



Solidarity!

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Standing in Solidarity With Our Immigrant, Refugee and Undocumented Students

In February 2017, the MTI Board of Directors and MTI Faculty Representative Council passed a **Safe Zone Proposal**, requesting that the District adopt specific policies to establish Madison schools as safe zones for all of our children. The MTI resolution read, in part:

"All students in the Madison Metropolitan School District should be free to learn and grow in a safe place. For many of our students, their greatest fear in the current political climate is their immigration status. Fear of detention or deportation from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents is becoming a very real concern. There is only one world that keeps getting smaller and we need to continue to develop global communities in our schools. Scapegoating, deportations, and border walls only add suspicion and fear for children and their families at a time when we should come together in support of all students."

In April 2017, the MMSD Board of Education adopted a resolution which included many of MTI's recommendations, including prohibitions on inquiring about a student's/family member's immigration status; prohibitions on school personnel communicating to federal agencies about a student's immigration status; and denial of access to schools by immigration agents except as required by law.

Recently, the Madison area experienced a dramatic increase in ICE immigration raids, which were swiftly condemned by Madison community leaders and local law enforcement agencies. Hundreds of MTI members, educators, and allies responded with visible expressions of solidarity and support for their immigrant, refugee, and undocumented brothers, sisters, and students. We will need to continue that solidarity in the months ahead as we endeavor to provide safe and healthy environments for all of our students to learn and grow.

MTI-MMSD Safety Committee Meets October 1

School safety issues have once again made the news recently with increasing gun violence in our neighborhoods. The MTI-MMSD School Safety Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, October 1 to receive an update on school safety infrastructure improvements funded by school safety grants, revisions to the Code Red lock-down procedure to reflect current best-practice, as well as the planning around bringing educator input into considerations for Behavior Education Plan revisions. All MTI members will be provided an update on these critical safety issues following the October 1 meeting.

Nominations Finalized for MTI Teacher Elections

At the September 25 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council, nominations were finalized for a number of MTI (teacher unit) leadership positions. MTI Bylaws call for nominations to be finalized at the September meeting of the Council and the election for all positions at the October meeting of the Council (these positions are elected by the Faculty Rep Council).

Nominated for three (3) at-large positions on the MTI Board of Directors were incumbents **Pete Opps** (LaFollette) and **Jessica Hotz** (East) for two of the positions. Terms are for two years. A vacancy exists due to **Michael Jones** (Black Hawk) being elected as Vice-President. **Amy Turkowski** (Franklin) has been nominated. The term is for one year.

Nominated for two (2) positions on the Cabinet on Personnel were incumbents **Holly Hansen** (Lapham) and **Cindy Ball** (Jefferson). Terms are for two years.

Nominated for three (3) positions on the MTI Finance Committee were incumbents **Bruce Bobb** (Hoyt) and **Holly Hansen** (Lapham). A vacancy exists due to the retirement of **Cindy**

Barbera (Hamilton). The term is for one year. **Melina Lorazno** (Hawthorne) has been nominated.

Nominated for six (6) positions on the MTI Political Action Committee, MTI VOTERS, were incumbents **Sandy Welander** (Schenk), **Kathryn Burns** (Shorewood) and **Liz Donnelly** (Elvehjem). Terms are for two years. Three vacancies exist due to resignations and a retirement. Two positions are for one year. **Abby Morrison** (Olson) and **Nobel Perez** (Muir/Crestwood) have been nominated. The third vacancy is for two years. **Darlinne Kambwa-Bell** (Mendota), **Christina Lopez** (Lincoln) and **Natasha Sullivan** (West) have been nominated.

In addition, two (2) vacancies exist on the MTI Handbook/Bargaining Committee due to a resignation and reassignment. One position is for a Student Services/High School representative. The term is for three years and expires in May 2021. **Jason Pasch** (La Follette) has been nominated. The other position is for an Elementary School Representative. The term expires in May 2019. **Nobel Perez** (Muir/Crestwood) has been nominated.

