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Solidarity!

And Yet, Another Bomb

In Governor Walker's first legislative session, using the ruse that the State was millions in debt, he proposed eliminating collective bargaining for public employees as the means to fill in the alleged budget deficit. As he described it, he **dropped the bomb**.

Last week, another legislative session and another bomb. Walker's budget will hit education and educators once again. It is a giant step to privatize education. This is done by forcing public schools to pay tuition for children to attend religious and private schools by giving the parents of such children a voucher which forces the public school district to send money to the religious or private school. Walker and his right-wing legislators made vouchers available in every school district in the State. To this, UW Education Dean Julie Underwood said, "**School Boards beware**", that this is, "**the model legislation disseminated by the pro-free market American Legislative Exchange Council's network of corporate members and conservative legislators to privatize education and erode local control.**" In criticizing the legislation, State Superintendent **Tony Evers** chided, "**A voucher in every backpack.**"

Public school districts lose twice. Once by having to use money intended to educate children in their schools, and also losing State aid because they cannot count the child attending the religious or private school on which State aid is based. It is projected that this will cost MMSD \$27 million over the next five years. Vouchers provide parents \$4,000 per year for an elementary school student and \$10,000 for a high school student. State Senator Jennifer Schilling calls it, "**Vouchers on steroids!**" Research shows that most voucher schools in Wisconsin underperform compared to their public school counterparts.

Insurance Changes During Summer

MTI represented District employees are advised to call the District's Benefits department (663-1795) regarding insurance benefits which are available via MTI's various Collective Bargaining Agreements, if any of the following events occur during the summer: **one gets married, changes address, changes name, retires, resigns, takes a leave of absence, has or adopts a child, and/or if one's dependent and/or spouse becomes ineligible/eligible for health or dental insurance coverage.** (See the health or dental insurance provision in the appropriate MTI Collective Bargaining Agreement; call MTI with questions.) One must add a new eligible person (e.g. child, including a new born, or spouse) **within 30 days of eligibility.**

Dependents: Under the revised state law regarding dependent coverage, adult children are eligible to remain on a parent's health and dental plan until the end of the year in which the child turns 26.

Spouse: A spouse will become eligible by marriage, termination of his/her employment, loss of insurance with his/her employer, or become ineligible because of divorce. If one gets married, his/her spouse is not automatically covered by health or

dental insurance. One must contact the District's Benefits Department to add the new spouse.

Remember the above-referenced 30 day rule. Waiting until fall to act, may render one's spouse or other dependents ineligible. **Acting promptly assures your rights to MTI negotiated insurance.**

Sabbatical Applications Due Sept. 1

Under the terms of MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement for teachers, 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. MTI's 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 at MTI Headquarters by **September 1, 2013.** *An application and the MTI/MMSD agreed upon policy can be obtained by calling MTI or by visiting MTI's web page.*

June 13 Hours of Work Reminder

Due to the snow days in December, elementary schools must make up DPI minutes. *Therefore, the last day of school, June 13, will be a full day for students and for all elementary school employees, including hourly employees. For middle and high schools, students will be released after 90 minutes.* The conditions which apply for hourly employees making up missed time are:

SEE-MTI & BRS: MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement enables employees, with prior written approval of their supervisor as to the make-up time, dates and duties, to make up all of the regularly assigned time which was lost. This time expires at the end of the current school year. If the make-up time is not completed by the end of the school year, a pay dock will occur for the balance of the hours not completed on the last pay date in June.

EA-MTI (EA/SEA/NA) & SSA-MTI: MTI's Collective Bargaining Agreement enables employees, with prior written approval of their supervisor as to the make-up time, dates and duties, to make up all of the regularly assigned time which was lost. This time expires one week following the end of the current school year. If the make-up time is not completed by the end of one week following the last day of the school year, a pay dock will occur for the balance of the hours not completed on the last pay date in June.

USO-MTI Contract: Health Insurance and Sick Leave

The USO-MTI Collective Bargaining Agreement provides substitute teachers the option to receive a \$400 contribution toward health insurance premiums for one enrolled in an MMSD plan. To qualify, one must work a minimum of 90 days in the previous school year to receive contribution. It must then be renewed annually. A maximum of 60 USO-MTI members can receive this benefit, and if one currently has it and works 90 days during the school year, you will retain this benefit for the subsequent school year provided you agree to re-enroll. Once all eligible, re-enrolled substitutes are covered, eligible candidates are ranked based on the number days worked and offered the option to enroll until the 60 person maximum is reached.

The USO-MTI Collective Bargaining Agreement was extended through June, 2014. This means that all current substitute teachers still have and can use their personal sick leave. To use personal sick leave, a substitute must be assigned and/or be offered and reject an assignment due to illness first. In order to invoke the use of personal sick leave, however, one must call the Substitute Placement Office (663-1862) and give them your name, the date, and assignment you canceled or rejected, due to your illness. Contact Jeff Knight (knightj@madisonteachers.org) at MTI with questions.

Last Issue of MTI Solidarity for 2012-13 School Year

MTI Solidarity! and its predecessor, *The MTI Reporter*, have been keeping the members of MTI's bargaining units apprised of current Union issues, information relative to bargaining and member Contract rights and benefits, for 47 years. It is published for delivery each Monday of the school year. This is the last issue of *MTI Solidarity!* for the 2012-13 school year.

MTI staff wish all Union members a safe and enjoyable summer. MTI's office remains open during the summer to serve its members. Summer hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. - Noon on Fridays.

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 Free Seminar July 18

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

Calendar of Events



- **Monday, June 10, Doyle Room 103**
BOE Operations Work Group (5:15 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