis Grover** for President; incumbent **Larry Palm** for Vice-President; incumbent **Jane Ninmann** for Secretary; and incumbent **Ann Jesse-Schwabe** for Elementary Representative. All positions are uncontested. Ballots must be returned to MTI by **February 3**.

Nominations are still being solicited for vacant positions on the SEE-MTI Board of Directors for a Middle School representative and a Central Administration representative. If you are a SEE-MTI member assigned to a middle school or central administration and interested in representing your co-workers on your Union's Board of Directors, contact Jeff Knight at MTI ([knightj@madisonteachers.org](mailto:knightj@madisonteachers.org)). Much important work needs to be done on the Employee Handbook. *You continue to have a voice, make it heard.*

## Wisconsin Retirement Board Election Jan. 23-Feb. 28

Wisconsin Retirement System teachers have the opportunity to elect two members to the Teachers Retirement (TR) Board. The 13-member Board advises the Employee Trust Funds Board on retirement and other WRS benefit matters. Active elementary and secondary teacher members of the WRS are eligible to vote. Three candidates are vying for two seats. Voting is online between January 23 and February 28. To participate, one can register to get your member ID and PIN at <http://tiny.cc/etfregister>. To vote, go to <http://tiny.cc/etfvote>.

## W-2 Forms

MMSD 2016 W-2 forms were distributed last week. They were inter-officed to those with a school mail location and U.S. mailed to all substitutes, MSCR, LTE, and former employees. W2's will not be available electronically.

**Show solidarity with your  
MTI sisters & brothers.  
Wear MTI red on Mondays and  
MTI lanyards & buttons everyday!**

## MTI Membership Corner

The following meetings, seminars, and workshops are available to MTI members *only*.

## MTI & WEA Member Benefits: More Opportunities for Financial Services for MTI Members

MTI and WEA Member Benefits have scheduled more opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. See MTI's website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)) to sign-up for these seminars or financial consultations:

### February 2 - Understanding WRS 101: Your State Pension Plan

WRS, the state pension plan, will be a source of retirement income for most Wisconsin public school employees. How much do you know about this important benefit? Whether you just started your career or are nearing the end of it, there is something in this seminar for you.

### March 15 - Saving for Your Future: Why Saving Early and Often is Important

Most Wisconsin public school employees can expect their retirement income to come from three sources: WRS (the Wisconsin Retirement System pension), Social Security, and personal savings. Even though your pension benefit provides an excellent head start, today's employees need to consider personal savings to fill their retirement savings gap. Whether you are just beginning your career or are nearing the end of it, there is something for you. Join us for this crash course and get a better idea of how your pension and personal savings work to fill your retirement savings gap.

### 30-Minute Free Financial Consultations

WEA Member Benefits Consultant **Steve Pike** is available to provide individual MTI member financial guidance. See MTI's website: [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org) to sign up for a free 30-minute financial consultation. Consultations are held at MTI headquarters.

## Calendar of Events

- Monday, January 30, 4:15 p.m., Doyle  
MTI/MMSD Joint Safety & Discipline Committee
- Monday, January 30, 6:00 p.m., Doyle  
BOE Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, January 31, 4:30 p.m., MTI  
MTI Handbook/Bargaining Teams
- Wednesday, February 1, 4:15 p.m., MTI  
Special Education Sub-Committee
- Friday, February 3, Staff Only Day
- Wednesday, February 8, 4:30 p.m., MTI  
SEE-MTI Board of Directors
- Tuesday, February 14, 4:30 p.m., MTI  
MTI Board of Directors
- Tuesday, February 21, 4:30 p.m., SCFL  
MTI Faculty Representative Council

## Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)  
MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)