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### More Information

A January 29 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, "Promoting voucher schools," reported a \$1,000,000 campaign which includes TV, radio, and print ads. The campaign is being financed by three foundations:

- the Bradley Family (Milwaukee)
- the Kern Family (Waukesha)
- the Walton Family (Arkansas)

The BR in each school received a packet that includes:

- ◆The January 29 news article.
- ◆A copy of an MMAC ad that appeared in The Business Journal on February 8.
- ◆A "Voucher Fact Sheet" which provides a brief history of the voucher program in Milwaukee and points out how voucher schools are not held to the same standards as public schools.
- ◆"Talking Points" highlighting a few of the reasons MPS is the right choice for city families.

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### Healthy Women Sought for Research Project

Interested in learning more about bone health? Healthy women, ages 40 to 60, are being sought for the Healthy-bones Research Project, to evaluate an osteoporosis education program. Polly Ryan, Ph.D., R.N., is seeking 160 volunteers. Participants will meet with a nurse researcher once at the start of the study. They will complete three surveys over six months, at home, and return them by postal mail.

For details on the project, contact Dr. Ryan at 414-229-2597 or [healthy-bones@uwm.edu](mailto:healthy-bones@uwm.edu).

## Let's Be Fair! How About \$1,000,000 to Promote Milwaukee Public Schools?

Tim Sheehy, president of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), has announced a \$1,000,000 advertising campaign to promote private/voucher schools in Milwaukee.

As educators, we need to speak up for our schools **now!** Let's ask Mr. Sheehy to show the business community's support for public education by also conducting a \$1,000,000 campaign to promote Milwaukee's public schools.

If you'd like more details, go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org).

### Call or E-Mail Mr. Sheehy Today

To request equal time and money to promote public schools, you can contact Tim Sheehy at **287-4125** or [tsheehy@mmac.org](mailto:tsheehy@mmac.org). (If you call, you'll probably get his voicemail - so just leave a message.)

Please call and send an e-mail if you can!

### A Sample Message

Here's a sample script. Feel free to adapt it, but please focus on the fairness of also informing the community about our great public schools.

*"Dear Mr. Sheehy:*

*I'm proud to be an educator in MPS and believe the public deserves an equal opportunity to hear the great things going on in MPS, not just private schools.*

*I think the business community should step up and conduct a \$1,000,000 campaign to promote the positives of our public schools. I hope you'll work as hard to promote MPS as you have for voucher schools."*

### Send Your Message by February 29

The pro-voucher campaign has already started. So, we'd like you to send your message as soon as you can but no later than Friday, February 29.

**Thanks for speaking up for our public schools!**

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## Membership Meeting - March 18

Please mark your calendar for the Annual Substitute Teacher MTEA Membership meeting set for Tuesday, March 18. The meeting will be held at Serb Hall, 5101 West Oklahoma Avenue, starting at 4:30 p.m. Details will be in the next Dispatch.

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## Strict Limits on the Use of Physical Force

Physical force may be used only in student discipline situations narrowly defined by the teacher contract, quoted below:

"Any reasonable and appropriate means, including the use of physical force, may be used by school personnel to prevent a threatened breach of discipline or to stop a continuing breach of discipline. It is expected that physical force will be used **only when other means for preventing a breach of discipline or stopping its continuance have been ineffective.**"

### No Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment may never be used. Once a breach of discipline is completed, you may not use physical force as a form of punishment.

### Self-Defense Situations

The teacher contract spells out the limits on using force for self-defense. "... reasonable physical force may be used in self-defense. Self-defense is permissible where a teacher finds it necessary to defend himself/herself or a third person, where a teacher reasonably believes that such action is necessary for the safety of himself/herself or a third person. Self-defense means the **use of such force as is necessary to protect oneself.** It does not mean that any additional force may be used or that force may be used after the individual is no longer in danger."

**Our Advice:** If you are in doubt as to whether the use of physical force is appropriate in a student discipline situation, do **not** use it.

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## PHA Participation - Phenomenal!

Based on the data MPS has shared with us, a remarkable number and percentage of MTEA members (and spouses) completed the personal health assessment (PHA). Especially for the first six months of the new GoodHealth program, the level of participation was extraordinary.

Only 763 of our members will have a \$100 "Health Premium Contribution" deducted (pre-tax basis) on their February 22 and March 21 paychecks. 763 is the combined total from the four MTEA units - teachers, EAs, substitute teachers, and accountants/bookkeepers.

Because we will not receive detailed data until later this month, we can't determine how many of the 763 MTEA members completed the PHA themselves by the December 15 deadline - but their spouse did not. By contract, both the member and spouse must do the PHA to avoid the annual \$200 premium contribution.

### What's Next: Healthy Programs (and Earning \$200)

If you completed the PHA, you now have detailed information on your health, including conditions/risks. Most importantly, the PHA results include personalized recommendations for voluntary programs to help maintain and improve your health.

If you complete a voluntary program by December 15, 2008, you will receive a \$200 tax-free payment to your health reimbursement account by February 28, 2009. Although only members are eligible to earn the \$200 incentive, spouses should also take advantage of the voluntary programs - for their good health.

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## Wanted: A Few Curious Members

Would you like to learn more about our union? The power of collective action to improve teaching and learning? How to advocate for public schools?

Do you believe in social justice and that being an educator goes beyond the classroom?

Are you thinking about getting involved in our union at some level, but don't know where to start?

### Unique Opportunity for Emerging Voices

If you responded "yes" to the questions above, our Emerging Voices program may be right for you.

We are looking for a diverse group of members to participate. Emerging Voices is not just for "new" or "young" members. You may have worked in MPS for years but have only recently started exploring what it means to be an active union member.

### Please Contact Us Now!

If you're interested, please contact Stephanie Walters of the MTEA staff at 259-1990 or [walterss@mtea.weac.org](mailto:walterss@mtea.weac.org) by **February 29**. (This training program is limited to no more than 18 members.)

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## Calendar Survey Starts February 20

Our bargaining team has developed a brief survey to find out the membership's priorities for negotiating the 2008-09 school calendar. Please go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) to register your views on key issues - such as next year's winter break (shorter vs. longer). The survey membership deadline is **February 29**.