

## Vice-President Runoff Election

None of the candidates in the three-way race for Vice-President received a majority of the votes cast in April. A runoff election is now underway between the top two candidates:

- Rozalia Harris
- Kim Schroeder

Ballots were mailed to the homes of ELL teachers, school social workers, speech pathologists, DTs, and certain other groups of teachers on Friday, May 8.

The Building Representative in each school should have received ballots, voter lists, and a ballot box by Thursday, May 14, (along with this [Sharpener](#)).

### Three-Day In-School Voting: May 18-20

MTEA Building Representatives should set the specific voting times, dates, and polling location for their school, and notify the faculty.

BRs have been urged to conduct the voting on three days - **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** - May 18, 19, & 20. (BRs may start the voting process as early as May 14.)

### BR Serves as Election Official

For balloting, BRs serve as election officials, with duties similar to poll workers in civic elections. Your school's BR should personally hand your individually-addressed envelope to you. It contains the ballot and a reprint of information on the two candidates. The BR should check your name off your faculty's voting list as you cast your ballot.

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## MTEA Leader Election Results

The results of the MTEA Officer and Senior High Representative April elections are listed below:

### MTEA Officers - Two-Year Terms

<b>For President</b>		<b>For Vice-President</b>	
-Mike Langyel	2,126	-Kim Schroeder	1,567
-Bonnie Brusky	1,765	-Rozalia Harris	1,563
		-Larry Martin	602
<b>For Secretary</b>		<b>For Treasurer</b>	
-Amy M. Johnson	2,456	-Debbie Karow	2,361
-Kelly Patschull	1,201	-Sharon Kolade	1,233

### MTEA Executive Board Member - Six-Year Term

<b>For Senior High</b>	
-Dorothy Hancock	299
-Christopher Fons	274

Three Executive Board positions (six-year terms) were uncontested:

<b>For Kindergarten-Primary</b>	<b>For Intermediate</b>
-Kelly McMahon	-Wanda Welch
<b>For Middle School</b>	
-Connie Baldewicz-O'Malley	

### New Leaders Take Office on June 3

Newly-elected Officers and Executive Board members take office after the final BR meeting of the school year on June 3, 2009.

## Board Rejects Teacher Proposals

Your teacher bargaining team continues to work for proposals that will help improve teaching and learning. Class size reduction. Prep time. Administrative support for discipline. Changes to attract and retain teachers, such as eliminating the residency requirement.

It is early in the contract bargaining process. The school board's team has not even discussed most of the teacher proposals. But, on May 5, the board presented an 88-page "take-it or leave-it" package proposal.

The board's package simply "REJECTED" the teacher proposals.

When the board's team said it needed a response by May 7 on two proposals that rely on federal stimulus funding, your team did not accept the package.

Talks are continuing. The teams met again on May 12, and the next session is set for May 21.

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### **Please Vote Promptly**

When the BR hands the ballot to you, please mark it and place it in the ballot box. If you need a minute to review the candidate information, your BR will wait.

**Until you are prepared to vote, do not accept your ballot.**

### **Special Arrangements**

The BRs have a duty to provide all members with the opportunity to vote. If you are unable to vote at the designated times, you are responsible for contacting your BR to arrange a mutually convenient time.

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### **Superintendent Insults**

On May 7, the superintendent made another attempt to bargain the longer day in the press. The excerpt below is from the May 9 [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) article. (Go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) for the entire story.) As the superintendent puts his spin on complex issues that can only be resolved through good faith bargaining, he insults teachers (and threatens employees' jobs).

### **Newspaper Quotes**

In an interview, Andrekopoulos said he was concerned that employees are not acting like they will be part of solving the spending problems.

"If they are not part of the solution, there isn't a place for them to have jobs in the future," Andrekopoulos said. "People have to get to the place where they realize there isn't going to be more money here."

With the union balking at the improvement initiatives, Andrekopoulos says MPS employees must realize the district is in financial trouble.

But, he said, "So far, I have not seen that."

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## **Good Faith Bargaining?**

For the board's team to put an 88-page take-it or leave-it package on the table before even discussing the teachers' proposals underscores a serious problem. The superintendent, the board's team, and the school board want to **dictate, not negotiate**.

### **Board's Longer Day Proposal - Delay, Delay, Dictate**

The chronology of the board's longer elementary day proposal shows no respect for the give-and-take process of bargaining:

◆ **February 17** - Board's initial proposals include "a longer day," "a restructured day," and "more student instructional time" - with no mention that the extra student time is only for elementary schools.

◆ **Early March** - The board's team was scheduled to present its longer day proposal on March 19. But it then said it was not ready, indicating it might be for the April 2 bargaining session.

◆ **March 16** - Superintendent presents his systemwide year-round school and longer K-8 day ideas in a newspaper article, and announces three public hearings for feedback on his plans for federal stimulus money.

◆ **April 30** - For the first time, the board's team presents a longer day proposal, at the table, but as part of its comprehensive package.

◆ **May 5** - Board presents a revised take-it or leave-it package proposal, rejecting the teachers' proposals. Alluding to a deadline for federal stimulus funding for its longer day and increased faculty meeting time proposals, the board's team wants a response by May 7.

◆ **May 7** - Superintendent goes public on the longer day proposal, again. (See article on left.)

### **Potential for Dividing Teachers - Not Bargaining**

The board's initial longer elementary day proposal would mean that the district's secondary teachers would be paid \$6,000 less than elementary teachers over the next two school years. The board's take-it or leave-it approach and the superintendent's bargaining in the media could create a divisive distraction from what should take place at the bargaining table.

Fortunately, your seasoned teacher bargaining team remains focused on fighting for your proposals, working for contract improvements educators know can help improve teaching and learning.

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### **Calendar Proposal - More of the Same**

On May 8, the board's chief negotiator gave your union a 2009-10 calendar proposal that would reduce the number of banking time release days from five to two next school year. The reduction is one of many proposals included in the board's May 5 take-it or leave-it package.

### **More Information (and Quicker)**

Go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) for details on the two "stimulus funded" proposals in the board's May 5 take-it and leave-it package. They are: a longer day for elementary teachers (adding 25 minutes of student contact time) and increasing the monthly requirement of two hours for faculty meetings/in-service to eight hours for all teachers.

To receive e-mail bargaining updates - including calendar talks, please sign up at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org). You will receive more information, more quickly.