

mtea advocate



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

Volume 2014-15: Issue #8, March 2015

VOTE Tuesday, April 7

MTEA has endorsed four candidates for MPS School Board, and WEAC has endorsed Ann Walsh Bradley for State Supreme Court.

For MPS School Board, MTEA endorses Wendell Harris in the 2nd district against Jeff Spence. A Harris victory will create a progressive majority on the school board. MTEA volunteers are critical to winning this race! Volunteers are needed every Saturday and some weeknights to canvass and phone bank for Harris. Sign up at mtea.weac.org.

Three additional candidates endorsed by MTEA are running unopposed:

Carol Voss (8th district, Bay View)
Mark Sain (1st district, North side)
Terry Falk (At large, citywide)

MTEA members' votes are critical in these races. April 7 falls during spring break, so please vote early if you can! Early voting at City Hall: weekdays from 8:30am to 4:45pm, Mar. 23 through Apr. 3.

MTEA Leader Elections

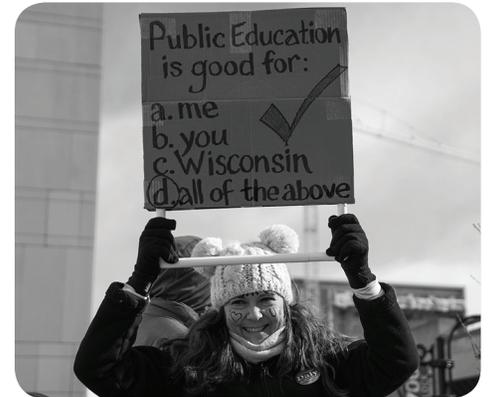
This April, MTEA will hold elections for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and executive board.

Our election will be conducted by electronic and phone balloting for the first time in our union's history! This voting process saves money and ensures every member has a chance to vote.

Watch your email for information on how to vote. The election will be conducted between April 15-23.

March 18 and 20: support public education!

All students deserve a high quality public education. But Governor Walker has proposed a \$127 million cut to public schools statewide, including \$12 million to MPS alone. Voucher and private charter schools are expanding statewide, and legislators want to hand over dozens of MPS schools to private companies. Class time spent on testing has nearly tripled since 2001, and test scores are used to punish and take over schools.



Join us on Wednesday, March 18 at 6pm for a Rally and Call to Action to Support Public Education, at MATC Cooley Auditorium, 700 W. State.

Featured speaker Diane Ravitch will show how testing robs children of learning opportunities, and is used to punish and take over schools. Tickets \$5; free to groups of 10 or more. Register for tickets at mtea.weac.org.

Please attend a rally and action of parents, students and educators at the state budget hearing Friday, March 20 at 4:30pm at Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd Street. Public education advocates are also needed to testify at the hearing that day, which will run from approximately 10am-5pm. RSVP for the rally and hearing at mtea.weac.org. Please share this information with parents and students!

What do the budget cuts mean for my school?

Governor Walker's budget includes a \$127 million budget cut to public schools statewide. This will mean at least \$12 million less for MPS next year. We don't know exactly what the cuts will look like, but they will be dramatic.

Small- and medium-sized schools may be forced to cut a full-time or half-time teaching position. Larger schools may cut multiple positions.

Each school may respond differently to the proposed cuts. Some may cut specialists who have recently been brought back. (MPS brought back

142 art, music and phy ed teachers from 2012 to 2015.) Others may increase class sizes, providing less individual attention for students.

The district may choose to handle the cuts in a variety of ways. In the past the district has been forced to cut the SAGE class size reduction program at some schools, and to reduce the number of paraprofessionals working with children in classrooms.

Concerned parents and educators can get involved. See article above for details.

School-based interviews and excessing

Excessing deadline is March 13

Principals must notify employees no later than Friday, March 13, that they are identified for excessing (involuntary transfer) at the end of the school year. Principals must ask for qualified volunteers before excessing by seniority. Members volunteering to be excessed should inform principals in writing or via email.

The teacher with the least system-wide seniority is excessed unless a more senior teacher volunteers or a departmental/certification need warrants an exception. MTEA members who believe they have been excessed incorrectly should contact their Building Representative.

School-based interviews

This year's school-based interview process is similar to last year, although the district has opened the first interview cycle to external candidates, despite MTEA's objections.

We encourage members to contact school board representatives to protest this change, and urge the district to maintain a first interview cycle that is open only to internal candidates.

The interview cycles this spring are:

Cycle A (teacher unit)

March 30–April 2: Vacancies posted and applications accepted

April 13–18: Interviews

April 20–22: MPS notifies chosen candidates via MPS email

Cycle B (teacher unit)

April 27–May 1: Vacancies posted and applications accepted

May 2–9: Interviews

May 11–13: MPS notifies chosen candidates via MPS email

Cycle C (Classified staff, including paras, safeties, interpreters, parent coordinators, general assistants)

April 27–May 1: Vacancies posted and applications accepted

May 2–13: Interviews

May 14–18: MPS notifies chosen candidates via MPS email

Staff who are unassigned at the end of the interview process will receive an email from MPS with instructions for registering their assignment preferences, and will be assigned by June 12.

Spring break hours

The MTEA office will be closed on Friday, April 3. The MTEA office will be open from 8am–4pm on April 6–10. Have a safe and restful break!

Upcoming events

All events held at MTEA unless otherwise noted. Register at mtea.weac.org.

Short term disability insurance open enrollment runs March 1- April 3. Information sessions at 5pm daily on March 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 30, and 31. Register at mtea.weac.org.

Momentum organizing training, Tue. Mar. 17 at 4:30pm.

Rally to Support Public Education featuring Diane Ravitch, Wed. Mar. 18 at 6pm at MATC Cooley Auditorium, 700 W. State St. See story on front.

Meet and greet for new educators, Thu. Mar. 19 from 4:30-6:30pm at Bounce Milwaukee, 2801 S. 5th Ct.

Hearing and rally on the state budget, Friday March 20 at Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd St.. Hearing all day, rally/action at 4:30pm. See story on front.

Substitute Teacher Annual Meeting, Tue. Mar. 24 at 4:30pm. Includes a light dinner. Open to substitute teacher members and any substitute teacher considering membership.

Resume writing workshop, Tue. Mar. 24 at 4:30pm at MTEA.

National Board support session, Thu. Mar. 26 at 4:30pm at MTEA.

Strategies for building power at your school, Thu. Mar. 26 at 4:30 at MTEA.

MPS spring break, Fri. Apr. 3 through Fri. Apr. 10. See office hours, above.

Save the date! MTEA Tailgate Party at Miller Park, May 29 at 4pm.

Improving Infinite Campus and Grading

MTEA members have raised a number of concerns this year related to Infinite Campus and Standards-Based Grading. The MTEA Teaching and Learning Department is hosting nine problem-solving sessions this spring. The purpose of the sessions is for district administrators to hear directly from classroom teachers and improve the implementation of Infinite Campus and Standards-Based Grading.

About 50 MTEA member leaders are meeting in small groups with district administrators to share feedback on

Infinite Campus and Standards-Based Grading, and to offer solutions and suggestions for improvement. At each session, district administrators from a particular gradeband or subject area listen to concerns and proposed solutions from MTEA members who teach that subject/grade. Administrators are then also provided with a written record of the ideas discussed in the session.

If you are interested in taking leadership in this initiative, contact Amy Mizialko at amizialko@wi.rr.com.

mtea

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