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Solidarity!

Handbook Review Recommendations to BOE

The MTI Board of Directors and MTI Handbook Committee met on February 13 to review the consensus recommendations for Handbook revisions, which have been forwarded to the Superintendent and the Board of Education for consideration. The **BOE Operations Work Group** will review these recommendations at their **February 19** meeting and the **full Board of Education** is scheduled to act on the recommendations at their **February 26 regular BOE meeting**. Additionally, all interested MTI members are invited to attend an **MTI informational meeting on the MMSD Employee Handbook recommendations on Tuesday, February 20**, commencing at 4:30 p.m., at MTI Headquarters (33 Nob Hill Road). All MTI members were sent an e-mail update on the Handbook discussions on February 1. Summaries are also available on MTI's website (www.madisonteachers.org) under the Employee Handbook tab.

'We, As a Country, Need to do More to End these Senseless Shootings' Says NEA President

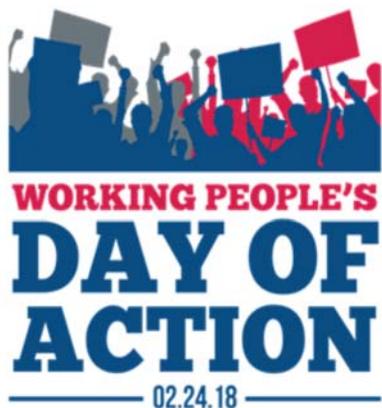
In the deadliest school shooting since Sandy Hook, 17 people were killed and another 16 injured after 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz opened fire with an AR-15 rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The shooter pulled a fire alarm but another alarm had gone off earlier in the day for a drill. The school had recently held an active shooter training.

"We could not have been more prepared for this situation," Melissa Falkowski, a teacher at the school who hid with 19 students in a closet during the rampage, told CNN's Anderson Cooper. "We did everything that we were supposed to do. Broward County Schools has prepared us for this situation and still to have so many casualties, at least for me, it's very emotional. Because I feel today like our government, our country has failed us and failed our kids and didn't keep us safe."

Those who died included students and adults, including two NEA educators. Parkland, with a population of 31,000 in 2016, was named Florida's safest city last year, according to one analysis. The south Florida city had seven reported violent crimes and 186 property crimes the previous year, the analysis said.

"Our hearts are broken yet again by the senseless and tragic shooting in our nation's public schools, this time in Parkland, Florida. We are monitoring closely the still developing and tense situation, but we have confidence in the ability of the first responders and the school staff and administrators to help students and families at this time," said NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, who will be visiting with school staff and Florida Education Association members today. "While our thoughts and prayers are with Marjory Stoneman Douglas students, educators and their families, we know that we, as country, need to do more to end these senseless shootings."

"As educators, our foremost priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our students. Our focus now is on supporting the educators, students and their families in the Broward County community today and in the future. We all have a responsibility to create safe schools and communities. As a state and a country, we can and must do more to ensure that everyone who walks through our school doors — educator, student, parent or community member — is safe and free from violence."



Saturday, February 24- 1:00 p.m., State Street and Capitol Lawn, Madison, Wisconsin

On February 24, workers around the country will be taking a stand against the continued assault on the rights of working people! AFSCME Wisconsin, MTI, and other partner organizations invite all working people to participate in this Madison event at the State Capitol. Speakers at the rally will address the power workers have to demand fair treatment, the proud history of labor, and the pending U.S. Supreme Court *Janus* decision, which is within days of the rallies. Spread the word at your work location, wear your MTI red, and join us in solidarity! For us in Wisconsin, this event also marks the 7th anniversary of the historic Act 10 uprising and provides us an opportunity to reenergize for fall elections in order to reclaim the progressive tradition of our state. MTI members will receive a detailed e-mail this week with additional details about the event.



**Be a Voter
Primary Election
Tuesday, February 20**

Tuesday, February 20, is the primary election. The Supreme Court Justice is an important race on the ballot. Every vote will matter in this typically low-turnout election. Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. See MTI's website under **Elections Spring 2018** for the MTI-endorsed candidates. **Photo ID is required for this election.**

**Arts Education - BOE Candidates
Forum February 27**

On Tuesday, February 27, at 6:30 p.m., the Arts + Literature Laboratory (2021 Winnebago St., Madison) will host an Arts Education Forum with Madison School Board candidates Anna Moffit and Gloria Reyes. Both are running for Seat 1 on the Madison Board of Education. The discussion will be moderated by Madison Poet Laureate Oscar Mireles. The public is invited to submit questions for consideration using an on-line form at <http://artlitlab.org/events/2018-arts-education-forum>. Arts + Literature Laboratory particularly seeks questions from current and former arts educators, students, and parents within the District. Join us for this important conversation on the state of the arts within the Madison Metropolitan School District. RSVP on the [Facebook event](#) link.

**ESEA-MTI General Membership
Meeting March 21; Election of Officers**

Members of MTI's Educational Support Employees Association bargaining unit (ESEA-MTI) will meet on Wednesday, March 21, commencing at 4:15 p.m., at MTI. There are many issues of importance to discuss, including nominations for positions on the ESEA-MTI Board of Directors. Members may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent to all ESEA-MTI bargaining unit members, or by contacting MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen (degene@madisonteachers.org). Nominations will close at the March 21 meeting. **Get involved in your Union!**

**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.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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, 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 March 14. 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 20, Primary Election - VOTE ***

- Tuesday, February 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, February 21, 9:00 a.m., MTI
MTI-Retired Members
- Thursday, February 22, 4:15 p.m., MTI
USO-MTI General Membership
- Monday, February 26, 6:00 p.m., Doyle Auditorium
BOE Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, February 27, 4:15 p.m., MTI
ESEA-MTI Building Representatives

March 26-30—Spring Break

**Save the Date! April 15, 2018
MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon for
Food for Thought Initiative (F4TI)**

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MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org