



Milwaukee Teachers'
Education Association

Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MTEA Leadership Reports Productive Meeting with MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton

Milwaukee – Early this afternoon, Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA) President Mike Langyel and Interim Executive Director Bob Baxter met with MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton and his Chief of Staff Naomi Gubernick.

The leaders discussed a wide range of issues including layoffs, teacher contract negotiations and a mutual desire for improved relations between the union and the district administration.

“We found Superintendent Thornton very willing to listen and engage on issues that are critically important to our members,” says MTEA President Mike Langyel. “We are hopeful about the current administration’s desire for a positive relationship with educators and our union.”

One of the issues union leaders raised during the meeting was the need to have requests for information from the district honored. In the previous administration, many union requests were largely ignored, and essentially stalled progress on contract negotiations and other areas. For example, the union has repeatedly asked for clarification regarding the discrepancy between the number of layoffs projected in the previous administration’s proposed budget – 260 positions – and the 482 teachers who have been laid off. To date, MTEA has still not received a clear explanation.

Superintendent Thornton assured MTEA leaders that he will honor requests for information, and work with the union to address the district’s challenges, including the current flaws with the layoff procedure.

“It was refreshing to have an open and honest dialogue that frankly has been missing in the past,” says Langyel. “We are encouraged by the conversation, and look forward to a positive working relationship with the new administration.”

The MTEA is the labor union representing over 8,000 teachers and education professionals working in Milwaukee Public Schools. The union’s vision is to improve the lives of its members and the students and families they serve.