



MADISON TEACHERS INC.
PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
May 8, 2019

A Message from MTI President Andrew Waity

MTI Responds to Supt. Cheatham's Resignation

As president of Madison Teachers Inc., the union representing the teachers, substitute teachers, and support staff of the Madison Metropolitan School District, I want to thank Superintendent Cheatham for her service, hard work, and dedication to our public school system.

Over the past six years we have accomplished significant things together. These have included some difficult transitions as the impacts of a state and national climate hostile to public education were felt here in Madison. Her support and leadership helped us develop a collaborative Employee Handbook process that allowed employee voices to be heard in meaningful ways, after collective bargaining rights were eliminated. Together we worked to develop collaborative problem-solving teams of administrators and elected MTI staff representatives at every school, and efforts have been made to expand that to larger district-wide work. The Strategic Framework has continued the call for school-based leadership to better engage the collective power of the staff who work in our schools. Work that includes a much needed focus on racial equity and the constant effort to make every school a great place for everyone to work and learn.

As we prepare for the transition to new leadership in our district it is critical that the voice of staff is heard in meaningful ways. We need to build on the existing foundation that calls for shared leadership and collaborative decision making. This vision allows for dialog that creates opportunities to achieve the best results for all of our students, their families, and our entire community. The selection of a new superintendent is one step in furthering this vision and MTI will work to bring staff voice into the process.

MTI membership looks forward to continuing to do the work of educating the most important asset our community has, the students of MMSD. Our members are dedicated to Madison's students and the public schools that serve our community. We all wish Superintendent Cheatham and her family the best as she continues her work as an educator.

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