



## Vote for our Students and our Profession! Vote Chris Larson for County Executive!



We have a chance to block the MPS Takeover by electing Chris Larson County Executive on April 5. As a State Senator, Chris Larson has been a friend of public education and a champion for community schools. He stood up to education budget cuts, fought Act 10, and has introduced state legislation to repeal the MPS Takeover.

Senator Larson needs our help taking

on Chris Abele, the wealthy incumbent who refused to decline a role in the takeover, and gave money to the Republican authors of the takeover bill. Senator Larson has vowed to work with the Milwaukee community to not only stop the MPS Takeover, but to use the power of the county executive office to help improve Milwaukee Public Schools.

During the primary, Senator Larson was outspent 20 to 1—yet he defeated Chris Abele by 700 votes. This victory was due to the great effort put in by MTEA members and many of our allies in the community. However, the fight is not over. Chris Abele is expected to pour millions more into this campaign. We need all of our members' help to elect Chris Larson.

### Early Voting Event Monday, March 21

Join other MTEA members for our Early Voting event on **March 21 at Red Arrow Park at 4:30pm**. We will meet for a short rally before we head to City Hall to vote. Early voting this election is March 21 - April 1 (including Good Friday), Mondays - Fridays, 8:30am-7:00pm (no weekends) at the Ziedler Municipal Building, 841 N. Broadway, Room 102.

### Deducting union dues on your income taxes

If you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return, you can deduct your union dues, minus the portion of your dues that go to the Political Action Committee, along with your other "miscellaneous deductions." Members who worked the full calendar year in 2015 may deduct:

Teachers: \$963

Educational assistants: \$284.80

Substitutes: \$240

Bookkeepers: \$480

If you worked less than a full year or have questions about what you can deduct, call Linda at 256-6760.

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## The Power of 5

Every vote is going to count in this election. If every member can get 5 people to vote for Chris Larson, that could secure over 20,000 votes!

Please talk to at least 5 friends, family members, and neighbors to get them to vote on April 5 for Chris Larson. Talking to likely voters is the only way we will win. To volunteer to phone bank or go door-to-door for one or two hours, please visit, [mtea.weac.org/events](http://mtea.weac.org/events)

Together, we have a chance to win—let's not let it slip by.

The MTEA has also endorsed the following candidates:

**Sequanna Taylor** – County Supervisor District 2

**Marcelia Nicholson** – County Supervisor District 5

**Michael Glabere** – County Supervisor District 5

**Tony Zielinski** – City Aldermanic District 14

**Martha De La Rosa** – County Supervisor District 18

All of these candidates are willing to fight for our students, our communities, and our profession. To find which candidates are in your area, visit [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

WEAC and the MTEA have also endorsed **Joanne Kloppenburg for State Supreme Court Justice**. A victory over Walker appointee Justice Bradley would get our court closer to the majority we need for the people of Wisconsin.

## Excessing and School Based Interview Process

### The period for excessing and school based interviewing is beginning.

Principals must ask for qualified volunteers before excessing by seniority. Members volunteering to be excessed should inform principals in writing or via email. Principals must notify employees no later than Fri., March 18 that they are identified for excessing (involuntary transfer) at the end of the school year. 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.

### 2016-17 School Year Staff Exchange Process

Please refer to the MTEA website for the district's staffing timeline for complete information. Here is an outline of important dates:

- April 6-22: Interview Cycle A (Certificated Staff)
- April 26-May 16: Interview Cycle B (Certificated Staff)
- April 26-May 20 Interview Cycle C (Classified Staff)
- May 25-June 10: HR places candidates who still need a position for 2016-17

\* HR: Human Resources (known in MPS as "Talent Management").

## When will I see my raise?

Teachers can expect to see their step increase and raises on the March 11 paycheck. Back pay will be on the March 25th paycheck. Substitute teachers pay increase should be on the April 8 paycheck with the back pay coming on the April 22 paycheck.

## Spring Break Hours

The MTEA office will be closed on Friday, March 25. The MTEA office will be open from 8am-4pm on Monday, March 28-April 1. Regular hours resume on April 4. Have a safe and restful break!

## Upcoming events

All events held at MTEA unless noted. For more info and to register, visit [mtea.weac.org/events](http://mtea.weac.org/events).

**Using Google in the Classroom**, Mon., March 14 from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

**PDF Drop-in Support**, Tues., March 15 from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

**Preparing for Retirement**, Tues., March 15 from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

**What to do if you're assaulted**, Wed., March 16 from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

**Early Childhood Cohort**, Sat., March 19

**Substitute Teachers' Annual Workshop**, Tues., March 22 from 4:30pm-5:30pm.

**MPS Spring Break**, Fri., March 25 through Sun., May 1.

**Election Day**, Tues., April 5.

**Save the date! Annual MTEA Brewers Tailgate Friday**, May 13

## Retiring or resigning?

If you are retiring or resigning this spring, please contact Linda Scherlie at the MTEA office, 256-6760, or email [lscherli@mtea.weac.org](mailto:lscherli@mtea.weac.org). We want to help you stop your dues and sign up as a retiree member!

## Open enrollment for short-term disability insurance starts March 1

MTEA members who want to enroll or make changes in short-term disability insurance can do so during the open enrollment window from March 1 through April 3, 2016. Short-term disability helps cover expenses major medical insurance doesn't—and pays cash benefits directly to you when you are hurt or sick due to injury, illness, or maternity leave. For more information, visit: [weabenefits.com/mtea](http://weabenefits.com/mtea).

The MTEA Group Disability program is offered exclusively to MTEA members.

**Informational meetings on the Disability Insurance are being held at the MTEA office at 5pm on any of the following dates:**

- Tuesday, March 29
- Wednesday, March 30
- Thursday, March 31
- Wednesday, April 6

## Our Thanks to Kelley Dawson Salas!

Kelley Dawson Salas, MTEA Communications Director, has resigned and is moving on to the next phase in her life. Kelley has been a major advocate for MTEA members and public education and has worked tirelessly to lift up the voices of our members and allies during her 4 years with MTEA. While we will definitely

miss her both professionally and personally, we wish her the very best.

**Thank you, Kelley, for all your hard work!**

The MTEA Communications Director job will be posted from March 1st through March 18th. Members can find the posting on the MTEA web site.

**mtea**

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