



# Solidarity!

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## Making Your Voice Heard on Public Policy: MTI-Voters Interviews on January 22

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 reelection. **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.

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.

## 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

## 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**, 7:30-10:00 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](http://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.

## Important February Deadlines

- **Salary Advancement Credit for passage over a salary barrier or for salary track advancement, effective at the beginning of the second semester, are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., February 1.**
- **Sabbatical Leave applications** for either the first semester of the 2020-21 school year or for the entire school year, are due in the MTI office by 5:00 p.m., **February 1.**
- **Teacher Retirement and Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP) enrollment applications** are due in the office of Human Resources by 5:00 p.m., **February 15.**

**Note:** Employee Handbook deadlines which occur on weekends are extended to the following Monday.

## Join MTI-CENTRS Saturdays for Racial Justice Series

MTI-CENTRS is partnering with NEA's Human and Civil Rights Department to offer a series of racial justice-focused sessions. The next session, ***Why Restorative Justice?***, is **February 22**, from 8:30-3:30 p.m., at the Urban League of Greater Madison. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Sessions are led by national trainers and are **FREE TO MEMBERS**. Professional advancement credit is available. MTI Members attending 3 or more qualify for a stipend. MTI-CENTRS is an NEA GPS-funded grant. Questions? Contact Kerry Motoviloff at: [kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org](mailto:kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org). Signup at: <http://www.madisonteachers.org/mti-centrs/>.

**Future topics include:** March 7: *Understanding White Privilege and White Fragility*; and May 16: *Racial Equity Tools and Activism*.

## Union Dues and Taxes

Union dues are not tax deductible on 2019 tax returns given tax reforms enacted by Congress in 2017. Per the IRS: "***The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act suspends all miscellaneous itemized deductions that are subject to the 2 percent of adjusted gross income floor. This change affects un-reimbursed employee expenses such as uniforms, union dues and the deduction for business-related meals, entertainment and travel.***"

## Wear Your MTI Red

Wear your MTI red at school and in the community to make a positive statement about public education and educators. Show **SOLIDARITY!** Wear **MTI RED** on **MONDAYS** and **MTI lanyards** every day!

**Save the Date!**  
**February 3-7, 2020**  
**Black Lives Matter at School**  
**Week of Action**

## 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](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)) should you have a question or need assistance with **any work-related matter**.

## 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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**Our Union Makes Us Strong!**

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MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)  
MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)