2017-18 School Calendar Update

As previously reported, the Joint MTI/MMSD Calendar Committee has developed the 2017-18 school calendar. Since then further details regarding next year’s calendar were subsequently worked out by the Joint Committee relative to staff-only (formerly PD) days and parent-teacher conference days:

- Staff-Only days: October 27, December 8, February 9, March 16, April 27, June 11
- Elementary conferences: November 16 and April 12
- Middle school conferences: November 15 (evening only), November 20 (early release and evening), March 2
- High school conferences: November 13 (evening only) and 21 (early release and evening)
- LaFollette conferences: October 19 and February 22 (and evenings)

The highlights of the calendar are:

- New teacher mandatory days — August 23-25
- Staff Learning/Prep days — August 28-31
- Voluntary day — September 1
- Labor Day holiday — September 4
- Beginning of first semester — September 5
- Parent-teacher compensatory day — November 22
- Thanksgiving break — November 23-24
- Winter break — December 22-January 2
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday — January 15
- Beginning of second semester — January 22
- Spring break — March 26-30
- Memorial Day holiday — May 28
- End of student school year — June 8
- High School graduations (weekend of June 8)
- Last work day for staff — June 11

The 2017-18 calendar represents a series of compromises in a school year that contains several challenging holiday dates. It is the product of multiple meetings and many hours of work by MTI members of the Joint Committee, which sought to represent and balance members’ interests while maneuvering through a system impacted by many factors, including State laws, DPI regulations, and BOE policies. The above dates represent 176 student days; 4 staff-only (formerly PD) days before the school year begins; 1 voluntary day before the school year begins; 6 staff-only (formerly PD) days throughout the school year; 1 comp day; and 4 paid holidays.

The Joint Calendar Committee will begin discussions relative to the 2018-19 school calendar on March 9. There will be continuing discussion relative to staff-only days. MTI members should also become more involved in their school’s staff-only day schedule by being on SBLT or having direct conversations with their colleagues who are on SBLT. The structure of these days is determined collaboratively at each school by SBLT and the principal.

As the Union moves forward in its post-Act 10 collaborative model, it is imperative that members’ voices are heard by increased involvement at the individual work site level. Members are encouraged to discuss this model, along with the collaborative problem-solving process, with their MTI Faculty Representatives. Some schools are already having scheduled on-site discussions, where staff can discuss issues and get up-to-date information on MTI progress and events.

Temporary Reduction of Contract with Right to Return to Full-Time

Addendum A, Section 3.09 of the Employee Handbook provides that full-time teachers who wish to work part-time may request to do so for a period of one (1) year, and shall have the right to full-time regular contracts at the end of such period. Requests for part-time contracts must be made in writing to the Department of Human Resources on or before March 1 of the preceding school year. To be eligible to apply for contract reduction under this Section, a teacher must have completed five (5) years of service with the District as a teacher by the time the contract reduction will become effective.

EA-MTI General Membership Meeting March 22; Election of Officers

Members of MTI’s Educational Assistants bargaining unit (EA-MTI) will meet on Wednesday, March 22, commencing at 4:15 p.m., at MTI. There are many issues of importance for EAs, NAs and SEAs to discuss, including the future of the EA bargaining unit. Nominations for positions on the EA-MTI Board of Directors will also be taken at the March 22 meeting. Members may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent to all EA-MTI bargaining unit members, or by contacting MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen (degene@madisonteachers.org). Nominations will close at the March 22 meeting: Get involved in your Union!
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) to sign-up for these seminars or financial consultations:

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 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 March 8, April 12, and May 10. Contact MTI if you are interested in attending or would like additional information at 608-257-0491 or at mti@madisonteachers.org.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, February 27, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium
  BOE Regular Meeting
- Monday, March 6, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103
  BOE Instruction Work Group
- Wednesday, March 8, 4:15 p.m., MTI
  MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- Monday, March 13, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103
  BOE Operation Work Group
- Tuesday, March 14, 4:30 p.m., MTI
  MTI Board of Directors
- Wednesday, March 15, 4:15 p.m., MTI
  USO-MTI Board of Directors
- Tuesday, March 21, 4:15 p.m., SCFL
  MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, March 22, 4:15 p.m., MTI
  EA-MTI Board & General Membership