



# Summer Newsletter

July, 2018

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## Base-wage Contract Agreement Ratified June 13

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Members of MTI, ESEA-MTI, and USO-MTI met on June 13 to ratify the 2018-19 Collective Bargaining Agreements. MTI achieved a major victory in base-wage bargaining, a **2.13% cost-of-living increase**, which will provide **an additional \$2.4 million** in compensation to District employees. All MTI-represented employees will receive the **2.13%** wage increase in addition to any step increases they are scheduled to receive. Between the base-wage increase and step increases, the “average” MTI-represented employee will receive a **4%** increase in pay for 2018-19. Compared to the District’s initial **0.5%** proposal, the “average” teacher will receive approximately **\$900** more in pay next school year as a direct result of this bargain and the efforts of their Union.

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## Primary Election for Governor August 14th

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With 8 Democratic and 2 Republican candidates vying for your vote, it’s important to know where they stand and how actively they’ll advocate for **public education**. MTI sent a questionnaire to all candidates following the MTI/WEAC#6 Candidate Forum asking for their response by May if they were interested in obtaining MTI’s endorsement. Think about using these questions when making your decision. Call, email or write candidates’ campaign offices and ask them directly, because we all understand that the more often they hear constituent concerns, the more we can influence their support of **public schools**.

1) Do you support legislation that requires strong input from educators on school decision-making? Students benefit when their

educators have a strong voice in how their schools and classrooms are run. Educators need to have input into working conditions and school decision-making. After all, educators will ultimately implement the policies.

2) Do you support **community schools** legislation? MTI supports legislation to encourage “community schools” that focus on student learning, strengthening families, healthier communities, working with community partners to provide additional services to the surrounding community, and providing wrap-around services to students and families.

3) Will you work to maintain and preserve the **WRS**? The Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) is fully funded and is the envy of the nation. Along with other employees, educational employees are able to plan for retirement without worrying about changing or reducing benefits.

- 4) Do you support Enhancing **Services for Students**? All students should have access to mental and general health practitioners, counselors, psychologists, school social workers, school nurses, and other specialists. Students also should have opportunities in career, trades, and technical education.
- 5) Would you Support Helping to Pay Off **Student Loans** and Address the **Teacher Shortage**? Helping educators pay off student loans and, at the same time, address the teacher shortage in certain areas should be a major priority for the state. Borrowers should be able to refinance their loans, just like mortgages. In addition, more loan forgiveness and scholarships should be developed for teachers and education support professionals in high-needs disciplines and hard-to-staff schools.
- 6) Do you support **fully funding special education** in public schools? The state currently funds just 26 percent of special education in public schools, while special needs vouchers at private schools are fully funded, and private schools will soon be able to spend beyond what is required by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- 7) Do you support independent **charter schools**? Two “independent” charter schools are scheduled to open in the Madison Metropolitan School District in the 2018-19 school year. These schools are considered non-instrumentalities, their employees are not considered employees of the MMSD and are not covered by the WRS, MMSD employment policies, or collective bargaining agreements. Such schools receive public funds from the MMSD, but are not accountable to, or governed by, the elected members of the Board of Education.
- 8) What would you do as governor to reverse the policy of **private school vouchers, private charter schools, special needs vouchers, and school privatization**? The Wisconsin private school voucher program has expanded with more taxpayer money diverted to unaccountable private schools.

- 9) What kind of new **school funding formula** would you create? What factors should determine school funding to local school districts? How would you provide increased funding for higher education? There is an urgent need to create a more equitable school funding system.
- 10) What do you think are appropriate **class sizes** PK-12 grades and how should class sizes should be determined? Research supports that class size makes a significant difference to the education of our young people, particularly for our students with the greatest needs.
- 11) What economic policies would you advance to address this **economic disparity**? There is an increasing disparity in our state and nation between those who have too much and those who have too little.

MTI Voters decided not to endorse candidates in the primary. That suggests we all have more work to do. Consider asking candidates those questions that most closely align with your values and concerns. Others may include:

- Do you support eliminating Revenue Caps on school districts?
- Do you support keeping our immigrant students and their families safe?
- What can be done to save our rural schools and districts?

Get involved, but first, become informed. Contact the candidates and **voice** your concerns. **Volunteer** to assist with Voter Registration. Work at the **Polls** (you get paid to do this!). And, **VOTE!**

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**MTI-Retired General  
Membership Meeting  
September 26th**

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