Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Events and Organizing Opportunities

In 2001, MTI became one of the first unions in Wisconsin to negotiate a holiday to honor the birth and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All Madison schools will be closed and all MTI-represented employees will receive a paid holiday on Monday, January 20. Madison will host multiple events to recognize, honor, and renew the struggle for racial equality and economic justice that was Dr. King’s life. MTI encourages members to participate in these community-building opportunities.

- **Friday, January 17**: 4:30-7:00 p.m.: 33rd Free Community Dinner, Gordon Commons, 770 W. Dayton Street, Madison. Dinner served buffet style from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. There is NO COST to attend. Info at King Coalition Facebook page.
- **Sunday, January 19**: 6:00-10:00 a.m.: 36th Annual Urban League Outstanding Young Person Breakfast, Edgewood High School. Middle and high school students are nominated by schools from across Dane County, based on their academic performance, community service, and extra-curricular participation. Tickets are $10 and available on line at www.ulgm.org/mlkevents.
- **Monday, January 20**: 5:00 p.m.: 35th annual Madison & Dane County King Holiday Observance, Overture Center in downtown Madison. Freedom songs in the Overture rotunda at 5:00 pm. Program begins at 6:00 pm. NO COST to attend. More info available on King Coalition Facebook page.

Board of Education seats 2, 6, and 7, currently held by Savion Castro, Kate Toews and Nicki Vander Meulen, are up for election this year. Castro (Seat 2) is running for re-election and is unopposed. Toews (Seat 6) is not seeking re-election. Maia Pearson, Karen Ball and Christina Gomez Schmidt are candidates for Seat 6. Vander Meulen (Seat 7) is running for re-election and is being challenged by Wayne Strong.

This month, MTI-Voters will distribute questionnaires to all candidates to collect their views on a variety of issues important to MTI members. Completed questionnaires for MTI members to review will be available soon on MTI’s website. On January 22, MTI-Voters Committee will conduct interviews of all BOE candidates. Following the interviews, MTI-Voters will decide which candidates to recommend for endorsement. Under MTI Bylaws, MTI-Voters Committee recommendations are then forwarded for a vote by all members of MTI who contribute to MTI-Voters, before endorsements are made.

Meet the Finalists for the MMSD Superintendent Position
January 14 – 16, 2020

Candidates for the MMSD superintendent position have been narrowed down to three candidates. Each candidate will be visiting Madison for a "Day in the District" this week. As part of their visits, they will be meeting with MTI leadership, Board of Education members, staff, community members, and students. At the end of each day, candidates will connect at public forums in the East High School theater. These sessions are expected to last one hour. Come to listen or come prepared with questions for the superintendent applicants.

Public Forums for Each Candidate’s “Day in the District”

**Tuesday, January 14**
**Dr. Marguerite Vanden WynGaard**
6:00 p.m., East High School Theater

**Wednesday, January 15**
**Dr. Matthew Gutierrez**
6:00 p.m., East High School Theater

**Thursday, January 16**
**Dr. George Eric Thomas**
6:00 p.m., East High School Theater

All MTI members are encouraged to learn more about the candidates, attend candidate forums, and work to get out the vote for these crucial positions.

Who is MTI-Voters?

MTI-Voters is the political action committee of MTI that seeks to identify those candidates most likely to advance policies supported by the members of MTI, policies that support MMSD staff and students, and advance the quality of public education in the District. MTI-Voters is a representative body of MTI members, comprised of the Presidents of each MTI bargaining unit, the MTI Treasurer, and nine (9) others elected by MTI’s Faculty Representative Council. This member-comprised committee guides MTI’s political endorsement process and advances recommended endorsements to the thousands of MTI members who contribute to MTI-Voters. In this manner, your voice joins the voice of many as we decide who to collectively support.

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## MTI Membership Opportunities

The following meetings, seminars, and workshops are available to all MTI members.

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

MTI and WEA Member Benefits will be providing more opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of all MTI members and non-members. Check the MTI website ([www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)) to sign-up for seminars.

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In addition, for members only, 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 Headquarters.

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### MTI National Board Certification Training Workshops for Teachers

MTI members pursuing National Board Certification are invited to participate in monthly NBC support workshops. The next session is **January 15, 2020**, 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.

### Future topics include:

- March 7: Understanding White Privilege and White Fragility
- May 16: Racial Equity Tools and Activism

## Calendar of Events

### MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- January 13, 4:00 p.m., MTI

### MTI Board of Directors
- January 14, 4:30 p.m., MTI

### National Board Certification Training
- January 15, 5:30 p.m., MTI

### MTI Equity & Diversity Committee
- January 16, 4:30 p.m., MTI

### MTI Membership Committee
- January 16, 4:30 p.m., MTI

### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 20—Schools Closed

### MTI Faculty Representative Council
- January 21, 4:45 p.m., MTI

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## Save the Date!

**February 3-7, 2020**

**Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action**

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## Our Union Makes Us Strong!

Volume 54, #18, January 13, 2020

MTI’s web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)

MTI’s email - MTI@madisonteachers.org