



Recertify the MTEA Vote YES! Nov. 4-24

From Nov. 4-24, MTEA members and non-members must vote so that MTEA can continue representing *all* educators in collective bargaining for better wages with MPS. MTEA bargaining covers members and non-members alike.

A separate recertification vote is held for each bargaining unit:

- Teacher unit (includes teachers, social workers, nurses, OTs, PTs, librarians, speech pathologists, guidance counselors, etc.)
- Educational assistant unit (paras, general assistants, interpreters, and safety assistants)
- Substitute teacher unit
- Accountant/bookkeeper unit

For each unit, a successful vote requires 51% of **all** who are part of the bargaining unit (both members and non-members), not just 51% of those who vote.

If a person does not vote, it counts as a “no.” We need help to get as many “yes” votes as possible! Non-members do not have to join the MTEA to vote.

A successful recertification vote shows the power and strength of our union even under Act 10.

Votes can be cast online or by phone. To vote online, visit mtea.org and click on the voting link. To cast your vote by phone, dial 1-866-458-9862. Voting ends at noon on Tuesday, November 24.

Prep time fight: student needs must come first

In order to meet students’ needs, teachers at all grade levels need to have sufficient time during their workday to complete professional activities such as planning quality lessons, responding to student work, working with individual students, and contacting parents. However, teachers’ individual planning time has been consistently eroded by requirements to attend meetings before and after school, and most recently, by administration’s unilateral decision to require elementary and K-8 teachers to attend meetings during the time that their students are at art, music, and phy. ed.

On Thursday, November 12, all MTEA members – elementary, middle school and high school – will stand up for what’s best for students and ask the school board SASI Committee for more planning time for teachers at all grade levels during the teacher workday, so that teachers can focus on the professional activities most necessary to meeting student needs. Please watch for email and social media updates after this November 12 action, and save the date of Thursday, November 19 for a potential action about planning time at the full school board meeting. Please note that all school board meetings are currently being held at Neeskara Elementary School, 1601 N. Hawley Rd., because the central office auditorium is under construction.

Be sure you have responded to our surveys about prep time - one for teachers at the elementary and K-8 level, and one for high school teachers. All members were invited via email to take the appropriate survey for their grade level.



Reagan teacher John Peacock testifies about the need for more time for teachers at all grade levels

Teacher unit bargain now underway

Bargaining for the teacher contract has officially begun with the MTEA and MPS exchanging initial proposals earlier this month.

MTEA’s proposal includes a 1.62% base building wage increase for all members of the teacher bargaining unit (this is the maximum allowable under Act 10).

MTEA has also initiated meet and confer sessions on funding the

teacher salary schedule that MTEA and MPS agreed to in 2014.

The administration’s first offer was a disappointing 0% base building wage increase.

Members of the school board will ultimately be the deciding factor on whether to provide a clear path for career advancement that will retain a stable teaching force for the students of our district.

Partnership provides free glasses for students

MTEA teamed up again this year with Wisconsin Vision, MPS, and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin to provide free vision screenings for about 650 students at Greenfield Bilingual School. Wisconsin Vision provided free glasses for over 200 students at Greenfield who did not pass vision screenings.

Thanks to the great team of MTEA members at Greenfield who helped to coordinate and host this effort, including (but not limited to): building rep. Rob Schallock, SST Johanna Vega, social worker Jackie Jansen, Phy. Ed. teacher Gail Milbrath, parent coordinator Aracelis Ayala, and librarian Tom Kelnhofer. MTEA is also grateful to Greenfield's office staff



A student at Greenfield Bilingual school picks out new glasses, courtesy of Wisconsin Vision.

and the many educational assistants and parent volunteers who helped with the vision screenings and interpretation.

For more info about this program, email salaskd@mtea.weac.org.

School board votes to install Carmen at Pulaski

Despite strong opposition from students, families, staff and community supporters at Pulaski High School, the school board voted 5-4 last month to make 800 seats available in Pulaski High School for Carmen High School, a privately run charter school.

Some board members advocated strongly for Pulaski students, asking to slow the process and thoughtfully consult the entire Pulaski community about the changes and improvements needed at Pulaski.

The resolution requires the board to review this arrangement in December 2015 and May 2016. MTEA and our allies will follow this closely, and insist that Carmen be held to the same standards as a true public school.

This includes educating a significant percentage of students with disabilities and English Language Learners, neither of which Carmen currently has.

Our fight is far from over. MTEA will not stand for disinvestment in our students or our public schools.

Do you need help with student loans?

MTEA will offer a workshop on Nov. 16th at 2:30 and 3:30pm, and again on Nov. 19th at 4:30pm, where you can learn more about federal loan forgiveness programs for educators and other public employees.

These 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 your eligibility for loan forgiveness through these programs no longer depends on when you borrowed the money.

If you think you may qualify, attend one of our workshops or visit nea.org/loanforgiveness, where you can get more information and forms.

Stay connected

Do you currently receive email and e-newsletters from MTEA? If not, please update your contact info at mtea.weac.org/resources/member-data-update, so we can keep in touch and share important information and opportunities.

Upcoming events

All events held at MTEA unless noted. For more info and to register, visit mtea.weac.org/events.

Professional development at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education.

To view and register for all courses, visit mtea.weac.org/mke-center.

Recertification phone banks - Sign up at mtea.weac.org/events for shifts on the following dates from 4:30-7pm: Nov. 4, 5, 9, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23.

School board action - put student needs first, Thu., Nov. 12 at 6pm at Neeskara Elementary, 1601 N. Hawley.

Save the date! Possible planning time action at full school board meeting, Thu., Nov. 19 at 6pm at Neeskara Elementary, 1601 N. Hawley Rd.

PDP drop-in support session, Tue., Nov. 17, 4:30-6pm.

An evening under the stars celebration of Education Support Professionals Thu., Nov. 19, 5:30-9pm at Potawatomi Hotel, 1721 W. Canal St. RSVP required at mtea.weac.org/events.

Mental health strategies for educators, Tue., Dec. 1, 4:30-6pm.

Understanding WRS: Your state pension system, Wed., Dec. 2, 4:30-6pm.

National Board support session, Thu., Dec. 3, 4:30-6pm.

Save the Date! School Defense Committee Citywide Summit, Sat., Dec. 5, 9am-2pm at MATC. Details to come.

mtea

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