



## MPS School Board approves \$87 million referendum *Question will be placed on the April 7 ballot*

On December 19, the MPS School Board officially placed an \$87 million operating referendum on the April 7 ballot. If approved by voters, the referendum would be phased in over four years, beginning with \$57 million in the 2020-21 school year and growing to \$87 million in the 2023-24 school year once additional state funds are fully phased in.

The \$87 million figure, which is designed to bring MPS per pupil funding in line with that of the Whitefish Bay school district, equates to a property tax adjustment of approximately \$160 per \$100,000 in assessed value. That's about a \$4 per week increase on the average Milwaukee home.

The ballot question specifies that the additional revenue from the referendum will be used for the purposes of "sustaining and expanding educational programming, including, offering more career and technical education programs, attracting and retaining certified educators, and expanding art, music, physical education, and language programs." This is not an exhaustive list, and the funding will be allocated through the yearly MPS budget process in May.

MTEA will use our collective power during the 2020 budget process to ensure every existing dollar, and each additional dollar that may come in through the referendum, is used to offer each of our students a high quality education that is equitable not only with neighboring districts, but within MPS.

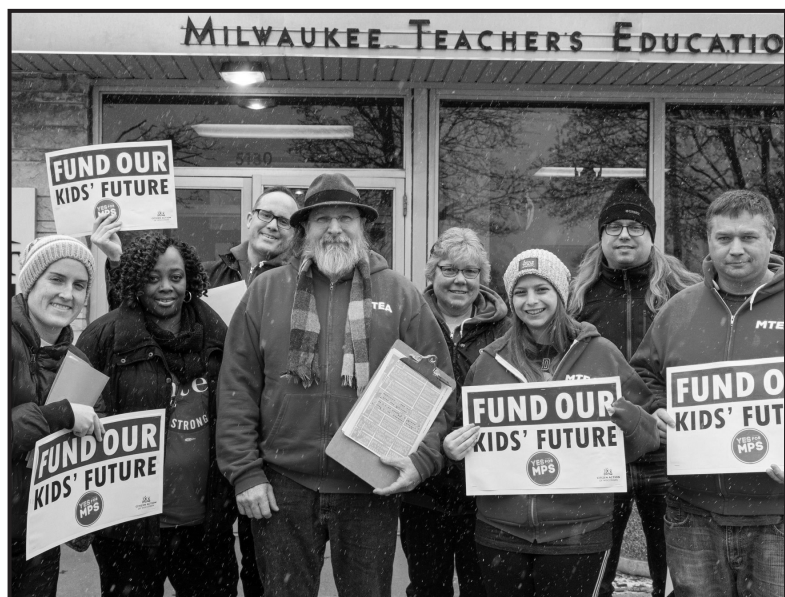
While this amount will not provide everything our students deserve, it is a very big step in the right direction. We must continue to work locally as well as at the state and federal levels to press elected officials to direct adequate resources to public schools so every student, regardless of their zip code, has a great public school.

### MTEA announces Yes for MPS canvassing dates

On Saturday, January 11, MTEA kicked off our grassroots canvassing effort to make sure every Milwaukee voter is informed about the referendum. By working with Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT), Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC), Voces de la Frontera and other pro-public education organizations, we will run a robust ground campaign to win the schools our students deserve. Every MTEA member should sign up to knock on doors, make calls or text voters.

From now until the election, MTEA will launch canvasses **every Saturday at 10am and noon**. More dates will be announced as the April 7 election nears.

Anti-public education groups may run a negative campaign to try to hold our students back, but we know we can win for our students with a strong, aspirational campaign.



MTEA members gather at the MTEA office for the Yes for MPS Canvassing Kickoff before heading out to talk to voters on Saturday, January 11. (Photo credit: Joe Brusky)

## Notice: MEAA, MSTA Officer and Council Seats up for Election

January is the start of the election process for the MEAA and MSTA Officer and Council positions that will be open in April.

If you are a current EA or Substitute member and want to become a candidate, please submit a brief written statement, designating the leadership position you are seeking by hand delivery or mail to: Kathy Lehsten, 5130 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208 or email lehstenk@mtea.org. You become a candidate automatically when your declaration statement is received.

