

mtea advocate

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



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Welcome back to a new school year!



Welcome back, MTEA sisters and brothers! We have a lot to think about as we settle into the new school year. The MTEA stands firm in our commitment to opposing racism and white supremacy and we recognize that the same administration planning draconian cuts to public urban schools like Milwaukee has emboldened white supremacists.

The Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association will continue to stand in solidarity with our students, families, and the immigrant community in the difficult days ahead. The more we organize as a union, the more power we have to protect our students, our schools, and our community.

This year, the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association is starting the school year over 4,600 members strong! Here is how you can help strengthen our union power right now:

- 1. Build relationships with parents and families.** As we go to print, Republican legislators can find billions of dollars for a multinational corporation but are still bickering over a state budget that could leave districts across the state without the per pupil increases they need. Parents are partners with us in our fight for increased funding, smaller class sizes, healthier school food, and improved teaching and learning conditions. It's important that we involve them in our organizing efforts.
- 2. Be sure your school has an active building committee.** If your school has not yet held building leader elections, you can request help from an MTEA organizer, by calling 414-259-1990. Your school's building committee is the source of member power, leadership, and problem solving at each school or department.
- 3. Support new MTEA educators.** The first few years of an educator's career are the most difficult and challenging. Talk to your colleagues and get to know the new educators in your building. Young educators need to know they are welcome in our union and can find support from other MTEA members.

Above all, please know that MTEA is thousands of educators strong fighting for schools and communities that serve *all* children.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and our community.

In solidarity,

Kim Schroeder
MTEA President

Sequanna Taylor on Release as EA President



The Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association has made a historic step forward by releasing

Sequanna Taylor, President of the Milwaukee Educational Assistants Association from her classroom duties on a half-time basis. The MTEA views educational assistants as equal partners in the education team, both at the school level and within our own union.

The newly released position will increase EA involvement and membership in our union, allow us to advocate for more career path development opportunities, and give us a stronger voice as we advocate for educational assistant issues.

Have you changed banks, moved, or switched positions?

As we enter the new school year, the MTEA needs to know if you have changed banks, moved, or switched positions. If you have had any changes, please email Linda Scherlie at lscherli@mtea.weac.org.

Thank you, Lauren Baker

The Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association would like to express our deep appreciation to MTEA Executive Director Lauren Baker for her years of service to the members of the MTEA. Lauren is a gifted strategist with a strong commitment to social justice. Her guidance strengthened our union and our schools and she will be missed as she begins her retirement. Please join us in wishing Lauren all the best.



Lauren is working with the newly hired Executive Director, Benjamin Ward to ensure a smooth transition. Ward brings with him over a decade of experience in the labor movement as an organizer, representative, negotiator, and leader of union staff.

Support for New MTEA Teachers

If you are a new teacher in MPS, the best place to get support and professional development is through your union.

This year, the MTEA is excited to launch a New Teacher Cohort, led by new teacher members. The cohort will meet Mon., Sept. 11; Mon., Oct. 9; Mon., Nov. 13; Mon., Jan. 8; Mon., Feb. 12; Mon., March 12 and Mon., May 14 at 4:30pm for dinner, problem pose-problem solve sessions, and support.

If you are a teacher in year 1, 2, or 3 of your career, you are invited to attend the first September 11 session at the MTEA.

New teachers are also invited to Lesson Planning Drop-ins on Sun., Oct 1 and Sun., Nov. 5 from 1pm-4pm:

- East side - Prospect Colectivo
- West side - 92nd/North Ave. Colectivo

For more information or to RSVP, visit: mtea.org/events.

MTEA Summer Organizers Reach Out to Families

A team of MTEA Summer Organizers joined together with staff members from Lincoln Avenue Community School and went door-to-door talking to neighbors about the great things that are happening at their neighborhood community school. Enrollment numbers are up since the team began their canvassing efforts.



Upcoming events

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

Managing Classroom Behavior: Proactive Strategies, Wed., Aug. 30 from 4:30-6pm.

LaborFest 2017 Mon., Sep 4 from 9am-5pm. See mtea.org/events for special pre-rally information.

New Teacher Cohort, Mon., Sept. 11 from 4:30-6:30pm.

Shared Leadership Cohort, Mon., Sept. 11 from 4:30-6:30pm.

Bilingual Cohort, Tues., Sept. 12 from 4:30-6pm.

Intro to National Board Certification Tues., Sept. 12 from 4:30-5:30pm.

MTEA Leaders' Annual Convocation with Special Guest Keron Blair Wed., Sept. 13, 4:30pm at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.

Rethinking Columbus, Thurs., Sept. 14, 4:30-6pm.

National Board Support Session, Tues., Sept. 19 from 4:30-6pm.

Educator Effectiveness: EE: PPG/SLO/PPG Alignment, Tues., Sept. 19 from 4:30-6pm.

Educator Effectiveness: PPG and SLO Support, Thurs., Sept. 21 from 4:30-6pm.

EA Meet and Greet, Sat. Sept. 23 from 10-11am.

mtea

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(MTEA Photos/Joe Brusky)