After Considering Input from MTI, District Determines Make-Up Time for Snow Days

The District has experienced a record number of school closure dates this school year due to weather, with six (6) snow/cold days so far and another month of winter remaining. The extraordinary number of days of school cancellations due to weather has resulted in a need to add instructional hours to meet DPI requirements (1,050 hours for Grades 1-6; at least 1,137 hours for Grades 7-12).

Under the terms of the MMSD Employee Handbook, the District is obligated to consult with MTI’s appointees to the Handbook Review Committee when make-up time is needed in order to consider educator input in the decision. That consultation happened last Tuesday (February 12) during our most recent snow day and while District Administration eventually accepted some of MTI’s recommendations, they rejected others and used their authority to make a final decision.

MTI’s Representatives advocated that in making up instructional minutes the District should consider student and teacher instructional needs first, and that in order to add the necessary instructional hours the District should: 1) convert the February, March, and April ALL STAFF/PD days to instructional days; 2) convert Monday PCT time at middle and high schools to student instructional time; and 3) add the remaining necessary minutes to the elementary instructional day. MTI Representatives reasoned that changing PD and PCT days to instructional time would provide far greater instructional value for students and teachers than adding a minute or two to each class.

The District considered MTI’s input and agreed to convert the February and March ALL STAFF/PD days to instructional days, but also concluded to maintain the April PD day and instead convert the June 12 ALL STAFF/PD day to an instructional day (which MTI opposed since there is little instructional value on the last day of school). The District also decided against converting Monday PCT time at middle and high schools to instructional time and instead concluded to extend the instructional day at the elementary, middle and high schools accordingly. The District will be sharing a detailed communication with the specific changes, as well as the rationale to all stakeholders (parents, staff, and students).

Snow day pay: After gaining three (3) paid days for support staff due to the cold days, MTI is also advocating that support staff be compensated for the most recent snow day and that substitute teachers and substitute clericals who were scheduled to work on all snow/cold days also be compensated.
MTI Delegates to SCFL

Nominations are being sought for members interested in serving as an MTI Delegate to the South Central Federation of Labor. The term expires in March for Michele Ritt (Leopold); and a second vacancy exists due to a resignation. Michele is seeking re-election. Terms are for two years. Nominations can be e-mailed to MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor at: keillord@madisonteachers.org, or made at the February 26 meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. The election will be held at the March 19 meeting of the Council.

Crash Course: Tax Tips for Teachers
Wednesday, March 13, 5-6:00 p.m.
WEA Member Benefits
(660 John Nolen Dr.)

As an educator, could you be missing out on important tax deductions for the 2018 tax year? 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. See the MTI webpage for a link to sign up.

Please Note:
ESEA-MTI
Building Rep
Meeting Rescheduled to March 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI (33 Nob Hill Rd.)

Calendar of Events

MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
February 18, 4:15 p.m., MTI

MTI Finance Committee
February 18, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Vote—Primary Election February 19

USO-MTI General Membership
February 21, 4:15 p.m., MTI

MTI Handbook/Bargaining Committee
February 21, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI/MMSD Handbook/SBLT/Climate
February 25, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI Member Organizers
February 25, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI Faculty Representative Council
February 26, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Our Union Makes Us Strong!
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MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI's e-mail - MTI@madisonteachers.org