

---



---

### **Date Book Delivery**

The 2009-10 MTEA Date Book is being prepared for distribution to BRs at the September 9 MTEA Leadership Convocation.

---



---

### **Open House Notice**

Principals are required to inform the faculty of the date(s) for your school's open house by "the fifth workday of the school year." For most schools, the deadline for this notice is **September 4**.

By contract, one open house per semester is considered part of each teacher's assignment.

### **Scheduling Fall Parent Conferences**

Schools considering an alternative schedule for parent-teacher conferences this fall should take the following steps:

Principals should meet with parent representatives and MTEA Building Representatives to develop options for each school. The BR should then survey teachers on the options, and the principal should obtain input from parents. The BR and principal should then meet to review the parent and teacher responses.

By **September 11**, BRs should notify the MTEA in writing of the specific dates and times your faculty wants for fall conferences. Schools will be notified as soon as the MTEA and MPS reach agreement on each request.

## **September Enrollment for Insurances**

September 30 is the deadline to:

- Switch to a different health or dental plan if you wish.
- Add dependents to your insurance plans and change any other information that is not up-to-date.
- Re-enroll for coverage if you're returning from leave, or enroll for the first time.

### **Important: MPS Packet Mailed to Your Home**

Since mid-August, the district has been mailing packets to the homes of employees and retirees. (If you have not received your packet, it should arrive by September 8.) The packet includes:

- ◆ An application form listing your individual data currently on file with MPS, such as your covered dependents.
- ◆ A 2009 MPS Open Enrollment booklet for health and dental insurance.
- ◆ A 2009 Flexible Spending Account booklet.

**We strongly recommend that you carefully review your data and update it if necessary, by the September 30 deadline.**

---



---

## **Getting Involved in Your Union**

You should have received the August 24 Sharpener at your home - along with three sign-up enclosures:

- ◆ **MTEA Member Data Sheet** - to update your contact information and sign up for Sharpener via e-mail (in addition to the paper edition).
- ◆ **2009-10 MTEA Committees Brochure** - to join other members in addressing a wide range of member issues and interests.
- ◆ **Political Action Sign-up Sheet** - select from seven different ways to help elect candidates who advocate for public schools.

You can complete all three items at mtea.org or return them in the envelope sent with the mailing. (To save on postage, please ask your BR to bring them to the September 9 MTEA Leadership Convocation.)

---



---

## **MTEA Retirement Workshop**

Each fall, the MTEA presents a comprehensive workshop for teachers who are considering retirement within the next few years. The workshop is especially valuable to those planning to retire at the end of the current school year.

*Please continue on back...*

Continued from front...

### Workshop Dates and Details

If you are considering retiring in June of 2010, you and your spouse should attend on Thursday, **September 24**, or Tuesday, **October 6**. The workshop will be held from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at **Serb Hall, 5105 West Oklahoma Ave.** Don Ernest of the MTEA staff will present the seminar, and there will be ample time for questions.

Information will be presented on several topics including: pension benefits under the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS); the negotiated supplemental retirement plan; and other contractual retirement benefits including health insurance, life insurance, and severance pay.

We urge you to bring your spouse. If you plan to attend, please call the MTEA at 259-1990 to register by giving your name, number attending, and your choice of workshop date. If you prefer, register online at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) (Events).

### Key Steps in Preparing for Retirement

The MTEA workshop provides a broad framework for you to start your specific retirement plans. We highly recommend two more steps to help you determine your choice of WRS annuity payments, the timing of your retirement, etc.

**First**, you need to submit a WRS "Benefit Information Request" form. Copies of this form will be distributed at the workshop, and instructions will be given to help participants complete it. After you send in your form, the WRS will provide you with specific dollar amount estimates of your state pension payment options.

**Second**, after you have received your payment estimates from WRS, you and your spouse should make an appointment to meet with Don Ernest. This in-depth counseling session will provide answers to your individual questions - including the amount of benefits you will receive under the negotiated supplemental pension plan. At the end of this session, all of your retirement paperwork will be ready to file.

---

---

## Mayoral Control: Initial Q & A

On August 13, Governor Doyle, Mayor Barrett, and Superintendent Evers publicly proposed mayoral control of MPS. A few initial questions are addressed below. We will keep you informed of any developments.

### Q. What would happen to our union contract with the Milwaukee School Board if the mayor appointed the board members?

A. We asked our attorneys for a legal opinion, summarized below:

"Changes in state law that eliminate the elected Milwaukee school board and replace it with a board appointed by the mayor of Milwaukee will not create a new employing entity for MPS employees and thereby abrogate existing labor contracts.

"It is possible that legislation which creates an appointed board could carve out certain subjects of bargaining as prohibited issues. While such changes in the bargaining laws likely cannot abrogate existing contractual rights, they could foreclose bargaining rights in subsequent agreements, and significantly strengthen the Mayoral-appointed board's negotiating position.

"Finally, we have to further examine the bargaining experiences of employees and their unions in other urban school districts who have dealt with Mayoral-appointed boards."

### Q. Are there any details available?

A. No. In fact, at the August 31 news conference affirming support for a change in governance, Mayor Barrett said different appointed board models were still being investigated.

### Q. When will the specifics become public?

A. When the state Legislature convenes on September 15, Governor Doyle is expected to introduce an education reform package that will include a change in the state law to transfer the governance of MPS to some form of mayoral control.

### Q. Why does my union oppose a mayoral takeover?

A. The primary reason is that mayoral control would take away the right of citizens to elect their school board representatives. The democratic election process gives the community a direct voice and engagement with its schools - a connection that can't be achieved with mayoral control.

A secondary reason is that changing the governance structure does not provide city schools with adequate funding needed for the basic elements of a quality education such as smaller class sizes, a safe learning environment, highly qualified teachers and support staff, etc.

### Q. How can members get involved?

A. Join the membership work group which is being formed to oppose a mayoral takeover. If you're interested, please sign up at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) or call MTEA President Mike Langyel at 259-1990.

---

---

### Celebrate Solidarity!

It's not too late to sign up to join in the Labor Day parade plus fun and food at Laborfest. Go to [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) (Events Calendar) or call 259-1990.