

Barbara Madeloni for MTA President: A *platform*



Public education is the soil in which we till the democratic project. Ideally, our schools are where our children develop the literacy and skills to learn about the world, themselves, and each other; to be a part of a democratic community; and to engage a life that is joyful, rewarding, and just. Education workers –whether in the classroom, the lunchroom, the office or the bus—are charged with intricate human work. We are entrusted not only with the children of today, but with the hopes of the community we will be tomorrow.

This essential public space for democracy, and the people who work in it, is under attack by forces that degrade teachers, narrow our mission, and look to profit from our children and the public dollar. In order to counter this assault and build a vision of the schools we need for democracy and racial and economic justice, we need a union that:

- 1)** Is transparent and participatory, where voices are heard, conversations are had, and the rank and file are leaders and activists.
 - 2)** Understands that the concerted assault on public education and its workers requires a unified response. We need to harness the full power of our members to take critical stands for our vision of teaching, learning, and the dignity of all workers. This means meeting our obligation as educators to fight for the well being of our children and not acceding to what is politically palatable or profitable to corporations.
 - 3)** Names the assault on public education for what it is, in whatever form it emerges, whether that is high stakes testing, top down standards and curriculum, attacks on tenure and seniority, cuts to retiree health care, the vulnerability of pensions, the increasing reliance on casual labor and part-time positions, the privatizing push of charter schools, or the ongoing indignities of hyper-surveillance and micro-management through teacher evaluation systems.
 - 4)** Fights for salaries, health care and working conditions that respect the expertise and dignity of each member, and the time and resources to support a full life beyond the workplace.
 - 5)** Organizes across the state for a progressive tax that fully and equitably funds our public schools and universities, as well as providing for the well being of the people of Massachusetts.
 - 6)** Engages in honest, open negotiations in which educators' knowledge and experience are valued and given legitimate power, but also understands that our place at the table is only meaningful if our membership is informed, involved, and ready to act to defend our professional knowledge and commitment to education.
 - 7)** Recognizes the impact of racial and economic injustice on our children and communities, cherishes schools and colleges as sites in which to grow the skills and empathy to combat injustice, and allies with parents, students and working people across the state to fight for the common good.
 - 9)** Allies with national education unions in the larger campaign to preserve public education, social justice, and the democratic ideal. The struggles we are facing are national in scope. A strong union must be part of a larger union movement.
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