



# Solidarity!

821 Williamson St. \* Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4503 \* Phone (608) 257-0491 \* Fax (608) 257-1168

## Safety Committee to Meet

In response to the concerns raised by members after the latest incident of gun violence in schools, MTI reached out to MMSD Administration to reconvene the joint Safety Committee. The focus of the work for this Committee is based on the feedback from members and recommendations from other sources including the Sandy Hook Commission. These concerns address many specific physical concerns. Issues about the best practices in the event of a crisis and providing training and supports for staff are also included. Another key focus will be to develop a "Safety Team" at each work location that includes a variety of staff positions, and ensure a meaningful voice in decisions about safety plans and procedures. It is clear that staff voice is a critical component of any discussions that involve safety, behavior, and climate in our schools. MTI members will receive e-mail updates as these important discussions occur.

## 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](#).

## Member Organizer Skill Training - *Our Union Makes Us Strong!*

MTI is launching a focused membership campaign. Member Organizers are needed to make this effort a success. A Union is built with the collective strength of its members. Since Act 10, **MTI has maintained a strong membership and a powerful presence** in MMSD. To maintain this, we need to organize and connect with new hires, former members, and other staff who haven't joined us yet. We are looking for members who are able to commit time and energy to talk with potential members about joining MTI. This work will be done in a series of 4-week cycles with a focus on a small group of work locations. The first cycle starts on March 10<sup>th</sup> and runs through April 14<sup>th</sup> (yes, it's a 5-week cycle, but that includes the week of Spring Break). Here's what you will do as part of the team:

- Identify at least 2 other members from your school for your team.
- Attend a 3-hour training on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> (9:30-12:30 p.m.). Refreshments will be provided at the training.
- Have membership conversations at your school over the next 5 weeks (one week is Spring Break).
- Attend 2 check-ins or meet with Andy Waity or Kerry Motoviloff during this time period.
- Attend a wrap up/celebration on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining this work and adding your skills to forging the future of MTI, please RSVP to MTI President Waity ([awaity@madisonteachers.org](mailto:awaity@madisonteachers.org)) by Wednesday, March 7. Can't commit to being a part of the first cohort? You have two additional opportunities. Cohort 2 runs from April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup> and Cohort 3 runs from May 12<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>.



### How Do I Join MTI?

Click on the "RENEW" icon/link on the MTI webpage ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://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.

## New Professionals Night Student Loan Forgiveness Seminar March 7, 4:15 p.m., MTI

Learn about the federal loan forgiveness programs that are available to educators and public employees, find out how to start the application process, and get tips on what you need to do to ensure that your application is ready for submission. Join your colleague and fellow MTI member **Ben Senson** to hear about his loan forgiveness journey and his recommendations. "Graduates owe around \$1.4 trillion in student loans — the largest source of household debt after housing." -Forbes Jan 2018. This workshop is open to participants in years 1-3 in MMSD. Refreshments provided. RSVP to Kerry at [kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org](mailto:kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org).

## 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.

### “Staff Only” Day March 16; Structure of Day Determined by Principal and SBLT

There is no school for students on the March 16 “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 workday on March 16.** Various professional development opportunities are available to specific groups within these bargaining units, at the District or individual school level.

### 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](mailto:degene@madisonteachers.org)). Nominations will close at the March 21 meeting. ***Get involved in your Union!***

### Employee Legal Leave

The Employee Handbook, Section 10, provides that employees will be permitted to be absent for two (2) days per school year without loss of compensation for legal reasons, i.e., adoption proceedings, settlement of wills, court actions, real estate closings. The employee will be expected to notify his/her supervisor/ principal at least five (5) working days prior to such absence. The employee will be expected to be absent only as long as necessary.

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

## 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, 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**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](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)) should you have a question or need **assistance with any work-related matter**.

## Calendar of Events

- Monday, February 26, 6:00 p.m., Doyle BOE Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, February 27, 4:15 p.m., MTI ESEA-MTI Building Representatives
- Monday, March 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- Wednesday, March 7, 4:00 p.m., MTI New Professionals
- Monday, March 12, 4:00 p.m., MTI New Educators Seminar
- Tuesday, March 13, 4:30 p.m., MTI MTI Board of Directors
- Wednesday, March 14, 4:15 p.m., MTI USO-MTI Board of Directors
- Wednesday, March 14, 5:30 p.m., MTI National Board Certification Training
- Tuesday, March 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, March 21, 4:30 p.m., MTI ESEA-MTI General Membership

### March 26-30—Spring Break

**Volume 52, #25, February 26, 2018**

MTI’s web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)

MTI’s email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)