Being a Voter on November 6 is Critical to Public Education

Public education is front and center in our upcoming mid-term elections. We have an opportunity to make significant change by electing pro-public education candidates on **November 6**. We can start to reverse the inadequate funding and anti-public education policies that have plagued Wisconsin for the past 8 years.

THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR CHANGE.

We need to make sure *every MTI member casts a ballot* and that our friends, family, and neighbors understand that being a voter IN EVERY ELECTION is the only way to create real and lasting change in our state. Every election counts, and non-presidential elections are plagued by the problem of voter drop-off.

Volunteers are needed to help **Get Out the Vote!** Visit the MTI website at: www.madisonteachers.org/elections-fall-2018/ for all things related to the upcoming election, including volunteer opportunities, voter registration, early voting, and voter ID information.

MTI: Collectively We Get Out the Vote! Contact MTI@madisonteachers.org for any questions, to pass along volunteer opportunities, or to find out how you can help.

Health Insurance Annual Choice/ Open Enrollment October 15-November 15

Between October 15 and November 15 each year, there is a choice to switch health insurance providers - GHC and Dean Health Plan.

ANNUAL CHOICE is the period during which MTI represented employees who are already covered under a District health insurance plan **may choose, without having to prove insurability, an alternate plan between those available.** Implementation of coverage is effective **January 1, 2019.**

OPEN ENROLLMENT is available as a result of gains made during MTI's 1999 negotiations. Enrollment in health insurance is available to any employee who is benefit eligible (*an assignment of 19 hours per week or a teacher contract of at least 50%*). Those with health insurance who have **an eligible dependent, who is not now covered, may enroll that dependent during this period.** The effective date of coverage is **January 1, 2019.**

Flexible Spending Account

Now is the time to act. MMSD allows for enrollment in Flexible Spending Accounts to set aside pre-tax dollars to cover employee contributions toward co-pays, medical/dental/vision expenses, as well as dependent care expenses. One can set aside **the maximum IRS allowance of \$2,550 (per employee) for a Medical Flexible Spending Account and up to \$5,000 (per family) for a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.** Remember, however, that money set aside and not used during the plan year for such expenses is lost. **Plan now to use the balance of funds set aside for 2018, before the end of the plan year (March 15, 2019).** These can be used for unplanned expenses such as prescription glasses, hearing devices, prescription medications, or mental health therapy; and to adjust your deposit into your Flexible Spending Account for next year. More information can be found on Employee Benefits Corporation's website (www.ebcflex.com). The deadline for electing the Flexible Spending Accounts for **2019** is **November 15.**

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 will be providing opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. Check the MTI website (www.madisonteachers.org) to sign-up for seminars. Invitations will also be sent via e-mail to MTI members only.

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.

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MTI National Board Certification Training Workshops for 2018-19. MTI members pursuing National Board Certification are invited to participate in monthly NBC support workshops. The next session is October 10, at 5:30 p.m., at MTI.

MTI members in need of assistance: See your MTI Faculty Representative or contact MTI staff (608-257-0491 or mti@madisonteachers.org) should you have a question or need assistance with **any work-related matter.**

Calendar of Events

MTI/MMSD Safety Committee

October 1, 4:30 p.m., Doyle

MTI Voters Political Action Committee

October 3, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI Board of Directors

October 9, 4:30 p.m., MTI

National Board Certification Workshop

October 10, 5:30 p.m., MTI

MTI Special Education Sub-Committee

October 15, 4:15 p.m., MTI

MTI Faculty Representative Council

October 16, 4:30 p.m., MTI

ESEA-MTI Board of Directors

October 17, 4:15 p.m., MTI

MTI Voters Political Action Committee

October 24, 4:30 p.m., MTI

USO-MTI General Membership

October 25, 4:15 p.m., MTI

Recertification Election October 31-November 20

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's e-mail - MTI@madisonteachers.org