



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

Solidarity!

VOUCHERS: First He Came for the Teachers; then He Came for the Kids

As he described it in February, 2011, Governor Scott Walker “*dropped a bomb*” on Wisconsin’s public employees, attempting to strip them of their rights to collectively bargain. Now he’s aiming at our kids. **Walker’s 2013 biennial budget goes a long way in his plan to crush public education in Wisconsin; a move to privatize via VOUCHERS** (*i.e. providing funding from the area public school to enable parents to pay tuition to send their children to private or religious schools*).

In its press conference on May 17, the Forward Institute released their study of the impact of school funding on educational opportunity. The study found that schools with higher poverty levels have experienced greater loss in funding when compared to more affluent schools across the state. *The number of students in Wisconsin living in poverty has doubled since 2007, and since 2007 state funding of public education has fallen to its lowest level in 17 years.* **Walker’s biennial budget proposes to further exacerbate the situation by expanding voucher schools into nine additional areas, including Madison.**

Expanding voucher schools will take away funding from our public schools. Not only are **school districts required to pay 38.4% of the cost of each voucher; they lose the ability to count the student attending private/parochial schools in the state aid formula on which the amount of revenue is based.** *In Madison, a person would receive \$6,442 from the MMSD to send their child to a private or parochial school.* Yet Madison would receive no additional state aid to offset that cost, so payments come directly from money that would have supported education in Madison public schools. **It is projected that in the first five years of vouchers, Madison schools could lose nearly \$27 million to vouchers.**

Representative Melissa Sargent, in her May 14, 2013 article in *The Capital Times*, breaks this down in real numbers: *“Madison currently has 4,202 private school students. Based on a conservative assessment of income levels [which will rise to \$70,000 for a family of 4 under the new budget], 1,381 of these students would be eligible for the voucher program If 1,387 private students become voucher students, Madison taxpayers would subsidize private schools for about \$3.8 million and see a reduction [to Madison’s public schools] in state aid of that amount because of the loss of students used to calculate state aid.”* Since Walker’s proposed budget also eliminates the cap on the number of vouchers that could be funded, this reduction in state aid will be even greater.

Beyond the cost to fund voucher schools is the problem of **lack of accountability and/or performance of these schools.** An April 23, 2013 press release from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction states, *“Statewide assessments taken by students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and the Parental Private School Choice Program in Racine showed... results were lower than their local public school districts.”*

These programs are not working, yet they continue to drain funding from the public schools in both Milwaukee and Racine.

As stated in the Forward Institute’s press release, *“Public schools are not failing our children; Wisconsin legislators and policymakers are failing the public schools that serve our children.”*

Call your legislator now to protest Walker’s Voucher proposal, and call:

Senator Robert Cowles	266-0484
Senator Alberta Darling	266-5830
Senator Michael Ellis	266-0718
Senator Scott Fitzgerald	266-5660
Senator Luther Olsen	266-0751
Senator Dale Schultz	266-0703
Representative Robin Voss	266-9171

School Calendar 2013-14; Ready, Set, Goal Conferences; Parent-Teacher Conferences

MTI has received several concerns regarding the calendar, as recently released by the District, for the 2013-14 school year.

Among the demands by the District, enabled by Governor Walker’s Act 10, in last year’s negotiations, was that **one of the Voluntary Days, August 28, be converted to a mandatory attendance “development day”.** It is specifically designated as “development”, not “staff development”. The latter is designated for August 29. Since the 1970’s the Contract provided returning teachers three Voluntary Days, days for which they are paid, but did not have to be at their assigned work site. The new Contract, effective July 1, 2013, reduces that to two days. **“All Staff Day”** is August 30.

Secondly, an agreement provides that the District has full discretion as to whether to enable Ready, Set, Goal Conferences. The agreement provides teachers compensation or flex time for engaging parents in such conferences. Because of the proposed cut in State aid under Governor Walker’s Budget, MMSD **may not** authorize RSG Conferences this fall. They ask that teachers prepare letters inviting parents for such conferences, should funding enable them.

Third, is the issue of Parent-Teacher conferences. The Contract provides that there will be two evenings for conferences and that **the day following conferences will also be for conferences with no students present** to enable conferences which were not held on the prior evening. The District has failed to list November 13 as being with no students, while they scheduled evening conferences on November 12. The District has proposed to MTI changing the day following each conference to be with students, and having the only “no student” day be November 27, the day before Thanksgiving.

