



STATE OF THE UNION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MFT59



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CALENDAR

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

Thursday, September 13th

Bargaining Team Meeting, 4:00pm

ESP Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm

Saturday, September 15th

Open Streets - Broadway, 11:00am

Monday, September 17th Town Hall: Canceled

Wednesday, September 19th

Joint Executive Board, 4:30pm

Friday, September 21st

early voting opens in-person & by mail.

A calendar for the full school year (with those meetings currently scheduled) can be found on the main page of the MFT59 website: mft59.mn.aft.org.

**"Before there were unions, there was no middle class."
- Michael Moore**

#RED4ED!

Keep showing your support for MFT59 and your sibling unions around the country! This year we're asking you to wear #REDforED on Wednesdays and MFT59 BLUE on Thursdays! Send pictures of you and your colleagues in red and blue to teacher@mft59.org



UNION STAFF VISITS TO SCHOOL SITES

Beginning last week, Michelle Wiese, president of the MFT59, and business agents Bonita Jones and Mike Leiter began visiting school sites during the lunch-time hours.

The purpose of these visits is to give members the opportunity to meet and chat about important issues in your building with Michelle, Mike, or Bonita.

During her visits, Michelle also hopes to encourage members to join the Building Action, Community Action, and Political Action teams.

These three teams will be essential to the election of a pro-labor, pro-education governor, building a strong ties with the community, and fighting for the schools our staff and students deserve in our upcoming

contract campaign.

The Building Action Team will put power in the hands of members to organize at their sites and create an active network of members who are invested in making positive change.

The Community Action Team will work with and in the community to forge alliances with community groups invested in education and/or labor, planning and taking part in actions and events around the city.

The Political Action Team will organize members to get out the vote to elect Minnesota's next governor. Education Minnesota organizer Nat Anderson-Lippert will be coordinating efforts with MFT59 members.

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OPPORTUNITY FOR ELECTED OFFICE

Teacher chapter at-large members Alex Hoselton and Katy Tharaldson have both resigned recently to take advantage of new opportunities outside the union.

Although we are sorry to see Alex and Katy go, their resignations open up the opportunity for two new teacher chapter at-large executive board members to be elected at the next Teacher Member Meeting, according to the MFT59 Bylaws.

If you are interested in running for one of these open seats -- or simply want to make your voice heard by voting for the new executive board members, please attend the member meeting on September 26th, where nominations and voting will take place.

Encourage your colleagues to attend this member meeting, both to vote and to stay up to date with MFT59 business.

UNION VISITS TO SITES, CON'T FROM PAGE 1

Drop by your staff lounge to meet with Michelle, Bonita, and Mike during your lunch period.

Visits have been scheduled through the first week of October as follows:

Weds 9/12 & Thurs 9/13: South High

Mon 9/17 & Tues 9/18: Sanford Middle

Weds 9/19: Howe Elementary

Thurs 9/20: Hiawatha Elementary

Mon 9/24: Emerson Spanish Immers.

Tues 9/25 & Weds 9/26: Jefferson

Thurs 9/27: to be confirmed

Mon 10/1 & Tues 10/2: NEMS

Weds 10/3 & Thurs 10/4: Marcy Open

As additional visits are scheduled, they will be included in upcoming SotU newsletters.

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore." -- Cesar Chavez

VOTE YES TWICE!

Vote "YES" on November 6th in favor of the two referendum



questions and approve up to \$30 million for literacy, social and emotional learning, student support services in Minneapolis Public Schools!

Stop by the MFT59 union hall to pick up a yard sign to show your neighbors you support this important referendum.

CONFIRM YOUR STEP AND LANE

The first pay date for the 2018-19 school year is this Friday, September 14th. You should check your step and lane in your employee profile to confirm you are being paid at the correct rate.

To check your step and lane, navigate to the MPS public website and click "Careers" on the homepage, then select "Internal,"

at which point you'll need to log in.

After you log in, click the drop down arrow next to the word "HOME" and select "My Employee File."

Finally, select "Show More" at the bottom of your employee information. You will then see your step and lane listed.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR UNION!

Daniel Cox, MFT59's new political director, is working on creating a calendar of events with MFT59's endorsed candidates and will be reaching out to members to get involved with voter outreach.

The first opportunity to volunteer is this Saturday at Open Streets Broadway. Volunteers are needed for 2 hour shifts from 11-1, 1-3, and 3-5. Volunteers will also be sought for the MFRL Day of Action on September 29th. Email dcox@mft59.org to volunteer or for more info.

MEET DANIEL COX, POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Daniel is a St. Paul-based campaign strategist and political organizer who tripped and fell backwards into politics despite his degree in vocal performance. He got his start in 2012 as a field organizer with Minnesotans United for All Families and that was that. Since then, Daniel has served in various roles with a wide range of campaigns, from local city council races to coalition work on a legislative pressure campaign in Michigan. In 2016, he led Ilhan Omar's historic campaign to victory. Most recently, he served

as Erin Murphy's Field Director.

While his great love is data-driven strategy, Daniel is also an experienced trainer of both organizers and volunteers; he knows how to build relationships and coalitions among candidates and elected officials, unions, party officials, and communities. And finally, he's a killer karaoke singer.

He's excited to be coming onboard, and looking forward to working with MFT59 members to elect school board candidates and pass the VOTE YES referendum.

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