



## Agreement Reached on Job Sharing

Your union's teacher bargaining team and the School Board's team have agreed to extend the contract provision for job sharing through June 30, **2012**. (It had been scheduled to sunset at the end of the school year.)

The agreement maintains the current contractual provision with one change in substance: The elimination of the rarely-used option of one job-sharing partner teaching the first semester and the other the second semester.

The teams agreed to implement the new provision this March.

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## Legislative Priorities

Providing for fair and adequate funding of public schools is one of the critical issues on your union's agenda for the current session of the State Legislature.

MTEA members will testify on the need for resources and other education issues when the Joint Finance Committee holds a Milwaukee-area hearing on the state budget on March 24.

Another key school funding hearing will take place on April 21 before the Assembly Education Committee. The School Finance Network proposal to change the state's school funding law will be discussed. (See the February 2009 Sharpener.)

Look for more details on both hearings at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) and in Sharpener.

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## Grievance Wins Over \$57,000 in Pay

**Background** For the 2007-08 school year, the principal of Pulaski High School unilaterally reduced the eight-minute passing time between block classes to five minutes and increased the pupil contact time. The change violated the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on block scheduling for the school and the contract.

### Group Grievance Filed

The Pulaski Building Representatives and an MTEA staff member attempted to resolve the matter through discussions with the principal. However, the MPS Labor Relations Department supported the principal's changes, and formal action was necessary.

Your union filed a group grievance on behalf of the Pulaski faculty, seeking two remedies:

- ◆ Stop the violation and follow the school's block schedule MOU.
- ◆ Compensate teachers for the additional pupil contact time, at the part-time certificated rate.

### Results: Violation Stopped, Teachers Compensated

As a result of the group grievance, the MPS administration agreed to follow the block schedule MOU starting with the 2008-09 school year.

As to compensating the affected teachers, the MTEA staff member developed a formula for calculating the minutes of additional pupil contact time for each teacher. There were variations based on each teacher's schedule and the number of days they worked in 2007-08.

Many teachers received \$836.66 on their March 6 paycheck. Others were paid lesser amounts. For the 104 affected teachers, the total payment was \$57,108.37.

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## Requiring Residency: Affecting Students?

Do state legislators understand how the teacher residency requirement negatively impacts the students of MPS? Are they aware that highly-qualified educators do not apply to work in MPS because of this mandate? Do they know that the requirement has resulted in experienced career teachers reluctantly leaving to teach in other districts?

If the negative effects of the residency requirement on MPS students are not understood by lawmakers, who will inform them?

**You!** And the MTEA Freedom of Residency Committee is spearheading a campaign to communicate the impact on students and educators to legislators and other political leaders. Please send your stories to Debbie Karow, Chair of MTEA's Freedom of Residency Committee, at [dkarow@hotmail.com](mailto:dkarow@hotmail.com).

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## TEAM Program

### Referrals - March 16

The Teacher Evaluation and Mentoring (TEAM) program, a joint MTEA/MPS effort to help struggling teachers, is now in its 12th 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 Monday, **March 16**. For more information, please call the TEAM program at 212-3170.

### MTEA Movie Night - March 19

The first-ever MTEA Movie Night is on March 19 at the Times Cinema, located at 59th and Vliet. A 90-minute documentary, "A Little Bit of So Much Truth," will be screened, at 6:00 p.m.

This film delivers a breathtaking, intimate account of a history-making revolution when the people used the media to organize, mobilize, and defend their grassroots struggle for social, cultural, and economic justice.

Tickets are \$5 each. Concessions will be available for purchase. The screening is open to the public. (The film is appropriate for young people, though probably not for very small children.)

### Interested in Montessori?

Here are two opportunities to learn about Montessori training.

◆ **March 19** (Thursday) Open House at the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee at 3195 South Superior Street, Suite L428, from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

◆ **April 1** (Wednesday) Tour and informational meeting at MacDowell Montessori School, starting at 4:00 p.m.

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Let us know what the students at your school lost when a teacher left MPS for another district. Describe how the mandate affects you and your students. And tell us if you'd like to join the committee.

### Bills Aim to Prohibit Residency Requirement

Your stories are timely because bills to prohibit requiring residency for Milwaukee teachers have been introduced in the state Senate and Assembly. Senate Bill 54 (SB54) has been referred to the Senate Education Committee. Assembly Bill 89 (AB89) has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Labor.

One step you can take now is urging the committee chairpersons to schedule a hearing on the bill. Rep. Christine Sinicki chairs the Assembly Labor Committee - [rep.sinicki@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.sinicki@legis.wisconsin.gov). Sen. John Lehman is the chair of the Senate Education Committee - [sen.lehman@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.lehman@legis.wisconsin.gov).

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## MTEA Leadership Candidates

At the **February 11** Building Representatives meeting, 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  
Mike Langyel - Pulaski High School

#### For Vice-President

Rozalia Harris - Townsend Elementary School  
Lawrence Martin - Pulaski High School  
Kim Schroeder - Sherman Elementary School

#### For Secretary

Amy Johnson - Bay View High School  
Kelly Patschull - Madison High School

#### For Treasurer

Sharon Kolade - Riverside High School

### MTEA Executive Board (Six-Year Terms)

#### For Kindergarten/Primary Representative

Kelly McMahon - Lancaster Elementary School

#### For Intermediate Representative

Wanda Welch - Lancaster Elementary School

#### For Middle School Representative

Connie Baldewicz-O'Malley - Lady Pitts High School

#### For Senior High School Representative

Christopher Fons - Riverside High School

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### Additional Nominations

There will be another opportunity for nominations at the **March 18** BR meeting. To be nominated from the floor, a member must be present to accept or submit a signed statement of acceptance at the meeting.

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