



Solidarity!

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2018-19 School Calendar and Employee Handbook Work Update

The MTI-MMSD Handbook Review Committee will meet **February 6** to finalize consensus recommendations to share with the Superintendent to forward to the Board of Education for consideration later in February. Progress was made in a number of areas, including finalizing the **2018-19 school calendar** to include a return to a **two-week winter break**; improvements in the **EA/SEA salary schedule**; improved **health insurance eligibility for substitute teachers**; and an increase in the substitute long-term rate of pay. Discussions are continuing on potential improvements to the **teacher salary schedule**. Little progress was made on the critical need for sufficient **professional planning time** for teachers, but MTI's push will continue.

All MTI members received an e-mail update last week, including a summary of the changes being considered for the Employee Handbook; a link to the finalized 2018-19 school calendar; and an update on discussions surrounding potential changes to the teacher salary schedule. These materials are also posted on MTI's website, www.madisonteachers.org.

MTI Working with Foundation for Madison's Public Schools on Classroom Financial Support

The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency, and a fundraising partner of the Madison Metropolitan School District. With the support of MTI, the Foundation is exploring new ways to support the teachers and staff of the Madison Metropolitan School District. Last week, MTI sent a survey to all MTI members to gauge teacher and staff interest in the ideas being explored by the Foundation, including developing a program to provide free classroom supplies throughout the year; exploring a Foundation-hosted crowdfunding platform to secure classroom resources, among other ideas. MTI and the Foundation will review survey responses to determine the next steps for this project. MTI members are asked to complete the survey to provide feedback by February 12. If you need the survey link re-sent to you, please feel free to contact MTI.



How Do I Join MTI?

Click on the "RENEW" icon/link on the MTI webpage (www.madisonteachers.org) for step-by-step directions. When you join your colleagues as an MTI member, you are making a decision to **stand together in solidarity on important issues that impact your profession, our schools, and our students**. MTI provides you with a voice in the workplace, with the School Board, and at the State Capitol.

Teacher Retirement and TERP Deadline February 15

In order to be eligible for the Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP), a teacher must be full-time and at least 55 years old, with a combined age (*as of August 30 in one's retirement year*) and years of service in the District totaling at least 75. (For example, a teacher who is 57 and has eighteen (18) years of service to MMSD would be eligible: $57 + 18 = 75$.) Teachers who are younger than age 55 are eligible if they have worked for the MMSD at least 30 years. Up to ten (10) part-time teachers may participate in TERP each year *provided* they have worked full-time within the last ten (10) years and meet the eligibility criteria described above. Retirement notifications, including completed TERP agreements, are due in the District's Department of Human Resources no later than **February 15**. MTI was successful in discussions for the 2018-19 MMSD Employee Handbook in gaining the continuance of TERP. Thus, MTI members can be assured that **TERP runs through the 2018-19 school year** and not feel pressured into retirement before they are ready. WEA Member Benefits Consultant Steve Pike is available to provide guidance and/or to provide estimated benefits to MTI members for TERP, insurance continuation, application of one's Retirement Insurance Account, WRS, and Social Security. Call MTI Headquarters (257-0491) to schedule an appointment.

Temporary reduction of contract with the right to return to full-time—requests due in the office of Human Resources by March 1, 2018.

Crash Course: Tax Tips for Teachers
Wednesday, February 7, 5:00-5:45 p.m.
MTI Building (33 Nob Hill Rd)
Light dinner will be served

As an educator, could you be missing out on important tax deductions? In this course, find out what educator deductions you may be able to claim so you can maximize your tax refund. 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 find out how you can maximize any educator tax deductions you may be eligible for. *An e-mail invite with a sign up link was sent to all teacher members last week.*

I LOVE MY PUBLIC SCHOOL
Week of Action February 12-16

Schools across Wisconsin will be celebrating our public schools from February 12-16. Interested schools are encouraged to organize a local day of action showing support for our public schools. Consider wearing your school shirt, hosting a LOVE MY SCHOOLS walk-in, creating I ♥ Public Schools signs, tweets, or school Facebook events. Invite community members, President Waity, or WEAC elected officials. Post photos on your school website. For ideas and resources go to: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xrsp0F3fC5NNNakBuTo_OOBFRbEpZSmt?usp=sharing.

MTI Delegate to SCFL Vacancy

Nominations are being sought for teacher members interested in serving as an MTI Delegate to the South Central Federation of Labor. Interested members can email MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor (keillord@madisonteachers.org). Nominations can also be made at the February 20 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. The election will be held at the March 20 meeting of the Council.

NEA WEAC Delegate Election
Make Your Vote Count!

This week, teacher members received a ballot mailed directly from WEAC to their homes. The ballot lists the nominees for WEAC delegates to this year's NEA Representative Assembly held in July in Minneapolis. Each year, MTI funds and sends its President. This year President Andy Waity will represent MTI at the Representative Assembly. **MTI Past President Kerry Motoviloff is running as a nominee to become a WEAC delegate. She is nominee #39. Please support her** nomination, in a procedure that is new for us. Here is how your vote gets counted: members are instructed to use a #2 pencil and vote for up to 31 delegates. Faculty Representatives are asked to post reminders of election deadlines and ballots need to be returned to your Faculty Reps by February 26, in order for your Rep to deliver ballots in person to the MTI Office by March 1. Ballots can also be mailed directly to the WEAC address printed on the ballot before March 1, 2018.

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

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 or 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 February 7. 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) should you have a question or need *assistance with any work-related matter*.

Calendar of Events

- Tuesday, February 6, 4:15 p.m., MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- Wednesday, February 7, 5:30 p.m., MTI National Board Certification Training
- Thursday, February 8, 4:15p.m., MTI MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- Tuesday, February 13, 4:30 p.m., MTI MTI Board of Directors
- Tuesday, February 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, February 21, 9:00 a.m., MTI MTI-Retired Members
- Wednesday, February 21, 4:15p.m., MTI MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- Thursday, February 22, 4:15 p.m., MTI USO-MTI General Membership
- Monday, February 26, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium BOE Regular Meeting

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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