



STATE OF THE UNION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MFT59

Volume 2 | Issue 4 | Date: October 2, 2018 | Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, Local 59, 67 8th Ave NE, Minneapolis, 55413

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at MFT59's offices, 67th 8th Ave NE, 55413

Ongoing through November 6th
early in-person voting
Hennepin County Gov't Center

Wednesday, October 3rd
Contract & Bylaws Proposed Changes
Information Session 5-7pm

Tuesday, October 9th
School Board Meeting and ESP Rally
Davis Center, 1250 W Broadway, Minneapolis

Wednesday, October 10th
Contract & Bylaws Proposed Changes
Information Sessions
4-6pm & 6:30 - 8:30pm

Thursday, October 11th
ESP Negotiation Session, 6:30pm
if you are able to help with childcare for this event, please contact teacher@mft59.org

SITE VISITS

Site visits continue in October.
Take advantage of the opportunity
to chat with President Michelle
Wiese and business agents Bonita
Jones and Mike Leiter.

Weds 10/3 & Thurs 10/4: Marcy

Friday, 10/5: Cityview

Monday, 10/8: Hale

Tuesday, 10/9: Andersen

Wednesday, 10/10: Webster

Thursday, 10/11: Bryn Mawr

Friday, 10/12: Psychologists

**Where unions are most firmly
organized, there are the rights of
the people most respected.**
—Samuel Gompers



**Tell MPS to invest in livable
wages for all educators and
end the staffing shortage!**

**Rally at the School Board on
October 9th at 4:30pm!**

MPS has continually undervalued
ESPs and nowhere is this more
concretely apparent than in ESP
wages.

In 2001, the starting wage for a
Special Education Assistant in
MPS was \$14.80/hour. Seventeen
years later, the starting wage for a
Special Education Assistant is

\$17.15/hr, an increase of 16%.

Over the same period of time, the
CPI (which measures inflation) has
increased by 42%. If the starting
wage for SEAs had simply kept up
with inflation, the starting wage
would be \$21.02/hr.

The growing lag behind inflation of
ESP wages and the tight labor
market has created a constant
deficit in staffing these low wage
positions.

MPS leaders need to invest in
better wages, and they need to do
it now. Our students can't wait!

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS PROPOSED CHANGES: INFORMATION SESSIONS

All members are invited to attend an information session focused on
the proposed changes to the MFT59 Constitution and Bylaws. If you
would like a session held at your site, contact teacher@mft59.org. *All
sessions below will be held at MFT59. FAQs are posted at www.mft59.org*

October 3rd	5:00 - 7:00 pm
October 10th	4:00 - 6:00 & 6:30 - 8:30pm
October 24th (after teacher chp mtg)	6:00 - 8:00pm

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to the two new at-large teacher chapter executive board members elected at the teacher chapter member meeting last Wednesday, September 26th.

James Schmidt, an English

teacher at Washburn High School, and **Jimmy Lipps**, a Social Studies teacher at Southwest, will be joining the other executive board members at the next executive board meeting on October 30th.

**"REFORMATION,
LIKE EDUCATION, IS
A JOURNEY, NOT A
DESTINATION."
-- MOTHER JONES**

WIN FOR FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

On September 25th and in the wake of a strong social media campaign, the Minnesota Miracle 2.0 Coalition, with support from Mayor Jacob Frey, the Mpls Parks & Rec board, and the MFT, received approval for a \$1.5 million dollar funding request for three full-service community schools in Minneapolis. The MFT has been fighting for this funding for over two years, and this victory will help ensure the schools all students deserve!

BE AN MFT59 SOCIAL MEDIA STAR!

Are you voting early? Are you voting "YES" twice for the MPS referenda? Have you been phone banking or door knocking? Do you believe it is important for all members to vote?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, MFT would love to hear from you in a 10 - 30 second video that can be posted and shared on social media. Tell other members why you're involved in this year's election and why others should be as well!

Email your videos to teacher@mft59.org, along with your name and site.

MEMBER RIGHTS TRAINING

If you or a co-worker is called to a meeting with administration do you know the right questions to ask? Are you confident you can advocate for your rights in a meeting with administration?

