

Special Education Runoff Election

Members who work with students who have special education needs will elect a representative to the MTEA Executive Board in a runoff election this May.

On May 16, ballots were mailed to the homes of speech pathologists, DTs, low incidence itinerant teachers, and other "central office" members in special education.

Ballots for the majority of members in special education are being delivered to their schools on Thursday, **May 19**.

◆BRs in schools with six or more eligible voters will receive an MTEA ballot box and conduct the same voting steps as they did a few weeks ago. The recommended 3-day in-school voting period is Monday-Wednesday, **May 23-25**.

◆BRs in schools with 5 or fewer eligible voters should personally hand out voting materials right away - on Thursday, **May 19**, if possible. Members are individually responsible for mailing in ballots.

The deadline for runoff voting is Wednesday, **May 25**.

Please Keep Visiting mtea.org

For several weeks, we've communicated through daily updates at mtea.org and blast emails to our members who have subscribed to the email version of Sharpener. The initial focus was the battle over bargaining rights. The issue now is the proposed state budget.

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

Make-up and Record Days Set

The following is an excerpt from the "Superintendent's Thursday Updates" principals received on the MPS portal on May 5.

ALL - Schedule for Make-Up Days for MPS Staff and Students

The chart below identifies the schedule for the make-up days for MPS students and staff as well as how Record Day will be handled in all MPS schools. Please note that any student contact day is a paid day.

Teachers are expected to turn in **all** records on or before the unpaid day listed as Record Day in traditional calendar and year-round calendar schools. Educational assistants are expected to attend on all student/teacher days, but not Record Day.

The make-up days for the end of the school year will be as follows:

<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Year-Round</u>	<u>IB</u>
May 20 - Banking Day; paid, student/teacher day	May 20 - Banking Day; paid, student/teacher day	April 11 - Banking Day; paid, student/teacher day
June 14 - Paid, student/teacher day	June 20 - Paid, student/teacher day	May 27 - Paid, student/teacher day
June 15 - Paid, student/teacher day	June 21 - Paid, student/teacher day	May 31 - Record Day; paid because only two days were needed as make-up days at IB schools. (February 18 was already scheduled off.)
June 16 - Record Day	June 22 - Record Day	

See Your BR for Questions

BRs received an indepth explanation of make-up and record days at their May 18 meeting. They were asked to hold a ten-minute meeting at school on May 19 or 20 to brief their staff and answer questions. If you have questions on the schedule above, please ask your school's BR.

Why Record Day Is Unpaid

Teachers were paid when MPS schools were closed on February 18, the day of a massive rally at the State Capitol. Teachers out ill did not have 8 hours deducted from their accumulated sick leave. MPS treated February 18 the same as a snow closing day and paid teachers for that day on the March 4 paycheck.

Because teachers were already paid for February 18, which had been scheduled as a student instruction day at traditional and year-round calendar schools, the work performed on record day is unpaid.

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MTEA Leadership Election Results

The positions are listed with the results, winners are in bold. The MTEA Officers (two-year terms) are:

President -

Bob Peterson 2,522
Bonnie Brusky 1,839

Vice President -

Kim Schroeder 2,507
Rozalia Harris 1,744

Two MTEA Officers positions (two-year terms) were uncontested:

Secretary - Amy Johnson

Treasurer - Debbie Karow

MTEA Executive Board Positions
The representatives below were elected to six-year terms.

Senior High Representative -

Christopher Fons 425
Dan Soiney 193

Middle School Representative -

Jeffery C. Baas 176
Sarah Scifo 149

Kindergarten-Primary Rep. -

Stephanie Schneider 713
Brenda K. Pullen-O'Donnell 328

Runoff Election

There will be a run-off between the top two vote-getters for the Special Education Representative position. They are in bold print.

Maureen DeVeau Seiden 259
Claydia Miller 154
Larry O. Woods 356

Uncontested Seats

Three Executive Board positions were uncontested (listed along with position is term length):

Intermediate (six-year term) -

Stella Miranda

Middle School (two-year term) -

Judy Gundry

Middle School (four-year term) -

Bramouse Muhammad

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Proper Deductions on March 4 Paycheck?

If you participated in activities in Madison on February 15, 16, or 17, your March 4 paycheck should have reflected an 8-hour deduction for each day you were absent.

Our union's Executive Director, Stan Johnson, has already forwarded a number of individual docking questions to the district. If you think MPS made an improper salary or sick leave deduction on your March 4 paycheck, please email Stan at johnsons@weac.org at this time, if you have not already done so. Be sure to specify the date(s) in question - February 15, 16, 17 or 18.

Electing Strong Leaders for 2011-12

During May, MTEA Building Representative conduct the election of the BR, Alternate, and Building Committee members for next school year.

The BRs have always been essential to the strength of our union in each school and to the MTEA citywide. Building Committees have provided BRs with invaluable assistance communicating with faculty and addressing schoolwide concerns.

Leaders to Represent You - Extremely Important!

The need for effective teacher leaders in every school will be critical next year because of the extraordinary anti-union legislation enacted this spring and Governor Walker's proposed state budget for 2011-13. His proposals will drastically cut funding for public schools in Wisconsin, which will exacerbate in MPS by the proposed voucher expansion. School budgets will be slashed - resulting in higher class sizes, the loss of key staff members, and the elimination of programs/services for students.

To say that next school year will be challenging is an understatement. Please consider serving your school in a union leadership role. If you can't, be sure to elect teachers who will advocate for the best possible teaching and learning conditions at your school.

Resources at mtea.org

Our union's website outlines the representation duties of the BR and the Building Committee. You'll also find a list of qualities to consider as you select union leaders for your school.

To Honor Our Retiring Educators

The 27th Annual MTEA Retiree Recognition Dinner takes place on **Tuesday, June 7**, at the Italian Conference Center. Members who already retired during 2010-11 or who plan to retire at the end of this school year will be our union's guests for dinner. A brief program will recognize their years of dedicated service to students.

Invitations have been mailed to *known* retirees - only those whose retirement had been officially reported to the school board before our mailing on May 6.

If you are retiring but have not received an invitation, please call Linda Scherlie at our union's office at **256-6765** or e-mail her at lscherli@mtea.weac.org.
