



# ***Reimagine the MTEA***

Update #1 • January 2012

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*The campaign to Reimagine and Reinvent the MTEA* was launched by MTEA President Bob Peterson in September at the MTEA Convocation. We've made some progress towards our goals, but much more needs to be done as we prepare for a non-contract world and to fight the forces of privatization. Only through increased rank-and-file activity will we be able to defend and improve our public schools and help the MTEA survive and thrive. Your ideas and involvement are more important now than ever before if we are to accomplish the following goals. We **are** the MTEA.

## **Move from collective bargaining to collective action**

- Our committees and political action have included more members than ever due to the efforts of many people including our full-time release member organizers.
- We realigned the MTEA professional staff to match the MPS regions to better connect with and support Building Representatives, EA Chairs and Building Committees.
- BRs and EA chairs will be released for a day to attend a Union Leadership Academy.
- We've started a "Membership Continuation Campaign" to keep the EA, substitute teacher and bookkeepers/accountant units strong as their contracts expire on June 30, 2012.

## **Reclaim our classrooms and reclaim our profession**

- We got the MPS administration to agree to teacher-initiated professional development cohorts.
- We secured professional development for EAs on the banking day.
- Member concerns are being voiced to the MPS administration, the DPI and school board members on a regular basis.
- The MTEA Executive Board has released two members to work as Teaching and Learning Coordinators to head up this work.
- The MTEA has initiated informational sessions and support for National Board Certified Teachers.

## **Build collaborative public schools that serve all students**

- We have pressured the MPS administration to support or remove some ineffective principals and are working with building committees to respond to schools in crisis.
- We are partnering with the administration on improving professional development and offering new programs for schools that are struggling.
- MTEA leaders are meeting weekly with MPS administration to improve conditions of teaching and learning in the metro region.

## **Work with parents & community to promote democracy and justice**

- The Parent/community advocates are reaching out to parent and community organizations.
- The Democracy Advocates are working on the Walker recall campaign and planning activities in conjunction with Occupy Wall Street and We Are Wisconsin.
- The Social Justice Advocates are promoting teaching about social justice issues such as voter suppression and voter rights. A teaching workshop on voting issues will be at 8:30 AM, Sat. Jan. 28 at the MTEA office.

## **Improve our union's internal communication, public relations, and our capacity to organize and mobilize our members**

- The MTEA website is updated almost daily.
  - Our six facebook groups of our advocates, BRs and EA chairs are actively "discussing" issues.
  - The MTEA President regularly blogs about key issues (see the MTEA website).
  - We're redoing our data base and technology to better support and communicate with members.
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## **What can you do to join the reimagine campaign?**

- Become an advocate or join an MTEA committee -- sign up at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org) or call 259-1990 and ask for Kim Schroeder or Bonnie Brusky.
- Encourage EAs, substitutes, and accountants to maintain membership in the MTEA.
- Become active with others to build a strong MTEA presence at your school.

### ***Teaching and Learning Advocates***

We have discussions on issues of teaching and learning. Topics include excessive testing, especially in elementary schools, scripted curriculum, mandates, professional development, Rtl, and how we can "take back our classrooms."

### ***Parent/Community Advocates***

We are focusing on how to better build ties with parents and community. We've met with a parent who is founding a Milwaukee chapter of Parents for Public Schools and will meet with other parent leaders in the future. We want to increase parent involvement at all schools.

### ***Social Justice/Equity Advocates***

We are surveying members at our schools about what social justice issues they identify as important. We are also working to build the Jan. 28 teaching workshop on voter suppression and voting rights that will be at the MTEA office.

### ***Democracy Advocates***

We are involved with a range of issues surrounding the Walker and Kleefisch recall efforts. We plan on pairing up to do outreach to get more Democracy Advocates in schools that don't have them. There are lots of activities to defend public schools and defeat Walker -- please join us.