

# TEAM

An election publication for members of the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association

March 2023

## 2023 MTEA Executive Board Election

### Candidates for Executive Board

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### MTEA Election Policies

Here are two important MTEA election policies:

#### **Candidates Responsible for Published Information**

“Without verification and without editing, the MTEA has reprinted all of the information which each candidate has submitted for the MTEA election publication including educational background, professional experience, MTEA activities, and statement of views. Each candidate is solely responsible for the views expressed, the accuracy of the autobiographical information, and the grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.”

### What's inside

This TEAM publication presents the candidates for MTEA executive board, including autobiographical information, views and photos.

This publication can also be found online at [mtea.org](http://mtea.org).

**No Election:** Because no seats that are up for election received more than one nomination, no election will be held per the MTEA bylaws.

There are no contested seats in the 2023 MTEA election. After the nominations window closed, a candidate who initially declared their intent to run for Special Education Seat A informed MTEA they decided not to run for the seat. Uncontested seats will not have an election per the MTEA by-laws. The initial nominations window closed on Friday, January 27, 2023. Additional nominations were taken at the March 8, 2023 Representative Assembly. No additional nominees came forward at the RA.

Each election is for a six year term, except the elections for Middle School Seat C and Senior High Seat A, which are special elections for the remainder of terms ending in 2025 and 2027, respectively.

This publication provides an opportunity to learn more about the qualifications and views of the candidates. All information in this publication was provided directly by the candidates and has not been edited by MTEA in any way.

### Campaigning Policy Statement

“The MTEA urges all candidates to campaign on the issues and to conduct their campaigns in a manner that will reflect positively on the MTEA and its members.”

For questions about the election process, please contact the MTEA office at 414-259-1990.

**For Kindergarten/Primary Seat B: Shari Redel**

*No Candidate Statement or Photo  
Received*

## For Intermediate Seat B: Amanda McIlhone



My name is Amanda McIlhone. I am excited to be your Intermediate

representative on the MTEA Executive Board. I am currently a 4th grade teacher at 95th Street School. Prior to teaching 4th grade, I was a special education teacher for 14 years. I have served as the building representative almost continuously since 2007. I am currently the Vice President of the WEA Academy. I am also a founding member and presenter for the Equity Ambassadors program through WEAC. I am looking forward to bringing your voice to the board. I will stand up for what is best for members and our students. I have a long history of speaking at school board meetings, and am never afraid to use my voice to stand up for what is right, even if it is the only voice in

the room. I bring an interesting mix of knowledge of both special education and regular education, and the needs of both sides of the house. Equity in education is a passion of mine, and I will continue to fight until ALL of our students have what they need to be successful. Thank you for considering me for this position. I look forward to being your representative.

## For Middle School Seat B: Shamika Johnson



My name is Shamika Johnson, and I am honored to continue to serve as

your MTEA Middle School Representative. I have served as a Building Representative at Clarke Street and Craig Montessori for over ten years. My experience in MPS has spanned multiple departments and schools. I have been a middle school math and Project Lead The Way teacher for the last 15 years. In addition, I have served as an Adolescent Montessori Teacher at Craig Montessori School for the past four years.

When considering the position of Middle School Representative, not only do I bring a traditional middle school perspective, I also bring the understanding and experience of what Adolescent Montessori teachers need. I proudly speak up for the needs of

members, students, families of the community that I am proud to be a part of and represent.

I believe in the union's power to bring about the necessary changes for all staff and students to be successful.

## For Senior High Seat B: **Gregory Lampark**

*No Candidate Statement or Photo*

*Received*

## For Special Education Seat A: Elizabeth Kosmach



Serving as one of the Special Education Representatives on the

MTEA Executive Board is a responsibility I take very seriously. Union work is in my blood, I grew up in a union household and saw how important it is to stand for what is right, even when it's hard. During my ten years in MPS, I have worked hard to advocate for all frontline workers and students, even bringing my voice to give testimony at school board meetings. Proudly working for the union, I canvassed at countless doors to help elect public school champions. Also, for the past two years, I have worked as an MTEA Summer Organizer, signing up new members to build our union. Proudly serving the whole membership, for the past six years, I have served on the

Special Education Labor Management Committee where we advocated for and won paid Saturday Work Sessions for sped staff. The last four years on the MTEA Executive Board has taught me how resilient MTEA members are living and working through a global pandemic. I am honored to represent not Special Education Staff but all MTEA members. I will continue to stand up for you, fight for what's right and work to protect your rights in MPS. Giving back to the union and growing our power is a mission I am proud to work on and I am honored to be your representative."

**(Special Election) For Middle School Seat C: Connor Morris**

*No Candidate Statement or Photo  
Received*

## (Special Election) For Senior High Seat A: Dawn Tower



My name is Dawn Tower, and I am honored to serve as one of your

high school representatives on the MTEA Executive Board and the Meet and Confer Committee. Currently, I work at Riverside High School as an ESL teacher supporting the bilingual program. My representative experience includes being a building committee member at Washington High School from 2012 to 2017 and Building Representative from 2017 to 2020. Back in the day, Washington High School was part of a group of schools dubbed, “The Innovation Zone”. Nothing that resembled innovation ever happened, though we were heavily micromanaged and regularly shamed by multiple district administrations. That’s why I am adamant that working conditions

should be uniform throughout the district; whether you’re in a city-wide “choice school”, or you chose to work in a higher needs environment, you should always be treated as a competent and caring professional with uniform access to resources. Further, all members, regardless of job class, should have recourse when they are dissatisfied with their placement. Finally, in my roles as specialist and Executive Board member, I promise to always advocate for policies that serve our youth, and fight tooth and nail against district policies that harm them.