### Declaration statement deadlines:

EAs: Fri., Jan. 24 by 5pm.  
Subs: Fri., Jan. 31 by 5pm.

The MEAA election will be held Apr. 13-19.  
The MSTA election will be held Apr. 13-22.

## MEAA (Educational Assistants) Executive Council seats up for election:

- **President** - 2 year term
- **Vice President** - 2 year term
- **Treasurer** - 2 year term
- **Secretary** - 2 year term
- **Elem. Rep. Seat A** - 4 year term
- **Elem. Rep. Seat B** - 4 year term
- **At-Large Rep. Seat C** - 4 year term
- **At-Large Rep. Seat D** - 4 year term
- **Special Ed. Rep.** - 4 year term
- **Bilingual Rep.** - 2 remaining years in 4 year term
- **Middle School Rep.** - 2 remaining years in 4 year term
- **Senior High Rep.** - 2 remaining years in 4 year term

## MSTA (Substitutes) Executive Council seats up for election:

- **President** - 2 year term
- **Vice President** - 2 year term
- **Secretary** - 2 year term
- **Treasurer** - 2 year term
- **Rep. Seat A** - 2 year term
- **Rep. Seat B** - 2 year term

## Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action

MTEA is a sponsor of the 2020 Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, taking place February 3-7. All members are strongly encouraged to get involved whether you have participated in the past or not.

Visit the News page on the MTEA website for an informational document on the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action. On the informational page you will find two tracks, Beginner and Intermediate, to help you understand the Black Lives Matter principles, prepare for discussion, and plan lessons.

On Tuesday, January 21, at 4:30pm there will be a Black Lives Matter Week of Action Grab and Go support session at MTEA, where members can look over resources and take lessons.

If you have a lesson or activity you would like to submit for sharing with other members, please email it to Ingrid Walker-Henry at walker-henryi@mtea.org to share on 1/21 and to be added to the MTEA BLM shared drive.

## Labor Notes Conference Scholarships

MTEA is offering scholarships to members interested in attending the Labor Notes Conference in Chicago from Fri., Apr. 17- Sun., Apr. 19.

The scholarships will include two nights of lodging in the MTEA reserved block. Attendees will have a roommate, or pay for half the room.

If selected for the scholarship, members need to pay the full early bird registration fee of \$115 to MTEA by Feb. 14. MTEA will reimburse \$65 to teacher unit members and \$90 to all other members. To qualify, members must attend the whole conference. Reimbursement checks will be distributed on the last day of the conference.

To apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/36N6R7d>

## Call for Constitutional Amendments

If you would like to submit a proposal for an amendment to the MTEA Constitution, please do so no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, Jan. 31. You may submit a proposed amendment in person at the MTEA office or by mail to: Kathy Lehsten, 5130 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208.

## Upcoming Events

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

**National Board Monthly Support Session** Thurs., Jan. 16 & Tues., Feb 11, 4:30-6pm.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration - Marcus Center** Sun., Jan. 19, 1-3pm.

**Black Lives Matter Week of Action Grab & Go** Tues., Jan. 21, 4:30-6pm.

**Art Teacher Cohort** Tues., Jan. 21, 5:30-6:30pm.

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

**Unlocking Secrets of the Infinite Campus Guide Book** Weds., Jan. 22, 4:30-6pm.

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

**SEL: Making Use of Restless Hands Through Creative Means** Weds., Jan. 29, 4:30-6pm.

**Love and Logic Classroom Behavior Management** Tues., Feb. 4, 4:30-6pm.

**Using Mentor Texts to Model Effective Writing (Grades 6-12)** Thurs., Feb. 6, 4:30-6pm.

**Creating a Culture of Writing (Grades K-8)** Thurs., Feb. 6, 4:30-6pm.

**Renewing License** Mon., Feb. 10, 4:30-6pm.

**Early Childhood Cohort** Mon., Feb. 10, 4:30-6pm.

**Engaging Learners in Reading (Grades K-8)** Tues., Feb. 11, 4:30-6pm.

## 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 [Ischerli@mtea.org](mailto:Ischerli@mtea.org), so we can update our records.

# mtea

Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association  
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414-259-1990 | FAX: 414-259-7801 | [mtea.org](http://mtea.org)