



## MTEA joins coalition to support MPS referendum effort

*Referendum would provide students with much needed resources*



MTEA has joined a coalition of organizations that will be working to support a potential operating referendum for MPS. Among other coalition members are Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT), Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC), Voces de la Frontera, Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES), and the Working Families Party.

The Task Force organized by MPS to study the needs of the district has discussed a multitude of areas of need in MPS and how to address them. At one Task Force meeting, a financial advisor for MPS was asked what the annual cost would be if MPS were to meet every need considered by the task force. The advisor described several scenarios ranging from \$80 to \$640 million, the latter a number that illustrates just how badly Wisconsin's broken school funding formula has failed the students of MPS.

The next day, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel ran a story that focused on this hypothetical higher number, while mostly ignoring the smaller, more realistic figures in the \$80-100 million range.

In the following days, four MPS parents published a column in *Urban Milwaukee* making the case that every student, whether they attend school in Milwaukee, Shorewood, Wauwatosa or another Wisconsin community, deserves the same opportunity that comes with a fully-funded, public education. The parents also pointed out that without fixes to the funding formula in Madison, a referendum with a smaller price tag could go a long way toward closing some of the gaps that exist between MPS students and their suburban peers.

"We are working class parents and property taxpayers," the parents wrote. "While we want to close the enormous opportunity gap that exists between MPS students and their neighbors, we know we can't close that gap in its entirety without fixing the broken state funding formula Madison politicians have failed to address. But our community has a chance right now to close many of those gaps at a cost that is reasonable to taxpayers and essential to our students."

MPS School Board member Bob Peterson published an op-ed in *Shepherd Express* to discuss some of the opportunities the Milwaukee community indicated in a recent survey they would like to provide to students.

In the surveys, Peterson wrote, "the major themes were clear: Smaller class sizes, full-time librarians, music, art and physical education teachers in the schools, a nurse for every school and access to mental health services."

In the coming weeks, the School Board is expected to direct the district to formulate an exact number for the referendum and to place it on the April 7 ballot. As the referendum develops, MTEA will be in communication with members about how to get involved. To make a monetary contribution to the referendum, visit [ActBlue.com/donate/YesforMPS](http://ActBlue.com/donate/YesforMPS).

# MTEA Teacher Unit, Educational Assistants and Bookkeepers all vote to recertify

The 2019 MTEA Recertification effort was a success!

Each bargaining unit that was up for a recertification vote succeeded by the following numbers:

- Teacher Unit – 81.6%
- Educational Assistants – 63.7%
- Bookkeepers – 67.9%

Because of the strong, early efforts of MTEA leaders and members, we were confident that majorities in both the Teacher and Educational Assistant units had voted “yes” to recertify by the Monday after recertification voting began.

The effort to ensure a majority in the Bookkeepers unit took a little longer, but with a strong final push, they recertified convincingly.

It's important to remember that the requirement of annual recertification for public employee unions was created by anti-union and anti-public education politicians who want to distract us from our work of building union power and to harm public schools. Our goal every year is to recertify quickly and thoroughly so that we can focus on building power for our students and our members.

## Update on January 2 MPS Professional Development Day

The district Professional Development Day scheduled for Thursday, January 2 is district wide for K-5 and K-8 schools. Educators will be assigned to various school sites around the district.

**Registration is from 7:30-8:00am.** Sessions will be held from 8:00-11:00am. Travel and lunch is on your own, with a building return time of 12:15pm. 12:15-3:30pm is teacher planning time. Mileage will be reimbursed from the site to your building.

Groupings will occur by grade band and program based educators.

Educators in need of accommodations should fill out the link provided in Thursday Updates on December 12. The information and link will be sent to educators by MPS email on December 16.

January 3 is a school/site-based Professional Development Day for all schools.

## Salary Schedules: Outside Experience Survey

An MTEA email was sent to Teacher Unit and Interpreter members last week that includes a link to a survey to help identify and intake members who know their credited outside experience will not be reflected in their step placement. Schedule adjustments will likely need to be made in the 2020-21 MPS budget.

You can access the survey by visiting [bit.ly/MTEAPriorCredit](https://bit.ly/MTEAPriorCredit).

If you believe you have prior experience that will not be credited on the salary schedule, please complete the survey.

Info sessions and intake clinics to assist members will be announced in an email in the coming days. Only MTEA members will have assistance and support in the process with human resources.

## Upcoming Events

All events held at MTEA unless otherwise noted. To view more events, to register or for more information, visit [mtea.org/events](https://mtea.org/events).

**Professional Development at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education**, located in the MTEA office. For registration, visit [mtea.org/events](https://mtea.org/events).

**Black Lives Matter at School Week Curriculum Night**  
Thurs., Dec. 12, 4:30-6pm.

**Committee on Strategic Planning and Budget.** Committee will discuss potential referendum and 2020-21 MPS Budget Parameters. ALL MEMBERS encouraged to attend.  
Thurs., Dec. 12, 6:30pm.

**Preparing for Retirement**  
Weds., Dec. 18, 5-7pm.

**Winter Break - MTEA Closed**  
Mon., Dec. 23 - Weds., Jan 1, 2020.

**Preparing for Retirement**  
Weds., Jan. 15, 5-7pm.

**Union Strong Cohort**  
Weds., Jan. 22, 4:30-6:30pm.

**MEAA - Team Up Thursdays - Parent Coordinators**  
Thurs., Jan 23, 5-7pm.

**Watch for new MTEA Professional Development opportunities in the new year!**

## Update Contact Info

If you have changed your name, email address, home address or bank info, or if you are retiring, going on leave or resigning, please contact Linda Scherlie at the MTEA office, 414-259-1990, or email [lscherli@mtea.org](mailto:lscherli@mtea.org), so we can update our records.

**mtea**

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