



Solidarity!

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Resources for Our Schools: MMSD 2019-20 Budget Discussions Underway

This month will see MMSD Administration and the Board of Education continue work on developing the 2019-20 District budget. The decisions that come from those discussions will determine the financial resources available to support our schools, students, and staff. Reasonable class sizes, critical mental health supports, additional special education staffing for high needs students, alternative programming, expanded training for school staff, continued high-quality health insurance coverage, and cost-of-living pay increases for district employees are all being discussed and prioritized over the next couple of months. Board of Education elections in April will determine which three candidates will join our Board of Education and guide these decisions.

Governor Evers' recently released biennial budget proposes significant additional investments in our students and our schools. That budget will now be referred to the Joint Finance Committee for deliberation and action. These discussions will be of critical importance to our public schools and our community. Are the additional investments being discussed by the State and the MMSD sufficient for the needs of our students? What more do our students need that is not being adequately funded? MTI will provide regular District and State budget updates to all MTI members throughout this spring's budget process and encourages all members to tune in to these discussions and help us collectively identify what is missing and needed.

MTI Faculty/ESEA Building Representatives Advocating for and with Members

One of the primary reasons for joining a union is the representation and collective power that comes from being part of a larger group. We truly are stronger together. MTI Faculty/Building Reps help members advocate for what they need to be the best educators possible. This can happen at the individual level, or as part of a larger organizing effort. There are a number of ways that Reps are involved in advocating for members. Reps provide information about the rights that educators have in the MMSD Employee Handbook. They are involved in regular meetings with administrators where they engage in proactive problem-solving discussions. They also help bring issues to the attention of MTI staff and other elected leaders so that we can improve Employee Handbook policies. The work of members, Reps, and MTI leadership together has allowed us to retain a strong voice in decision-making despite the limitations imposed on public sector unions in Wisconsin. Advocacy and collaborative work take a lot of time, patience, and skill. If you think you would be interested in learning more about how you can get involved in this work, contact one of the Reps at your school or MTI President Andy Waity (awaity@madisonteachers.org).

Recommended 2019-20 MTI Budget and Approval Process

On **February 18**, the MTI Finance Committee unanimously approved recommendations for the 2019-20 MTI budget. The recommended MTI budget is designed to maintain MTI's current level of services and programs with ***no MTI dues increase***. The proposed MTI budget will be shared next with the MTI Board of Directors on March 12. Pursuant to MTI Bylaws, the MTI budget will then be presented to the **MTI Faculty Representative Council at their March 19 meeting**. The meeting will commence at 4:30 p.m., at MTI headquarters. ***All MTI members, from all bargaining units, are welcome to attend the March 19 MTI budget presentation to learn more about the proposed 2019-20 MTI***

budget and the work of their Union. Following the presentation at the March 19 Faculty Representative Council meeting, the Bylaws require that the budget next be presented for approval at a meeting of **MTI's Joint Fiscal Group (JFG)**. The JFG is comprised of representatives of all three (3) MTI bargaining units. That meeting is anticipated to take place at the April 16 Faculty Representative Council meeting. Additional information will be shared with members as the MTI budget approval process continues. Any members who have questions about the MTI budget are welcome to contact MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor at: keillord@madisonteachers.org.

Notify MTI of Financial or Employment Status Changes

We understand things are constantly changing and life can be chaotic. We want to give members a gentle nudge to please notify MTI of any changes to your employment or updates to your financial records. Oftentimes, MTI does not get these types of updates from the District. We value our members and rely on members to update us on any changes. Please keep MTI in the loop about adjustments to your contract percentage, if you have an impending resignation, or are planning to retire. Also, let us know if your credit card has been lost, stolen, has expired, **or your banking information has changed**. Feel free to contact Jen Nichols at MTI (608-257-0491) or nicholsj@madisonteachers.org. Thank you for keeping MTI in the loop.



Reminder: ESEA-MTI General Membership Meeting March 20, 4:15 p.m., at MTI; Election of Officers

Members of MTI's Educational Support Employees Association bargaining unit (ESEA-MTI) will meet on **Wednesday, March 20**, 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 (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and four At-Large positions). Members of ESEA may make nominations by contacting MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen degene@madisonteachers.org. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the March 20 meeting.

It's Your Union! Get Involved!

**MTI Cares' Bowl-A-Thon
and Silent Auction
Sunday, April 7, 2019
from 12-3 p.m., at
Village Lanes in Monona
(208 Owen Road)
Sign up on the MTI website.**



2019 WEAC Representative Assembly, April 27; Delegates Needed

MTI is seeking teacher members to serve as delegates to the WEAC Representative Assembly on April 27. 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 will be a one-day meeting in Oshkosh where the agenda will be set for the work of the state union for 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 all MTI, ESEA & USO members (*only*).

MTI & WEA Member Benefits: Financial Services for all MTI Members

MTI and WEA Member Benefits are providing opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of all MTI members. Check the MTI website (www.madisonteachers.org) to sign-up for seminars.

Wednesday, March 13—Tax Tips for 2018

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/Building 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 Board of Directors

March 12, 4:30 p.m., MTI

USO-MTI Board of Directors

March 13, 4:15 p.m., MTI

MTI Cares Committee

March 14, 4:00 p.m., MTI

MTI Special Education Sub-Committee

March 18, 4:15 p.m., MTI

MTI Member Organizers

March 18, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI Faculty Representative Council

March 19, 4:30 p.m., MTI

ESEA-MTI General Membership

March 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI

SPRING BREAK—March 25-29

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

Volume 53, #26, March 11, 2019

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

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