



Solidarity!

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

Getting Closer to Filling the MMSD Superintendent Position

Candidates for the MMSD Superintendent position have been narrowed down to three and each candidate visited Madison for a "Day in the District" the week of January 13. As this newsletter went to print, the Board of Education has yet to announce their selection.

During the search process, MTI leadership worked to amplify the Union's voice in this process. We met with each candidate during their "Day in the District"; attended all candidate forums; conducted reference checks with employee representatives in the candidates' previous school districts; shared desired qualities in a Superintendent based on member feedback; secured agreement from the BOE to include MTI's question on employee relations and collaboration with the Union as part of candidate interviews; and provided regular feedback to all BOE members during the week of the visits.

While MTI leadership has invested significant time in this process, the members of the BOE have invested many more hours and have access to much more information on the respective candidates. Now we await their conclusions and hope that the MMSD will get the leadership our schools and staff need and deserve.

MTI-Voters Interviews Candidates for BOE and Supreme Court and Recommends Endorsements

On January 22, MTI Voters (MTI's political action committee) interviewed candidates for upcoming MMSD Board of Education and Wisconsin Supreme Court elections. Following the interviews, the MTI-Voters Committee concluded to **recommend endorsements for BOE Seats 6 and 7**, along with **Wisconsin Supreme Court**.

All members of MTI-Voters were sent an e-mail ballot last week asking for their vote on the endorsement recommendations by Wednesday (January 29). *Endorsement decisions are not finalized until the balloting process is concluded.*

Members are encouraged to review the completed candidate questionnaires and candidate websites available at the **Elections-Spring 2020** tab on MTI's website (www.madisonteachers.org), and complete the endorsement ballot that was sent to you.

Are You Ready for this Year's Black Lives Matter At School Week of Action?

This year's Week of Action will occur February 3-7. MTI joins educators across the country in the **National Black Lives Matter at School** Week of Action. Black Lives Matter at School Week is part of the ongoing racial and social justice work of MTI, as outlined in our mission statement: "**Public schools have a moral responsibility to provide quality education, broad and equitable in nature, to all students with no exceptions, exclusions or disparities.**"

Click on the **Black Lives Matter at School** tab on MTI's webpage (www.madisonteachers.org) to find MTI-recommended resources, sign the PLEDGE to act and share your action, and sign up for MTI CENTRS' Solidarity for Racial Justice Saturday series. Our hope is that this collective Week of Action is bringing critical reflection, honest conversations, and systemic change to the issues that impact racial justice in education. Questions? Contact kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org.

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 on the MTI webpage: (www.madisonteachers.org) for step-by-step directions.





**ESEA-MTI
Building Rep
Meeting
February 19, 4:15 p.m.,
MTI (33 Nob Hill Rd.)**

**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.
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*.



Winter Wellness Tips



Seasonal Blues—here's a tip to stay happy, healthy, and energized: **Go Tech-Free**—Constant cell phone buzzes, notifications, and e-mail alerts keep us in a perpetual fight-or-flight mode due to bursts of adrenaline. Not only is this exhausting, but, it contributes to mounting stress levels. Enjoy spending time with your family and friends by staying present in the moment.
(References from www.Health.com).



**Substitute Teachers:
Attend Your General
Membership Meeting
February 20,
4:15 p.m., MTI
(33 Nob Hill Rd.)**

MTI Cares' Bowl-A-Thon

Sunday, April 19, 2020
from 12-3 p.m., at
Village Lanes in Monona
(208 Owen Road)
Sign up on the MTI website.



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) 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 **February 12**, 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 Cabinet on Personnel

January 29, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Black Lives Matters at School Week of Action

February 3-7, 2020

MTI Communications Committee

February 4, 4:30 p.m., MTI

MTI Voters Political Action Committee

February 5, 4:45 p.m., MTI

MTI Special Education Sub-Committee

February 10, 4:00 p.m., MTI

MTI Board of Directors

February 11, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Handbook ESEA Work Group

February 12, 4:00 p.m., MTI

Handbook Planning Time/Scheduling

February 13, 4:30 p.m., MTI

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

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MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org

MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org