

mtea advocate

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



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MPS Administration and School Board's Budget Shows How Little They Value Educators

Sisters and Brothers,

In May, progressive MPS School Board Directors proposed a modest budget amendment proposal that would have raised MPS's lowest wage workers to \$15/hour by 2022 and included raises for all MPS employees making less than \$80,000 a year. The proposal recognized the hard work educators do every day, directly affecting our students. The original budget put forward by MPS administration included no raise or step increases (not even the cost of living), instead saying there needed to be a "pause" on any salary increases.

We thank Larry Miller for introducing the proposal and Tony Baez, Terry Falk, and Annie Woodward for their support for our districts' lowest paid workers and front-line educators. All four fought hard in the attempt to pass this modest budget amendment.

We know that the MPS budget is stretched thin, but we also know that investing in the front-line of care for our students strengthens our schools. Directors Michael Bonds, Wendell Harris, Paula Phillips, Mark Sain, and Carol Voss voted not to support the amendment and instead revisit the budget during a work session in October. October is too late!

School Board Director Wendell Harris has continued to let us down. Although he said he supported raises for MPS employees, he once again flip-flopped on his position, stabbing MPS educators and students in the back. He ran for office as a champion of public schools and our students. His actions show he is anything but.

Investing in the frontline of our classrooms should be a priority. Together MTEA's members will join with our colleagues across MPS to continue to push for steps and raises throughout the summer and fall.

Please reach out now to the school board directors who voted against the amendment. (Bonds, Harris, Phillips, Sain, and Voss). Let them know that you are outraged at their unwillingness to prioritize attracting and retaining great educators for our students. They need to put forward a bold budget initiative that invests in the district's most valuable resource—educators. And they need to do it now.

We need a budget that funds the frontline of our classrooms – not one that puts our educators as an afterthought.

In solidarity,

Kim Schroeder
MTEA President



MTEA members Gwendolyn Anderson, Crystal Ealy, and Michael Glabere attended a recent school board public hearing on the MPS budget (Photo credit: Joe Brusky).

Milwaukee Board of School Directors

Mark Sain
Board President
District #1
414-614-1774

Michael Bonds
District #3
414-520-3890

Carol Voss
District #8
414-852-5817

Wendell J. Harris, Sr
District #2
414-587-1329

Paula Phillips
District #7
414-475-8284

Register now for Summer PD at the Center

The Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education, located in the MTEA office, offers support and resources for MTEA members.

Courses include:

- **Three Credit Online Courses Orientation** Wed., June 14 from 4:30-5:30pm. Cost is \$355-385 per course.
- **Three Credit Book Study** Thurs., June 15 from noon-1pm. Cost for three credits is \$355.
- **Drop-In PDP Support** Tues., June 20 and Wed., July 26 from 10am-noon.
- **Supporting Our Undocumented Students** Thurs., June 22 from 10am-noon.
- **Supporting and Understanding Our Muslim Students** Mon., July 17 from 10am-11:30am.
- **Educator Effectiveness: PPG and SLO Support** Mon., July 17 from 1-3pm.
- ***NEW Teaching with Love and Logic** Thurs., July 20 from 1-3pm.
- **Degrees Not Debt!** Wed., June 21 and Wed., July 26 from 1:30-2:30pm.
- ***NEW Shared Leadership in Your School** Thurs., July 27 from 10:30am-noon

For complete course descriptions or to register, visit: mtea.org/events.

Summer Financial Consultations & Seminars with WEA Member Benefits

Marty Richards and N'Kenza Whitlow from WEA Member Benefits will be on-site at the MTEA office this summer for several days of free financial consultations by appointment.

Whether you're just getting started on your financial journey, have specific questions, or would like a quick check-in, Marty or N'Kenza can help answer questions and offer guidance.

To sign up for a consultation, visit: weabenefits.com/mtea or sign up for a session below:

Preparing for Retirement

Wednesday, June 21*

Tuesday, July 11

Tuesday, July 25*

Wednesday, August 2

Tuesday, August 8

Basics of Budgeting and Saving

Wednesday, July 12

Long-term Care Insurance Options Seminar

June 21*

July 11

July 25*

August 2

August 8

* sessions will be held upstairs to accommodate guests with mobility restrictions

Our thanks to John Peacock for his service to the MTEA !

John Peacock, MTEA Teaching and Learning Director, has accepted a position as math teacher at MacDowell Montessori.

John has been a strong advocate of union values and public education and has worked tirelessly on teaching and learning issues for our members.



While we will truly miss working with him, we know that MPS students will benefit from his passion, dedication, and expertise.

We wish him the best as he transitions into his new role and thank him for his valuable contributions to the MTEA.

Welcome Summer Organizers!

Twelve summer organizers have been hired through the National Education Association (NEA) to recruit new MTEA members and develop leaders and member activists at schools. Be on the lookout for summer organizers in buildings during summer school.

Have you moved, switched positions, retired, or resigned?

If you have changes please email Linda Scherlie at lscherli@mtea.weac.org. MPS does not notify MTEA of these changes and we want to help you convert your dues if needed.

Summer hours

The MTEA office is open from 8am-4pm Mon. through Fri. during the summer. Summer hours start on June 19. School year office hours resume on August 7.

The MTEA office will be closed for cleaning from Monday, July 3 through Friday, July 7.

Upcoming events

All events are held at MTEA unless otherwise noted. For more information and to register, visit mtea.weac.org and go to *events*.

Professional development at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education, located in the MTEA office. For a listing of courses this summer, see the front page article.

Food Justice Task Force Tues, June 20 at 3:30pm.

NEA RA, Fri., June 30 - Wed., July 5 in Boston.

New Educator and Substitute Teacher Back-to-School BBQ Fri., August 25 from 4-7pm. Open to MTEA members and any new educators considering membership.

MPS Run Back to School Sat., August 26 at 9am. Race begins at Wick Playfield across from the MTEA.

Dues withdrawals

Friday, June 16 is the last dues deduction of the 2016-17 school year for members with biweekly dues deductions at schools on traditional and year-round calendars.

Educators who sign up for membership during the summer must pay the June dues if they wish to receive membership benefits during the summer, including professional development.

mtea

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