



Solidarity!

33 Nob Hill Road • Madison, Wisconsin 53713-2195 • Phone: (608) 257-0491

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.



Join Our Movement

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. Click on the "JOIN" icon/link for step-by-step directions on the MTI webpage: www.madisonteachers.org.

**Be a Voter
Primary Election
Tuesday,
February 19**



MTI-Voters Committee **recommended endorsements for BOE Seats 3, 4 and 5**, along with **Wisconsin Supreme Court**, are available at the **Elections-Spring 2019** tab on MTI's website: www.madisonteachers.org. MTI-Voters Committee concluded not to endorse mayoral candidates until after the February 19 primary election. Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Photo ID is required for this election.



**Substitute Teachers:
Attend Your General
Membership Meeting
February 21,
4:15 p.m., MTI
(33 Nob Hill Rd.)**

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.)**

2019 WEAC Representative Assembly, April 27, in Oshkosh; Become an MTI Delegate

MTI is seeking teacher members to serve as MTI delegates to the WEAC Representative Assembly on April 27, 2019. Nominations will open at the Faculty Representative Council meeting on March 19. If you or a teacher member you know is interested in being nominated, please submit the name at the Council meeting or e-mail MTI President Andy Waity at awaity@madisonteachers.org. The WEAC RA is a one-day meeting in Oshkosh this year. This meeting sets the agenda for the work of the state union for the next year. This is a great way to stay informed and be involved in your state-wide union.

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 opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. Check the MTI website (www.madisonteachers.org) to sign-up for seminars.

Wednesday, March 13—Tax Tips for Teachers

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. Sign-up is available on the MTI website (www.madisonteachers.org).

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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 **March 13**, 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 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