Attend "Member Rights Training #1" at the MRLF and learn about your own rights and the rights of those in your building.

Saturday, October 13th
MRLF 5th floor conference room
9:00 am - 2:00 pm (lunch provided)
Open to all ESP and Teacher chapter members.
RSVP to sjbroman@mft59.org.

GET OUT THE VOTE with MFT59!

Saturday October 13th @ the MRLF
312 Central Ave SE #542, Minneapolis

Decide if you would like to encourage voters to support the MPS referenda and school board candidates, or if you want to focus on pro-labor, pro-education candidates locally and state-wide.

Attend another action at the MRLF evenings in October: the MRLF hosts phone banking and door knocking four nights a week during October. Join your labor siblings and encourage Minneapolis residents to vote!
Monday - Thursday from 4-8pm
@ the MRLF, 312 Central Ave SE, #542, Minneapolis



EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING IS OPEN!

GET OUT & VOTE!

Hennepin County residents can vote at the Hennepin County Gov't Center, 300 South 6th St, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012

County Election Official: Ginny Gelms - 612-348-5151
email: hc.vote@hennepin.us

County Absentee Voting Contact Jim Howitt - 612-348-5151

For Minneapolis residents, early voting is also available at the Minneapolis Early Voting Center located at 217 3rd St S, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Education Minnesota's endorsed candidates for your area can be found by navigating to this website and entering your home address:
<https://www.edmnvotes.org/endorsement-information/>

FIND US ONLINE!



[@mftlocal59](https://www.facebook.com/mftlocal59)



[@mft59](https://twitter.com/mft59)



teacher@mft59.org



mft59.mn.aft.org

LAY MY HEAD DOWN Blanket Drive

Fall 2018 Indigenous people experiencing homelessness established the camp known as "**The Wall**" with only a few tents. It has grown today to 300+ campers drawing attention to growing **homelessness** and **housing insecurity** in Minneapolis and the Twin Cities area. Many community members and agencies provide support for campers. (NAH) *Natives Against Heroin* maintains a 24/7 presence to assist campers by accepting donations and redistributing them into the camp, providing meals and security when possible.

We are **community** members with diverse reasons driving us to come together in community and **help others in need**. Your **new and gently used warm blankets and other donations** will be directly distributed to the individuals in camp. With colder weather coming, a **blanket could save a life**. But your donations do more: **by providing warmth both physically and emotionally, you help others to know that they matter and are not forgotten.**

FIND, JOIN & CONTACT US:



facebook.com/groups/27804968613299

**Blanket Drive for the community at
The Wall of Forgotten Natives**

(or) call/text **612-275-1025**

Join Us At These Community Events!

Operation Recovery @
MCTC: Helland Center
1423 Harmon Place, MPLS
Thursday, September 20
10a – 2pm

Slut Walk Twin Cities
Father Hennepin Park
420 SE Main Street, MPLS
Saturday, October 6
2 – 5:30pm

ITEMS NEEDED:

****Please ONLY New or
Clean & Ready to Use****

- Pillows ***<NEW ONLY>***
Blankets. Sleeping Bags.
Tarps. Tents. Rugs.
- Winter Gear & Outerwear
Rain Ponchos. Socks.
- Coolers
Flashlights & Batteries
Large Plastic Storage
Containers
- Pads & Tampons
Toilet Paper
- Similac: *Sensitive Formula***
Gatorade/Vitamin Water
- **(GIFT CARDS)** Sam's Club,
Aldi, Wal-Mart, Kmart, local
grocery stores, etc.

DROP-OFF SITES

Weekday Business Hours

Roosevelt High School
4029 S 28th Ave, MINNEAPOLIS

MFT Teachers Union
67 8th Ave NE, MINNEAPOLIS

Work-It
635 Fairview Ave N, ST PAUL

White Earth Substance Abuse
1730 Clifton Place, MINNEAPOLIS

Valhalla Place
2807 Brookdale Dr, BROOKLYN PARK

EVENINGS / WEEKENDS :

3805 41st Ave S, MINNEAPOLIS