MTI Offers Safe Zone Proposal

In response to growing concerns from many of our students, staff, and families, the MTI Board of Directors and Faculty Representative Council have passed the following Safe Zone proposal (below) to advance to the Board of Education for action.

Safe Zone Proposal

All students in the Madison Metropolitan School District should be free to learn and grow in a safe place. For many of our students, their greatest fear in the current political climate is their immigration status. Fear of detention or deportation from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents is becoming a very real concern. There is only one world that keeps getting smaller and we need to continue to develop global communities in our schools. Scapegoating, deportations, and border walls only add suspicion and fear for children and their families at a time when we should come together in support of all students.

The MTI Board of Directors strongly recommends that the MMSD Board of Education immediately direct MMSD Administration to take the following action:

- Forbid ICE agents from coming onto any MMSD campus, at any time, without approval from the MMSD Superintendent’s office.
- Forbid school staff from asking about a student’s immigration status or that of any family members.
- Work with the Board of Education to determine how to provide teachers, administrators, and other staff with training on how to deal with immigration issues and how to notify families in multiple languages of issues.
- Communicate to all families, MMSD staff, and the Madison community its intent to do everything in its power to provide a “safe place” for students and families.

We believe that in order to create conditions that ensure the participation of all students and their families in school, these actions allay fears and provide assurance that MMSD cares for all students and will do everything that it can to continue to provide a safe place for students and families.

Work Continues on MMSD Response to Governor’s Health Insurance Budget Proposals

As we advised in the February 13 edition of MTI Solidarity!, Governor Walker’s 2017 State budget proposal includes a requirement that, in order to be eligible for additional state aid, school districts will need to require that employees pay 12% of health care costs. MMSD employees currently pay a progressive health insurance premium contribution ranging from 1.25% to 10% depending on job title and participation in the wellness program. Moving to a 12% premium contribution could have adverse impacts on the available health insurance plans, as well as on employees’ standard of living (i.e., reduced take home pay). Whether such a move will have negative impacts depends, in part, on how the District responds. Over the past couple of weeks, representatives from MTI and Local 60 have been meeting with District administration to discuss District options to mitigate the potential negative impacts. These discussions will continue over the next couple of months, as the State and MMSD budgets are further developed. MTI members will be provided more detailed updates via e-mail as this work proceeds.
Calendar of Events

- 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
- Wednesday, March 8, 4:15 p.m., MTI
  MTI Finance 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

Our Union Makes Us Strong!
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