



821 Williamson Street \* Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4503 \* Phone (608) 257-0491 \* Fax (608) 257-1168

# Solidarity!

## What Does Your MTI Contract Do for You? *School Calendar*

**Does it matter to you** when school begins in the fall? How about **when and how long winter or spring break is?** And, how about when the **school year ends?** **Have you thought about how many days you work for your annual salary,** or **how many hours make up your school day?** In members' responses to many years of MTI bargaining surveys, *all of these factors are "very important"* to those in MTI's various bargaining units.

It was **MTI's case in 1966 which gave teacher unions an equal voice on all of the above topics.** *Ruling for MTI, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the school calendar is a mandatory subject of bargaining, meaning that a school district in Wisconsin must negotiate with the Union to determine each of the factors described above.* Unfortunately, **Governor Walker's Act 10 in effect overturned the Supreme Court's ruling** because Act 10 removed workers' rights to collectively bargain.

Impact? **Act 10 enables a school board without a good conscience to engage in mischief or abuse of all MTI-represented staff,** especially teachers, because teachers are paid an annual salary not on an hourly basis.

So far, the Board of Education has continued to negotiate the school calendar with MTI. In 2012's negotiations, the calendar was agreed upon through the 2013-14 school year. **MTI is fighting to overturn Act 10 and to restore the Union's right to negotiate over the school calendar.**

## **Governor Walker Releases Budget: More \$ for Private/Parochial Schools, No More for Public Schools**

**After cutting funding for public schools by over \$1 billion in his last budget, Governor Walker is proposing no additional funds for public schools in his proposed budget.** Under Walker's *performance based funding* proposal, \$54 million is budgeted to "reward schools" who show "excellence and improvement" on **standardized test scores**, while only \$10 million is available for what he calls "underperforming" schools, assuring that wealthy schools receive greater funds than impoverished schools.

While public schools receive virtually no additional funds, **private/parochial voucher schools would receive an additional \$73 million in taxpayer funding with vouchers expanded to more districts throughout the State, including Madison.**

Walker's proposal also enables local control and democracy to be usurped by his proposed "**independent charter school authorizer**" provision, which would allow the Governor and legislative leadership to appoint a Board with the authority to approve charter schools in local schools districts; *i.e. local school boards will be cut out of the process.* Such would be the case even though the charter schools would be funded by local property taxes, even where the local school boards and residents oppose them.

While some legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle have expressed concerns over the proposals, particularly the financial support for private and parochial vouchers, *all have experienced how swiftly and radically legislative changes can occur under the Walker Administration.* Inform yourself now. **Opposition is up to you. Educate, agitate, and organize!**

More information relative to the proposed state budget, including impacts on health care, private sector labor rights, the environment and the economy will be fleshed out in the weeks and months ahead. MTI will provide links to more detailed state budget impacts on the MTI webpage [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org).

## **MTI Endorsement for BOE Seat 5 for Spring General Election April 2**

MTI VOTERS met last week to discuss the results of the primary election and to recommend endorsement for BOE Seat 5. As a result of that meeting, **Thomas J. Mertz (TJ)** has been recommended for endorsement.

After winning the primary election, Sarah Manski will no longer campaign, given the day following the primary her husband received notice of his appointment as a professor with the University of California, Santa Barbara.

*An e-mail has been sent to members of MTI Voters to enable their vote on this recommendation via electronic ballot.* A link to the survey is also available on the MTI Website under "Important Information - [Spring 2013 Endorsement Ballot](#)." A password is required to access the survey on the MTI website. Contact MTI directly (257-0491 / [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)), or an MTI Faculty Representative, EA Building Representative, or member of the MTI, SEE-MTI, EA-MTI, USO-MTI or SSA-MTI Board of Directors for the password. **Balloting closes on Wednesday, February 27, at 5:00 p.m.**

## EA-MTI General Membership Meeting March 6, 4:00 p.m., Labor Temple

Members of MTI's Educational Assistants' bargaining unit (EA-MTI) will meet on **Wednesday, March 6**, commencing at **4:00 p.m.**, at the **Labor Temple** (1602 S. Park St.), **Room 109**. There are many issues of importance for EAs, NAs and SEAs to discuss: *stagnant wages, fewer hours of work, staff involvement, professional development, public communications, and the political future of the EA bargaining unit.* **Attend this meeting! Make your voice heard!**

Nominations for positions on the EA-MTI Board of Directors will also be taken at the March 6 meeting. EAs may also make nominations via the nomination form that has been sent out to all EA-MTI bargaining unit members. **Get involved in your Union!**

## Sabbatical Leave *Not* Granted

The MTI/MMSD Joint Sabbatical Leave Committee concluded that there will not be a recommendation for sabbatical leave for the first semester or entire school year of the 2013-14 school year. The MTI/MMSD Joint Committee consists of MTI appointees Co-Chair **Jane Allen-Jauch** (Muir), **Betsy Barnard** (West) and **Matt Mulligan** (Black Hawk), and MMSD appointees Lisa Wachtel, Mike Hertting and Joe Gothard.

Under the terms of MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Board of Education budgets **\$45,000 for sabbatical leaves** for members of MTI's "teacher" bargaining unit. Such is for the purpose of advanced study and/or research. **Either a one-year leave at half pay or a one-semester leave at full pay may be granted.** The recipient of a sabbatical leave must agree to return to the Madison District for at least two full years of service following the sabbatical leave or repay the compensation received for the sabbatical leave. The Contract guarantees that one who receives a sabbatical leave returns to the position held at the time the leave was granted.

Applications for the second semester of the 2013-14 school year are due **September 1, 2013.**

## Liability Coverage

MTI members frequently ask whether they should carry individual liability insurance coverage relative to their work. MTI's opinion is "NO". All individuals, who are represented by MTI, have such coverage via the various Collective Bargaining Agreements and via the District pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes. Teachers, through their membership in MTI/WEAC/NEA, have additional liability coverage through the NEA Educators Employment Liability Policy.

Wisconsin Statute 895.46 provides that the Madison Metropolitan School District must provide employees with liability coverage for any liability which occurred as a result of one's employment, provided the employee acted in good faith.

## Know Your Rights: Injections

MTI reminds those it represents that Wisconsin Statute 118.29(5) provides that "*No employee, except a health care professional, may be required to administer a drug or prescription drug to a pupil under this section by any means other than [oral] ingestion.*"

*Teachers, educational assistants and clerical/technical employees* who have been directed by District management to administer an injection (or any device used for injections) **are within their legal rights to refuse to engage in such an act.**

## SEE-MTI General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

4:30 p.m.

Labor Temple, Room 201C  
(1602 S. Park Street)

## Calendar of Events



- **Monday, February 25, Doyle Auditorium**  
BOE Regular Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- **Tuesday, March 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Finance Committee
- **Wednesday, March 6, 4:00 p.m., SCFL**  
EA-MTI General Membership
- **Thursday, March 7, 4:15 p.m., MTI**  
Special Education Sub-committee
- **Monday, March 11, 4:30 p.m., MTI**  
MTI Board of Directors
- **Wednesday, March 20, 4:30 p.m., SCFL**  
SEE-MTI General Membership



Show Your  
**SOLIDARITY!**  
Wear **MTI RED**  
Every **MONDAY!**

## Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)  
MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)