

mtea advocate

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



Volume 2016-17: Issue #5, December 2016

Continue to Call School Board Members on Calendar Proposal

The MPS School Board is expected to make a decision regarding the proposed changes to the districtwide school year calendar at the Dec. 22 School Board Meeting.

MTEA members, parents, and families should continue to call school board members with concerns regarding this proposal. To find your school board director's contact info., visit: bit.ly/ContactBoardMPS.

Does your school have a Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES!) Chapter?

Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES!) is a student branch of Voces de la Frontera. YES! student groups advocate for the rights of students, immigrants, and workers and allow students to grow organizing and movement-building skills while fighting for social change.



YES! chapters have lead campaigns for education rights of undocumented students and against the privatization of MPS.

If you know of students at your school that would be interested in forming a chapter, please email Amy Mizialko at amizialko@wi.rr.com. Each chapter needs one MTEA member to serve as a student advisor.

We Need Time to Teach!

Members Flood School Board with Testimony: MTEA Building Committees

Hundreds of MTEA teacher members packed the Nov. 15 Accountability, Finance, and Personnel Committee hearing to demand more time to teach and meet the needs of their students. Two days later, the school board approved the following resolution on the teacher workday giving additional leverage to MTEA Building Committees:



MTEA members unveil a list of teacher duties the length of a football field

"That for K-8 schools, flexibility be given to principals, collaboratively with their MTEA building committee where applicable, for staff meetings to be held when needed, or shortened if appropriate, and that school leadership inform teachers and staff, through updates, when a meeting is not held.

For true middle schools and high school "collaboration day," that there be shared responsibility for that time, between the MTEA building committee and the school learning team where applicable. That they will collaboratively determine each month's need to meet, agendas and subjects when meetings are held, and length of time to meet."

While this resolution is a step forward, we know that more must be done to improve teaching and learning conditions for educators and students. MTEA will be sending out a teaching and learning survey in December to all teachers via email. We need your participation in this survey to support building committees in their organizing.

Contact your regional MTEA organizer for assistance in organizing your building committee to implement this new board policy. Organizers can be reached at (414) 259-1990.

Fall Organizers Strengthen MTEA Membership

The MTEA Fall organizing program is in full swing with 6 member organizers working in select schools to promote our members' rights, engage in struggles to improve our schools and build MTEA membership. In the month of November, fall organizers increased membership by 13 educators at several school sites including Alliance, Elm, Fratney, Kilbourn and others. The program's main goal is to build powerful, engaged membership.

To request a visit from an MTEA organizer at your school, contact us at 414-259-1990.

Professional Development this Winter at MTEA



Holiday Office Hours

This January, the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education is excited to offer the following PD sessions exclusively for MTEA members. Most are free to members. For additional details and to register, visit mtea.weac.org/events.

Three Credit Book Study

Earn 3 graduate credits with your colleagues through this popular book study course. Credits are offered through Augustana College and are accepted by DPI for license renewal. **Suggest book titles by Jan. 17. Mandatory course orientation, Tues., Jan. 24 from 4:30-5:30pm.** After the orientation, book study groups select their own four dates to meet. Cost for three credits is \$355.

Restorative Practices

Learn how Restorative Practices can positively influence your classroom practice. **Mon., Jan. 23 and Wed., Jan 25 from 4:30-6:30pm.** Both sessions are required. Limit 18 members.

National Board Support Sessions

MTEA members seeking National Board Certification are invited to support sessions. Must be enrolled as a National Board candidate or renewal candidate. **Mon., Jan. 23; Tues., Feb 28; Wed., March 29 and Wed., April 26 from 4:30-6pm.**

NEW Strategies for Struggling Readers in the Elementary Grades

This interactive workshop offers strategies and suggestions for teaching foundational reading skills to struggling elementary students in small groups. **Sat., Jan. 28 from 9:30-11:30am.**

NEW Three Credit Online Courses

Earn 3 graduate credits by choosing from the three online courses listed below. The **mandatory orientation on Mon., Jan. 30 from 4:30-5:30pm** will give course overviews, provide help navigating the online classroom and facilitate registration. Cost is \$355-385 per course.

• Refocus & Recharge: Strategies for Finding Balance in Teaching

Explore strategies to attain professional and personal balance, avoid teacher burnout and recharge.

• Co-Teaching: Partners in Practice

Reflect on what you can bring to a co-teaching framework and aspects of co-teaching that are essential for success.

• Achieving Success with English Language Learners

Gain strategies to better teach English language learners.

The MTEA office will be open from 8am-4pm on Dec. 28 and 29.

The MTEA office will be closed on Dec. 23, 26, 27, 30, and Jan. 2.

We wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season!



Upcoming events

All events 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 details see the article to the left. For registration, visit mtea.weac.org/events.

Preparing for Retirement

Tues., Jan. 10 from 5-7pm.

The 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Sun., Jan. 15, 1pm at the Marcus Center.

Preparing for Retirement

Tues., Feb. 7 from 5-7pm.

Basics of Budgeting and Saving

Wed., Feb. 8 from 5-6:15pm.

Update Contact Info

If you have changed your name, email address, or home address, or if you are retiring, going on leave, or resigning, please contact Linda Scherlie at the MTEA office, 414-256-6760, or email lscherli@mtea.weac.org, so we can update our records.

Are you Saving Enough?

WEA Member Benefits Retirement Savings Consultant, N'Kenza Whitlow can help you maximize your retirement savings and help you reach your retirement goals. To meet with N'Kenza during your lunch, prep, or after school, call 414-259-1990 x1133 or email nwhitlow@weabenefits.com.

January 15 Event to Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Honor Contest Winners



Educators, students and families are invited to attend the free public Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on Sun., Jan 15 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. The writing contest winners will be honored at the celebration along with winners of the speech and art contests. Please share this information with your students and encourage them to attend!

The writing contest is co-sponsored by MTEA and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. This year, over 3,400 students

entered the contest under the theme, "We Shall Overcome." The winning contest entries will be published in a special section of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in January, as well as on the MTEA website. All teachers and students who participated will receive buttons and certificates that will be distributed by building representatives after the January 11 Representative Assembly.

Classroom projects can be picked up at the MTEA during regular office hours. For questions, contact Melissa Zombor at zomborm@mtea.weac.org or 414-256-6752.

mtea

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