



MFT59 Bargaining Update #4

MFT59 Members and Parents Pack the House!



The district had to deal with the reality that people are paying attention to this contract campaign to win the The Schools all Minneapolis Children Deserve. Educators and parents filled the negotiations session to witness MFT59's common sense bargaining for the common good. Over 100 people were in attendance. Michelle Wiese, president of MFT59 wasn't surprised, "It's just common sense bargaining. Who doesn't believe students deserve recess? Who doesn't believe all students deserve smaller class sizes? Who doesn't believe students deserve a nurse, a social worker, and counselor in their building all-day everyday? These are just common sense proposals aimed at improving student achievement and improving our students' learning conditions."

Union Proposes Smaller Class Sizes

It's just common sense that smaller class sizes matter. The proposal calls for caps ensuring every student will have the differentiated instruction and the attention that all students deserve.

Restorative Practices

Our union also proposed that the district resource and prioritize restorative practices to make it an ingrained part of MPS culture and philosophy.

Section B. General Education Classroom Class Size Caps Caseload Recommendations:		
Small classes ensure students receive individual, timely, meaningful attention and feedback and allows teachers the ability to maintain a positive, productive, student-centered classroom. Small class sizes have been found to have positive impacts on test scores, closing achievement gaps, overall learning, student attendance, graduation rates, and success in life. Finally, small class size is critical in the early grades to have the largest impact on students' academic success.		
With these factors in mind, class sizes shall be limited to:		
Pre K - 3	18 students	
4-5	22 students	
6-8	24 core content	
9-12	25 core content	Exceptions may be made for subject areas such as Band, Choir, or Theatre where larger numbers of students might better serve the program. These numbers will be determined by agreement with administration, staff, and MFT. Exceptions may be made for subject areas such as Shop classes or Labs where smaller numbers of students might better serve the program due to safety considerations. Such classes are limited at 75% of the class cap with agreement from the subject department at the site. Specialty classes (i.e., guitar, College in the Schools, etc.) that require smaller caps should be determined by agreement with administration, staff, and MFT.

Charter Proliferation Proposal

Our union proposed the district partner with MFT in stopping charter school proliferation in Minneapolis. Our proposal demands the district only sell, rent or lease any property to a charter/voucher school at a fair market rate. It also demands that any sale, rent or lease to a private entity for the purpose of running a charter have as a condition of sale that they enter into a neutrality agreement with MFT59. In so doing, those workers would be able to unionize without fear of reprisal. Our belief is these conditions would make the Minneapolis market far less attractive to those seeking to profit off of Minneapolis kids.



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GO BLUE!

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

