



# Solidarity!

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## MTI Continues Work on Employee Handbook Review

MTI-MMSD discussions over the MMSD Employee Handbook annual review are winding down. Progress has been made in a number of areas including recommendations for EA/SEA wages, school calendar, substitute teacher health insurance eligibility, and various benefit improvements. The finalized 2018-19 school calendar should be shared with all staff by the end of January. The **Teacher Work Day** group is scheduled to meet **January 16** in hopes of making progress on the issues of teacher planning time and staff only days. Once the Teacher Work Day group has completed their discussions, the MTI/MMSD Handbook Review Committee will need to reconvene to determine what consensus recommendations to share with the Superintendent to advance to the Board of Education for consideration and action.

MTI and the MMSD are also continuing to discuss potential recommended changes to the teacher salary schedule as part of the development of the 2018-19 MMSD budget. The next meeting of the MTI-MMSD **Teacher Compensation work group** has been scheduled for **January 23**.

E-mail updates will continue to be shared with all MTI members as Employee Handbook information becomes available.

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## Making Your Voice Heard on Public Policy: MTI-Voters Interviews on January 24

Board of Education seats 1 and 2, currently held by Anna Moffit and Mary Burke, are up for election this year. Both are running for reelection. Moffit's seat will be challenged by Gloria Reyes. Each candidate is seeking the endorsement of MTI-Voters.

Earlier this month, MTI-Voters developed and distributed questionnaires to all BOE candidates to collect their views on a variety of issues important to MTI members. Completed questionnaires for MTI members to review will be available soon on MTI's website. On **January 24**, the MTI-Voters Committee will conduct interviews of all BOE candidates, as well as interviews for Dane County Court Judge and Justice of the WI Supreme Court. Following the interviews, the Committee will decide which candidates to recommend for endorsement. Under MTI Bylaws, the MTI-Voters Committee recommendations are then forwarded for a vote by all members of MTI who contribute to MTI-Voters, before endorsements can be made.

Given the number of candidates, a primary election will be held for Supreme Court on **February 20**,

with the two leading vote-getters advancing to the **April 3** general election. All MTI members are encouraged to learn more about the candidates, attend candidate forums, and work to get out the vote for these crucial positions.

### **Who is MTI-Voters?**

MTI-Voters is the political action committee of MTI that seeks to identify those candidates most likely to advance policies supported by the members of MTI, policies that support MMSD staff and students, and advance the quality of public education in the District. MTI-Voters is a representative body of MTI members, comprised of the Presidents of each MTI bargaining unit, the MTI Treasurer and nine (9) others elected by MTI's Faculty Representative Council. This member-comprised committee guides MTI's political endorsement process and advances recommended endorsements to the thousands of MTI members who contribute to MTI Voters. In this manner, your voice joins the voice of many as we decide who to collectively support.

## Important Deadlines

- **Salary Advancement Credit for passage over a salary barrier or for salary track advancement, effective at 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.**
- **Temporary Reduction of Contract with Right to Return to Full-Time** requests due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **March 1.**

## Staff Only Day February 9

There is no school for students on the February 9 "Staff Only" day (formerly known as PD days). The Employee Handbook, Section 4.06, 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 work-day on February 9.** Various professional development opportunities are available to specific groups within these bargaining units, at the District or individual school level.

## MTI Members: National Board Certification Support Workshops

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 for January 17, February 7, March 14, April 11, and May 9. Contact MTI at 257-0491 if you are interested in attending or would like additional information, or e-mail [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org).

## Express Your Ideas at MMSD Strategic Framework Listening Sessions

One way to help shape MMSD priorities for the next five years is to participate in one of the Superintendent's **Strategic Framework listening sessions** scheduled at schools around the MMSD over the next couple of months. With the Strategic Framework being reviewed and updated, this is an important opportunity to express your thoughts about what priorities the MMSD should focus on for the next 5 years. The Superintendent has sessions tentatively scheduled at **Wright** (1/16); **Elvehjem** (1/25); **Chavez** (1/26), and **LaFollette** (1/31). See your school secretary or principal for specific times and locations.



## 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 are providing more opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. More information and sign-ups for both seminars and consultations can be found at [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org) or [www.weabenefits.com/mti](http://www.weabenefits.com/mti).

- Thursday, February 8—Saving for Your Future
- Thursday, March 15—Preparing for Retirement

In addition, **Steve Pike** (retired teacher and current WEA Member Benefits Consultant) is available for a **free 60-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.

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**MTI National Board Certification Training Workshops for 2017-18.** MTI members pursuing National Board Certification are invited to participate in monthly NBC support workshops. The next session is **January 17**. Contact MTI to register.

**MTI members in need of assistance:** See your MTI Faculty Rep or contact MTI staff (257-0491 or [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)) should you have a question or need *assistance with any work-related matter*.

## MTI Wear on Sale

Members are encouraged to wear MTI wear in the community to make a positive statement about education and educators. The following prices apply: t-shirt (\$10); polo-shirt (\$12); oxford button-down shirt (\$15); and sweatshirt (\$35).

Show **SOLIDARITY** with your **MTI sisters & brothers**. Wear **MTI RED** on Mondays and **MTI lanyards** every day!

## Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, January 17, 4:00 p.m., MTI CENTRS New Educator Roundtable
- Monday, January 22, 4:00 p.m., MTI CENTRS Faculty Rep Focus Group
- Monday, January 22, 4:00 p.m., MTI MTI/MMSD Middle School Lesson Plans Meeting
- Monday, January 22, 5:00 p.m., Doyle (Rm. 103) BOE Operations Work Group
- Wednesday, January 24, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- Thursday, January 25, 4:15 p.m., MTI USO-MTI General Membership

## 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)