



MPS takeover plan

Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and Representative Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) are creating a plan to take over dozens of Milwaukee Public Schools.

Their plan would give Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele the power to appoint a commissioner who would identify public schools to be taken over by privately run charter or voucher schools. Up to three schools would be identified and taken over in the 2016-17 school year, with an additional five schools each year thereafter.

Darling and Kooyenga are expected to make a formal proposal soon.

MTEA and our community allies oppose this plan and will fight to keep public schools public and maintain local control of our schools.

Turning a public school into a private one does not guarantee better results, and often times privatized schools do not meet the needs of all students, especially English Language Learners and students with special needs.

This proposal, if passed, would affect all schools in MPS, regardless of whether they are a candidate for takeover. The funding for the takeover schools would come from the MPS budget, and take funding and opportunities away from all children in MPS.

Get involved! Watch for details from your building leader and through MTEA email and social media.

MPS budget must attract and retain qualified staff; Support raises, step increases at May 14 hearing

Hundreds of MTEA members and supporters attended this year's first school board budget hearing on May 5. Many members and parents testified about the need for a budget that will attract and retain highly qualified educators in our district.

The proposed budget authorizes the district to negotiate a 1.62% raise for all MPS employees (the max allowed under Act 10 and the current rate of inflation). MTEA and MEAA support this proposal. We are also asking the board to convert the 1.46% bonus that educational assistants received last year to a base building wage increase, and to reinstate step increases for EAs in their first five years with MPS.

The proposed budget does NOT fund the \$1,500 step increase for most members of the teacher unit that the MPS administration and school board agreed to last spring. Teacher unit members need to come out in large numbers on May 14 to let the board know that MPS should honor the step increases agreed to last year. Without a clear path for career advancement, educators will seek higher earnings and advancement opportunities elsewhere, destabilizing our students' learning environment. We are also asking that social workers, nurses and physical therapists be placed on a salary schedule.

MTEA members will also testify in support of funding for community schools, librarians, the traveling music teacher program, and other key issues. Join us!

The final board meeting on the budget will be May 28. Please save the date.



MTEA members at the May 5 budget hearing

Do you need a different job placement for 2015-16?

The school-based interview process recently concluded. If you interviewed but did not receive a position, you should receive an email May 26 asking you to indicate your school preferences.

If you did not interview, but wish to transfer to a different school, send an email to Julie Landry, landryja@milwaukee.k12.wi.us. Copy your MTEA regional staff on the request.

According to the MPS Handbook:

"Eligible employees, after having been in their current assignment for one year, who desire a change in their assignment, may request a transfer...Employees may voluntarily transfer once every two years and not more than twice in seven years...All vacancies for transfer are posted on Employee Self Service."

New MTEA leaders take office June 3

New MTEA officers and executive board representatives were elected by the membership last month, in the first online election in our union's history.

Kim Schroeder, currently MTEA vice president, was elected president. Amy Mizialko, currently serving as MTEA Teaching and Learning Director, was elected vice president.

Outgoing president Bob Peterson completes his second term in office this June, the maximum allowed by the MTEA constitution.

The newly elected leaders are:

Officers

President: Kim Schroeder

Vice president: Amy Mizialko

Secretary: Ingrid Walker-Henry

Treasurer: Dorothy Hancock

Executive board representatives (only those representatives who were elected this term are listed)

Primary: Monica Lopez

Intermediate: Wanda Welch

Middle school: Cathy Jester

High school: Andrea Loss

These leaders will take office on June 3, 2015 at the end of the Representative Assembly.

Congratulations, and thank you to all members who ran for elected leader positions.

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. We want to help you stop your dues, sign up as a retiree member, and invite you to the retiree celebration on June 2!

Upcoming events

All events held at MTEA unless otherwise noted. For more information and to register, visit mtea.weac.org and go to *events*. For a list of professional development courses this summer, see article at bottom left.

School board budget hearing, Thu. May 14. Meet at MTEA at 5:30pm for dinner, signs and testimony prep; hearing at 6:30pm.

Rethinking Mathematics workshop, Sat. May 16, 9:30am-12:30pm.

Educator Effectiveness: Preparing for your summative evaluation. Wed. May 20 or Mon. Jun. 1, from 4:30-6pm each day.

Understanding WRS: Your State Pension Plan. Wed. May 27 at 5pm.

MTEA Executive Board meeting, Wed. May 27 at 4:30pm.

MEAA Council meeting, Thu. May 28 at 4:30pm.

MSTA Council meeting, Thu. May 28 at 4:30pm.

MTEA tailgate & Brewer game at Miller Park, May 29 at 4pm.

Retiree Celebration, Tue. Jun. 2 from 5-7pm at Washington Park Senior Center. Members retiring this year will receive an invite via mail. If you have not yet notified MTEA that you are retiring this year, please call 259-1990 and let us know.

MTEA Representative Assembly Meeting, Wed. Jun. 3, 4:30pm at Washington Park Senior Center.

Register for summer PD

MTEA members can take free professional development courses this summer (and all year long!) at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education. The Center is located in the MTEA office at 5130 W. Vliet St.

For course descriptions and to register, visit mtea.weac.org and go to the events area of the website.

Courses for this summer are still being added, and a complete brochure will be available in early June.

Courses include a book study for three graduate credits, support for Educator Effectiveness, National Board certification, PDP assistance, resume writing, culturally responsive teaching, document based questions, community schools, responding to challenging behaviors, strategies for loan forgiveness, trauma informed care, mental health strategies for educators, food justice, and many other topics.

Help for student loans

The NEA has a campaign called "Degrees Not Debt" to help educators take advantage of federal loan forgiveness programs. These are federal programs that support people in public service jobs like teaching.

The programs forgive the balance of a borrower's federal student loans – after the person has made 120 on-time, full, scheduled monthly payments toward a federal Direct Loan while working full-time in public service. The payments must be made using a qualified repayment plan, and thanks to recent action by President Obama, your eligibility for loan forgiveness through these programs no longer depends on when you borrowed the money.

If you think you may qualify, visit nea.org/loanforgiveness for more information and to download forms. MTEA members who need support with this process can contact NEA organizer Lori Gall at 259-1990.

mtea

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