



MTEA Music Educators Organize, Win for Students *MMEA sparks renaissance of music education in MPS*

When we organize, we win!

Music educators, students and parents mobilized to a September meeting of the MPS School Board, offering convincing testimony that led the Board to take action that will ensure every MPS student has regular music instruction from a certified teacher.

This transformational victory was not won solely by the persuasive public testimony of music education advocates. This win took years of demanding an MPS music policy and last year's reboot of the Milwaukee Music Educators Association (MMEA), led by MTEA music educators Erica Breitbarth, Raymond Roberts, Mike Van Pelt and Ben Zabor. The MMEA worked for countless hours researching policy with the goal of closing gaps in music access and developing a proposal to offer music to every MPS student.

Last year, MPS had one full-time music teacher for every 1,200 students.

"I want to use the word decimated, but it doesn't have a strong enough meaning for what has happened to music programs in this city," said Zabor.



MTEA music teachers Mike Van Pelt, Erica Breitbarth and Ben Zabor attend the LRP Committee meeting Sept. 24. (Photo credit: Joe Brusky)

The policy faces a final vote at the October 31 meeting of the full Board. Once approved, the policy will be phased in over four years beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

Weekly, it would ensure a minimum of 60 minutes of music education for students in grades K-2, 75 minutes for grades 3-5, 100 minutes for grades 6-8, 120 minutes for instrumental and vocal classes for grades 7-12, and 200 minutes per week for performance based and general music classes at the high school level.

Achieving this goal is a huge accomplishment for our students, and all MTEA members should be incredibly proud of the work that led to this victory.

We invite other groups to do the same! There is no limit to what we can achieve for our students if we get organized and work collectively. Don't hesitate to contact MTEA if you would like help organizing within your work group to continue fighting for the schools our students deserve.



Milwaukee High School of the Arts student Dasonie Nelson made national news with his testimony that music saved his life. (Photo credit: Joe Brusky)

2019 RECERTIFICATION ELECTION

Voting runs 12pm Nov. 6 - 12pm Nov. 26

The Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) has announced the 2019 public employee union recertification elections will be held from 12pm November 6 through 12pm November 26. Every MPS employee - both MTEA Members and non-Members - in the Teacher, Educational Assistant, and Bookkeeper units need to vote to recertify.

IF SOMEONE DOES NOT VOTE, THEY ARE COUNTED AS A NO VOTE!

All public employee unions in Wisconsin must vote annually to retain the legal right to collectively bargain over base wages and to maintain our union's status as the exclusive representative to give members a voice in all aspects of their work. A quick, strong vote to recertify MTEA is a display of our collective strength.

The votes are conducted by unit, so 51% of each of our three units must vote yes. We have three different units that need to vote:

1. Educational Assistants (includes Paraprofessionals, General Assistants, Safety Assistants, Parent Coordinators, and Interpreters);
2. Teacher unit (includes Teachers, School Social Workers, School Counselors, Speech and Language Pathologists, School Nurses (Registered Nurses), Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Coaches, Mentors, and Library Media Specialists);
3. Bookkeepers.

Building Representatives in each building are responsible for hosting a voting event to ensure every eligible voter has the opportunity to vote in the first three days of the voting window. The election runs from noon on November 6 through noon on November 26.

Salary Schedules: Phase II Update

AFP to vote October 22; Full Board October 31

The MTEA Bargaining Committee continues to work through details on Phase II of the salary schedules. The specific salary schedules for the entire teacher bargaining unit and sign language interpreters as well as the exact implementation timeline will be voted on this month in committee and then by the full MPS School Board.

On Tuesday, October 22, the Board's Committee on Accountability, Finance and Personnel (AFP) will consider the proposal MTEA is working on with MPS Administration. Public testimony will be accepted at the October 22 AFP Committee meeting. This will be the final stop for Phase II of the new salary schedules before being voted on by the full Board. **Members should attend, wearing MTEA green,** and ensure that the Board pass these salary schedules that are so critical to attracting and retaining the highest quality MPS staff and to stabilize the MPS workforce and our classrooms.

On Thursday, October 31, there will be a meeting of the full MPS School Board. Assuming the AFP Committee passes a salary schedule proposal on October 22, the full Board will vote on final passage of Phase II salary schedules on the 31st. **Members should attend and show our unity by wearing MTEA green.**

1619 Project

The 1619 Project is a major initiative from the New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are.

The 1619 Project has several teaching and learning resources online. For grades 9-12, Apple and on-demand podcasts are available. For elementary and middle school, resources can be found by visiting <https://pulitzercenter.org/education> and clicking the 1619 graphic. BRs were also provided copies at this month's RA.

Upcoming Events

All events held at MTEA unless otherwise noted. To view more events, to register or for more information, visit 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.

Preparing for Student Led Conferences
Thurs., Oct. 10, 4:30-6pm.

What's New with Writing
Tues., Oct. 15, 4:30-6pm.

Preparing for Retirement
Weds., Oct. 16, 5-7pm.

Educators Credit Union: What's Your Credit Score?
Thurs., Oct. 17, 4:30-5:30pm.

Engaging Parents
Thurs., Oct. 17, 4:30-6pm.

Team Up Thursdays - Parent Coordinators
Thurs., Oct. 24, 5:30pm.

MTEA Executive Board Special Election
Special Education Seat A and Senior High Seat A
Fri., Oct. 25 through Fri., Nov. 1.

Love & Logic Classroom/Behavior Management Part 2
Tues., Oct. 29, 4:30-6pm.

National Board Cohort Support Session
Tues., Oct. 29, 4:30-6pm.

Every Student Succeeds Act Workshop
Weds., Oct. 30, 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 lscherli@mtea.org, so we can update our records.

mtea

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