

mtea advocate



Educators standing strong for our students, our profession, and public schools

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All MTEA units recertify

MPS educators voted overwhelmingly in November to continue being represented by the MTEA in collective bargaining with MPS.

All four MTEA units (the teacher unit, educational assistants, substitute teachers, and bookkeepers) recertified by far exceeding the threshold of 51% of all eligible voters voting yes.

In every group of MPS educators, 98% or more of those who voted cast a YES vote.

Thank you to our MTEA building leaders for your hard work getting out the vote, and to all who voted in this election.

Little free library

A little free library is now installed outside the MTEA office! Please feel free to take a book and/or donate a book. There is room in the library for both children's and grown-up books.

Thanks to the Deer Trails Girl Scout Troop for constructing and donating three of these beautiful little free libraries. The other two are located at Hawthorne Elementary and Vieau School.



Professional development this winter at MTEA

This January, the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education will offer several workshops for MTEA members. Most are free to members. They are held at the MTEA office, 5130 W. Vliet St.

Educator Effectiveness

Teachers who are evaluated using the Danielson framework can attend a workshop to learn how to strategically select smart evidence and prepare for mid-term reporting in Teachscape. Two sessions will be offered, as we anticipate high demand: Wed. Jan. 21 and Tue. Jan. 27 at 4:30pm at MTEA.

Credits for license renewal

The Center will also offer a 3-credit book study course for members. This is a low-cost way to earn graduate credits that can be used for license renewal. The mandatory first meeting for book study participants is Thursday, January 8. Interested participants should register at mtea.org



org and send suggested book titles by Dec. 19 to baasj@mtea.weac.org.

Social justice curriculum

A *Rethinking Mathematics* workshop will be taught by MTEA President Bob Peterson and Chicago educator Rico Gutstein on Sat. Feb. 7 from 9:30am-12:30pm. Linda Christensen will teach a workshop on Writing for Justice – Writing for Change on Tue. Feb. 3 at 4:30pm. Register at mtea.org.

MTEA leader elections this April

Elections for MTEA officers and Executive Board will be held this April. The four MTEA officer positions will be open for two-year terms:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The following Executive Board positions will be open for six-year terms:

- Intermediate (4th-6th grade in elementary schools)
- Middle (middle schools and

7th-8th grade in K-8 schools)

- Senior High
- Kindergarten/Primary (K-3rd)

The above positions are open to regular education members; there is no special education position open this cycle.

Active teacher unit members who wish to run for office should submit a statement indicating the desired position by January 25, 2015 to the MTEA Nominating Committee. Send to lehstenk@mtea.weac.org, or mail to the MTEA office.

The fight continues for educational assistants

The MTEA continues to build pressure on the school board to provide base-building wage increases to educational assistants.

In November, five school board members spent time with paraprofessionals and safety assistants “walking a day in their shoes.”

Over 100 educational assistants and supporters came out to a school board meeting on November 18 and again on November 20. Educational assistants have called and texted board members asking for a base-building raise.

The pressure will continue until the board does the right thing. We will hold meetings with small groups of educational assistants and select school board members. We have asked the board to hold a public



hearing in January to address low-wage workers and living wages in MPS.

Many educational assistant members took one much-deserved evening away from the campaign to attend the MTEA's celebration for Education Support Professional (ESP) day on November 20.

The event, held at Potawatomi Hotel and Casino, drew over 100 participants for a celebration of ESP work. A good time was had by all!

Free glasses and books for our students

Wisconsin Vision teamed up again this year with MTEA, MPS, and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin to provide free vision screenings for hundreds of students at Brown Street Academy and Auer Avenue School, and free glasses for students who needed them.

Students who did not pass vision screenings received exams from Wisconsin Vision's optometrists, chose frames, and received their new glasses in early December.

MTEA also worked with First Book and WEAC to provide free books for each student at Auer Avenue and Brown Street Academy to take home.

Thanks to MTEA leaders Liz Kremer (Brown Street Academy) and Ingrid Walker-Henry (Auer Avenue) for help coordinating and hosting! If you are interested in setting up vision screenings at your K-8 school, contact Kelley Dawson Salas at salaskd@mtea.weac.org.



Holiday office hours

The MTEA office will be open from 8am-4pm on Dec. 22, 23, 29, 30 and Jan. 2.

The MTEA office will be closed on Dec. 24, 25, 26, 31, and Jan. 1.

We wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season!

Update contact info

If you have changed your name, email address, or home address, or if you are retiring, going on leave, or resigning, please contact Linda Scherlie at the MTEA office, 256-6760, or email lscherli@mtea.weac.org, so we can update our records.

Upcoming events

Educator Effectiveness: Mid-term Reporting. Two sessions: Wed. Jan. 21 at 4:30pm and Tue. Jan. 27 at 4:30pm. Get more info and register at mtea.org.

MTEA winter book study – mandatory organizational meeting, Thu. Jan. 8 at 4:30pm. Register at mtea.org.

“Get on Track to Financial Security” seminar, provided by WEA Member Benefits. Two sessions: Wed. Jan. 14 at 5:30pm, and Wed. Feb. 4 at 5:30pm. Learn the basics of investing and retirement planning. Best suited for those considering retirement in the next 5 years.

Writing for Justice – Writing for Change, workshop with Linda Christensen, Tue. Feb. 3 at 4:30pm. Get more info and register at mtea.org.

Rethinking Mathematics workshop with Bob Peterson and Rico Gutstein, Sat. Feb. 7 from 9:30am-12:30pm. For more information and to register, visit mtea.org.

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