Packing and Moving - Reminder!

For many years, MTI's representation assisted teachers in receiving additional compensation when they had to pack, move, and unpack their classrooms due to construction or other physical necessity in their schools. *However, because the District became increasingly intransigent when it came to fairly compensating teachers for doing this work, MTI negotiated specific Contract terms.*

Under Section III-S of MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement, *teachers are **NO LONGER REQUIRED** to pack/move, and/or unpack, teaching materials, either during the school year or during a school recess period due to [major] cleaning (defined as cleaning not regularly associated with annual and/or routine classroom cleaning), construction projects, repairs, electrical upgrades, etc.;* due to their classroom being moved at management's request; *OR* when the District deems it necessary to utilize the teacher's classroom for classes or other activities during a school recess period. **The District will arrange for the teachers' materials to be moved to his/her newly assigned location by a person not represented by MTI (i.e. an EA/SEA cannot be required to pack/move materials).** If materials are relocated during a period when school is in recess, they will be returned by the District when school resumes.

Teachers may, *at their option*, use **Contract** time to complete packing and/or unpacking, related to routine classroom cleaning. *Teachers who are asked by their principal to pack, and/or unpack, teaching materials as set forth in paragraph 2 above, are to complete a form available from the principal to be submitted to and approved by the District Director of Human Resources (or his/her designee) prior to commencing said packing or unpacking.* The District will, upon receipt of such form and verification of said work falling within the parameters of paragraph 2, *inform the teacher that he/she will not be required to perform the work.*

Other than to accommodate employees under the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA) or Wisconsin Fair Employment Act (WFEA) where their disability prohibits them from packing, unpacking and moving their materials, *teachers who request to move from one classroom to another in the same school may be required move their own teaching materials.*

Advocate for and advance your rights by following the procedures in Section III-S of MTI's Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Take Me Out to the Ball Game
6th Annual MTI Day at Miller Park
Wednesday, July 10**

MTI has scheduled the *6th annual MTI Day at Miller Park* for **Wednesday, July 10** when the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Cincinnati Reds. The charter bus will depart Madison around 9:00 a.m. and arrive at Miller Park in time for a pre-game tailgate party (game time is 1:10 p.m.). **Space is limited to the first 50 people to reserve their seat(s) by paying the \$50 per person deposit to MTI.** Cost includes charter bus, game ticket (*great seats in Section 225*) and pre-game tailgate party. **RSVP to MTI Headquarters as soon as possible** (257-0491 or bettnerj@madisonteachers.org).

**Understanding WRS:
Your State Pension Plan**

The Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), the State pension plan, will be a major source of retirement income for most Wisconsin public school employees. But, how much do you know about this important benefit? Plan to attend *Understanding WRS: Your State Pension Plan*, a free seminar presented by WEA Trust Member Benefits, on **Thursday, July 18, 2013**. Whether you just started your career or are nearing retirement, there is something for you. You will learn to:

- Read/interpret your pension statement.
- Calculate your WRS pension benefit.
- Choose an appropriate annuity option.
- Purchase forfeited service.
- Determine if you have a retirement income gap.

When: Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
Where: WEA Trust Bldg., 45 Nob Hill Road, Madison
How: Register at www.weabenefits.com/seminars

Keep MTI Updated on Changes

Please call, write or email MTI if you have a change in name, home address, home email address, telephone number, work location, certification, or hours of work. Having this information allows MTI to serve you better, both personally and contractually.

Calendar of Events



- **Tuesday, June 4, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI Special Education Sub-Committee
- **Monday, June 10, Doyle Room 103**
BOE Operations Work Group (5:00 p.m.)
- **Tuesday, June 11, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
WRS Seminar
- **Wednesday, June 12, 5:30 p.m., MATC Truax**
MATC Board Meeting - Support Madison College
- **Thursday, June 13 - Last Day of School**
- **Monday, June 24, First Day of Summer School**
- **Monday, June 24, Doyle McDaniels Auditorium**
BOE Instruction Work Group (5:00 p.m.)
BOE Regular Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

- July 4 & 5 - July 4th Holiday (MTI Office Closed)
- July 10 - MTI Day at Miller Park

- August 26 & 27 - New Teacher Meetings
- August 28 - Development Day
- August 29 - Staff Development Day
- August 30 - All Staff Day
- September 2 - Labor Day
- September 3 - Semester Begins

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI's web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI's email - MTI@madisonteachers.org