The District continues to explore potential changes to health insurance plans, including the consideration of: 1) maintaining the current three HMO options, or 2) transitioning to only one HMO (GHC). On March 30, District administrative staff met with MTI and Local 60 representatives to preview the information to be presented to the BOE on April 3. Included in that preview will be a third option, transitioning from three HMOs (Dean, Unity, and GHC) to two HMOs (Dean and GHC). The District is offering this third option as a way to provide employees multiple HMO options (albeit two rather than three options) while still providing benefit savings which could be applied to salaries (additional information on this was emailed to all MTI members in an Update on March 31). District Administration will present additional information on these options to the Board of Education tonight (Monday, April 3) at the BOE’s Operations Work Group meeting. Interested MTI members are welcome to attend.

On March 23, members of the MTI Handbook Committees, combined with representatives from Local 60 (Custodians and Food Service workers) and the Building Trades unions, met to discuss the single HMO option and, after lengthy discussion of this complex issue, affirmed their opinion that the District should continue to offer District employees the choice of three HMO options due to the following factors:

- District employees value their current medical providers available from their current HMO;
- District employees value a choice of health offerings (Dean, Unity and GHC);
- District employees have already experienced numerous changes in health insurance carriers (WPS to Physicians Plus to Dean/Unity/GHC), and value stability;
- The 12% employee premium contribution, like the proposed increase in school funding, is a proposal which may or may not be adopted and the District should make no changes based on these variables until they are resolved.

Over the past week, many MTI members have shared their concerns with MTI staff and numerous MTI Faculty Reps have held 10-minute meetings with staff at their schools to discuss the insurance issues and to collect more member feedback. This additional feedback confirms and reinforces the position of the MTI Handbook Committees that employees want to keep the three HMO options currently provided. While the new option being considered by the District (providing two HMOs) is better than reducing to only one HMO, based on the feedback MTI has received from members we will continue to advocate for the continuation of the three HMO options currently available.

MTI has shared regular updates with members on this issue, including detailed Potential Health Insurance Changes Q & A Handouts distributed via e-mail on March 17, 24 and 31 to all MTI members. The BOE’s decision on direction is anticipated sometime in mid-April. MTI will continue to provide updates on this critical issue as it develops.

The Employee Handbook, Section 8.01 (p. 124) sets forth the procedures which principals are required to use when management notifies a teacher that he/she is being considered for non-renewal of contract. The District is obligated to advise a teacher before May 1, if they are considering non-renewal. Under Wisconsin State Statutes, such a notice must be delivered to the teacher on or before May 15. It is extremely important for any member receiving such a notice to immediately contact MTI.

For probationary teachers, a request for a hearing before the Board of Education must be submitted within five (5) days of the teacher’s receipt of the notice that the Board of Education is considering non-renewal of the teacher’s contract. For non-probationary staff, a request for arbitration must be made within fifteen (15) days of a non-renewal notice.

EA-MTI Election Results

At the March 22 general membership meeting members of MTI’s Educational Assistants (EA-MTI) collective bargaining unit re-elected Judy Ferwerda (Memorial) as President; re-elected Anne Hernandez (Hawthorne) as Vice-President; re-elected Secretary Nancee Killoran (Hawthorne); re-elected LaFollette Area Chairperson Terry Mikrut (LaFollette); and elected as West Area Chairperson Blake Hamann (West). Blake replaces Jaelynn Olson. We wish to thank Jaci for her service on the EA Board.
**Sign Up Your Team for the Bowl-A-Thon to Benefit Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center**

The MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon for Safe Harbor is only a month away! The event takes place on Sunday, April 30, from 12-3:00 p.m. at Dream Lanes in Madison. We need to fill the lanes and we need to fill them fast. Please consider joining or sponsoring a team from your building. All proceeds for this Bowl-A-Thon will benefit the Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center. The sign-up form is simple and easy to complete. This form, as well as additional information about the bowl-a-thon, can be found on the MTI website (see the “Bowl-A-Thon” link on the Home Page).

Safe Harbor is a non-profit agency that helps protect children who are the victim of or witness to a crime, including child abuse. The agency helps both the child and family by providing a supporting, nurturing environment while dealing with various law enforcement agencies. They are the only agency of its kind in Dane County and they very much appreciate MTI’s support. If you have any questions about the bowl-a-thon, or if you want to volunteer, please contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org).

**MTI Membership Opportunities**

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

**MTI & WEA Member Benefits: 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:

- **Wednesday, April 19, 2017** - 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Student Loan Forgiveness session presented by MTI Member Ben Senson
- **Thursday, April 20, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Learn to read and verify your WRS statement
- **Wednesday, April 26, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Learn to read and verify your WRS statement
- **Thursday, April 27, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m. “What’s Your Score?” credit session presented by Educators Credit Union (ECU)
- **Tuesday, May 9, 2017** - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Saving for Your Future

In addition, Steve Pike (retired teacher and current WEA Member Benefits Consultant) is available for a **free 30-minute financial consultation**. This is ideal if you are just getting started, have specific questions, or would like a quick check-in. It’s a convenient way to meet with someone face-to-face to get some general help or guidance. Consultations are held at MTI Headquarters.

**Calendar of Events**

- **Monday, April 3, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
  - BOE Instruction Work Group
- **Tuesday, April 4, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
  - MTI Building Corp. Board of Directors
  - MTI Board of Directors (5:00 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, April 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
  - BOE Instruction Work Group
  - BOE Operations Work Group
- **Tuesday, April 11, 2:00 p.m., MTI**
  - MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Wednesday, April 12, 2:00 p.m., WEAC RA in Stevens Point**
- **Monday, April 17, 5:00 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
  - BOE Operations Work Group
- **Tuesday, April 18, 4:15 p.m., SCFL**
  - MTI Faculty Representative Council
- **Saturday, April 22,**
- **Monday, April 24, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium**
  - BOE Regular Meeting

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

**National Board Certification Support Workshops April 12 and May 10**

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. Contact MTI if you are interested in attending or would like further information on NBC (608-257-0491 or mti@madisonteachers.org).