



"E" Transformation of MTEA Communications

Since February 1st, we have not distributed a Sharpener. Instead we've communicated the rapidly changing battle on the state budget repair bill through daily updates at mtea.org and blast emails to our members who have subscribed to the email version of Sharpener.

We have also occasionally used Twitter and Facebook. However, due to technical difficulties, MTEA's Facebook connection vanished last week. If you were an MTEA fan, you need to become a fan again. (Sorry!)

Sign on Today

We strongly recommend that you go to mtea.org and sign up for our union's rapid "E" communications.

To receive E-versions of Sharpener and email updates on the budget battle on Monday and Wednesday each week, click on "Newsletters."

Patience Appreciated

The state budget battle stakes are very high - the future of public education in Milwaukee, our students, and our union.

It's not business as usual. Your calls can't be answered as fast as in the past.

MTEA leaders and staff thank you for your understanding, kindness, and patience.

We Have Just Begun to Fight!

History will show that the assault on bargaining rights led by Governor Walker and carried out lockstep by most Republican legislators was a Pyrrhic victory. (Winning one battle but sustaining huge loses and then, eventually losing the war.)

Thanks to 14 Democratic state senators, the theft of public employee contracts was not a quick strike as the Walker machine had planned.

Instead, over the past four weeks, a collective voice resounded again and again. Educators, parents, students, public (and private) workers, religious and community leaders, and average citizens demonstrated their passion for human rights. A movement began, and the entire state watched and listened.

The rallies at the state Capitol, along with actions in Milwaukee and around the state, exposed the Republican endgame. Today, a majority of state voters realize they were duped by a duplicitous candidate.

State Budget Battle Begins

If Governor Walker's 2011-13 state budget bill is enacted, thousands of people will be harmed. Public school students and parents. Those who need federal/state supported health insurance. The working poor. And many other Wisconsin families. Educators, most other public employees, and other middle-class taxpayers will pay for Governor Walker's budget bill. Only the wealthy will again be Scott free.

Many Support Activities Ahead

In the months ahead, members of our union will be called upon to support restoring justice to our state's 2011-13 budget. MTEA Building Representatives will coordinate activities, starting with an emergency union meeting at each school on March 17.

"Must Attend" Leaders' Meeting

The next monthly meeting of our union's school leaders will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, at Serb Hall. It's imperative for every staff to be represented by their BR, Alternate, or both.

The agenda will focus on:

- ◆ What the new public employee bargaining law means to teachers now and on July 1, 2013.
- ◆ How members can join the statewide battle to restore justice to the 2011-13 state budget.

There will be important handouts for each school.

TEAM Program

Referrals - March 15

The Teacher Evaluation and Mentoring (TEAM) program, a joint MTEA/MPS effort to help struggling teachers, is now in its 13th year. TEAM provides a fair and workable approach to identify and assist veteran teachers who demonstrate a need for assistance in their classroom performance.

The deadline for submitting referrals this semester is Tuesday, **March 15**. For more information, please call the TEAM program at 874-8402.

Makeup Days

The first snow day, February 2, will be made up by changing the **May 20** banking day to a student instruction day.

As to the second snow day on February 3, the emergency make-up day at the end of the school year will become a workday.

Students will attend an additional day at the end of the school year and record day will be a day later. The emergency make-up day.

Traditional Calendar

Last Student Day:
Moved to **June 14**

Record Day:
Moved to **June 15**

Year-Round Schools

Last Student Day:
Moved to **June 20**

Record Day:
Moved to **June 21**

IB Schools

Last Student Day:
Moved to **May 27**

Record Day:
Moved to **May 31**

The status of the school closing day on February 18 is still under discussion.

MTEA Leadership Candidates

At our union's school leaders meeting in February, the MTEA Nominating Committee reported the following candidates for the MTEA Officer and Executive Board positions open to election in April.

MTEA Officers (Two-Year Terms)

For President

Bonnie Brusky - Riverside High School
Bob Peterson - Fratney Elementary School

For Vice-President

Rozalia Harris - Special Assignment - Minority Community Outreach
Kim Schroeder - Sherman Elementary School

For Secretary

Amy Johnson - Bay View High School

For Treasurer

Debbie Karow - TEAM Program Mentor

MTEA Executive Board (Six-Year Terms)

For Kindergarten/Primary Representative

Brenda Pullen-O'Donnell - Engleburg
Stephanie Schneider - Fernwood Montessori

For Intermediate Representative

Stella Miranda - Fernwood Montessori

For Middle School Representative

Jeffrey C. Baas - Rotating Teacher

For Senior High School Representative

Christopher Fons - Riverside High School

For Special Education Representative

Maureen DeVeau Seiden - Milwaukee Sign Language School
Larry O. Woods - C.O. Diagnostic Teacher

For Middle School Representative (*Two-year Term*)

Judy Gundry - Citywide New Teacher Mentor

For Middle School Representative (*Four-year Term*)

Bramouse Muhammed - Roosevelt Middle School

Additional Nominations

There will be another opportunity for nominations at the **March 16** RA meeting. To be nominated from the floor, a member must be present to accept or submit a signed statement of acceptance at the meeting.
