

MFT59 Bargaining Update #5

UNION PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Full Service Community Schools:

The MFT59 Bargaining Team made a comprehensive proposal around the expansion of full service community schools. The evidence is clear, when school districts adopt a community school model, students do better. Caroline Hooper, a social studies teacher from Southwest High School, presented the union's proposal on Full Service Community Schools. "We are of the belief that our public schools are the heart of our communities. When we invest in schools that support the full needs of our students and families, we know our students do better." Hooper went on to say, "We know our students do better when they have glasses and can see the board. Or when they can concentrate on their schoolwork versus a toothache. Full Service Community Schools help to eliminate the outside pressures our students' experience while, at the same time, giving true voice to the communities our schools are a part of."

\$15 Now

MFT59 proposed that the district get in line with the city of Minneapolis and the Saint Paul Public School District and pay a minimum wage to all of its employees of \$15 an hour. With MPS being the 5th largest employer in MPLS it can have a direct effect on ending the cycle of poverty many of our students experience. It's just common sense, if the district wants to close the opportunity gap, it should start by paying all of its employees a living wage.

SPED Workload/Caseload

Michelle Wiese, President of MFT59 said, "Our special education workload proposal is really about making sure our most vulnerable student population has ready access to the resources they need." The proposal demands that the district establish workload limits that allow Special Education professionals to better meet the needs of students. "This is just common sense" said Brittany Blenkush a Special Education teacher from Roosevelt, "What parent of a special education student wouldn't want MPS to dedicate more resources to their child to ensure their special needs are met and that they, like their general education counterparts, receive high quality differentiated instruction?" The proposal also calls for having at least one licensed school nurse, social worker, and school psychologist in each building, all day, every day.

From the MPS district department of "No!"

The district seemed to have had its lines well rehearsed as it came into bargaining on Tuesday. In response to the unions proposal on:

Eliminating all non-mandated standardized tests, the district said—NO!

Setting hard caps on class sizes, the district said—NO!

The guarantee of bathroom breaks for educators, the district said—NO!



You Can't Make This Stuff Up



**We will have to fight to win
the schools all MPS children deserve!**