



Substitute Teacher Members Turn up the Heat for Healthcare

In 2018 all MPS substitute teachers are officially a part of the MPS family thanks to the strength and solidarity of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association!

In August, MTEA substitute members launched a campaign to stop the privatization of substitute teachers and win affordable healthcare. Members held informational pickets outside Central Office, mailed over 1,000 signed letters to school board directors, and logged hours of moving testimony.

As a result MPS sunset the contract for Goodwill TalentBridge and established a task force to investigate ways MPS can fill substitute teacher positions and possible options for providing healthcare to substitute teachers.

With Goodwill TalentBridge defeated, substitute members are doubling down on efforts to win affordable healthcare for all substitute teachers who make teaching their profession.

We believe affordable healthcare is a human right, but offering healthcare will also help attract and retain the quality substitute teachers our students deserve.

This fight will not be easy. It will require a concerted effort of members joining the campaign through the use of new organizing tactics and political pressure.

Let's stand together and win affordable healthcare for ALL!

It's Time for Privately Operated MPS Charter Schools to Pay Their Fair Share

Over the past 25 years, Milwaukee Public School students and teachers have paid the price for school privatization experiments in the City of Milwaukee. MPS classrooms are bursting at the seams while programs essential to a well-rounded curriculum such as art, gym, and music have been drastically reduced or eliminated.

Now, school privatizers have come knocking on MPS's backdoor taking MPS buildings one-by-one. Private charter school operators like Carmen and Milwaukee College Prep love the non-instrumentality charter loophole because it allows them to remain independent from MPS School Board oversight and stringent legal requirements that public schools fall under.

MPS privately operated charter schools were once expected to pay more for their use of our buildings. In 2006 the MPS School District had a board-approved rate of \$12/sq foot. The current lease for Carmen Northwest is less than half of the 2006 board recommendation at a mere \$5 per square foot. Other charters pay even less.

Non-instrumentality charter schools create a parallel school system that duplicates services and costs. They also pose a large financial risk to MPS and the City of Milwaukee. For example, when Universal Companies turned the keys back into MPS, MPS had to abruptly foot the bill of more than \$1 million so the students could finish the year.

Above all, if MPS increases the lease rates on charter schools to a fair market value, the district could put that money back into our **public** schools to invest in class sizes small enough for one-on-one attention, robust career and tech ed. programs, fine arts, music, school counsellors, librarians, social workers, and more. It's time to #RaiseTheRent on private charters.

Deducting Union Dues on your Income Taxes

If you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return, you can deduct your union dues, minus the portion of your dues that go to the Political Action Committee, along with your other "miscellaneous deductions."

Members who worked the full calendar year in 2017 may deduct:

- **Teachers: \$931**
- **Educational Assistants: \$293.22**
- **Substitutes: \$252**
- **Bookkeepers: \$480**

If you worked less than a full year or have questions about what you can deduct, please call MTEA office at 414-259-1990.



Special Notice to MTEA Educational Assistant and Substitute Unit Members

Officer and Council Seats up for Election

January is the start of the election process for the MEAA and MSTA Officer and Council member positions that will be open in April.

If you are an active Educational Assistant or Substitute unit member and want to become a candidate, please submit a brief written statement, designating the leadership position you are seeking. You can mail or hand-deliver your self-nomination to: Kathy Lehsten, 5130 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208 or email lehstenk@mtea.weac.org.



You become a candidate automatically when your declaration statement is received. Nomination deadlines are listed below.

Elections will take place on Mon., April 16 through Fri., April 20.

Educational Assistant Executive Council Seats:

- **President - 2 year term** (Currently held by Sequanna Taylor)
- **Vice President - 2 year term** (Currently held by Gwen Washington)
- **Treasurer - 2 year term** (Currently held by Ruth Moore)
- **Secretary - 2 year term** (Currently held by Mary Strang)
- **Elem. Rep Seat E - 4 year term** (Currently held by Arnold Branch)
- **At-Large Rep. Seat G - 4 year term** (Currently held by Michael Glabere)

- **At-Large Rep. Seat F - 4 year term** (Currently held by Michelle Mackey)
- **Safety Rep. Seat - 4 year term** (Currently held by Qiana Wilson)

Educational Assistant unit members nominations are due Fri., Jan. 19, 2018 at 5:00pm

Substitute Executive Council Seats:

- **President - 2 year term** (Currently held by Alex Bower)
- **Vice President - 2 year term** (Currently held by Keith Carter)
- **Secretary - 2 year term** (Currently held by Terri Brookshire)
- **Treasurer - 2 year term** (Currently held by Nicholas Carter)
- **Rep. Seat A - 2 year term** (Currently held by John Thielmann)
- **Rep. Seat B - 2 year term** (Currently held by Kathy Gieger)
- **Rep. Seat C - 1 year term** (Currently held by Barbara Moeser)
- **Rep. Seat D - 1 year term** (Currently held by Joanne Beauchamp)

Substitute unit member declaration statements are due by Wed., January 31, 2018 at 5:00pm.

For more information about the roles and responsibilities of these elected leadership positions, please call 414-259-1990. Watch your email for additional election details.

Reminder: Early Retirement Window Notification Deadline Jan. 31

If you are planning on retiring at the end of the school year under the Early Retirement Window, you must provide MPS notification of retirement by January 31, 2018. This date is earlier than in previous years.

Upcoming Events

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

The 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration
Sun., Jan. 14, 1pm at the Marcus Center.

Paraprofessional Learning Series: Understanding Students' IEPs
Thurs., Jan. 18 from 4:30-5:30pm.

Supervising Student Teachers
Sat., Jan. 20 from 8:30am-1:30pm.

Love & Logic: The Recovery Process
Tues., Jan. 23 from 5-6pm.

Managing Classroom Behavior: Proactive Strategies Second Semester Restart
Wed., Jan. 24 from 4:30-6pm

National Board Support Sessions
Wed., Jan. 24 from 4:30-6pm.

Paraprofessional Learning Series: Microsoft Office 365 Basics
Thurs., Jan. 25 4:30-5:30pm.

New Teacher Cohort
Mon., Jan. 29 from 4:30-6:30pm.

Restorative Practices Part 2
Mon., Jan. 29 and Mon., Feb. 5 from 4:30-6pm. Space is limited.

Paraprofessional Learning Series: Managing Student Behavior and Transitions
Thurs., Feb. 1 from 4:30-5:30pm.

Preparing for Retirement
Tues., Feb. 7 from 5-7pm.

mtea

Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association
5130 West Vliet Street | Milwaukee, WI | 53208
414-259-1990 | FAX: 414-259-7801 | mtea.weac.org