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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MMSD Board Member Vander Meulen Rejects Unilateral Handbook Changes**  
*Encourages Other Board Members to Stand with MTI*

**Madison, WI** - On June 29, 2011, Act 10 was passed stripping teachers and unions of their right to collective bargaining. On June 29, 2020 the Madison Metropolitan School District's Administration requested that the board strip further rights from the Madison Teachers Incorporated (MTI) by refusing to meet with MTI Leadership and by unilaterally changing the employee handbook.

The proposed unilateral handbook changes include new teacher surplus/lay-off rules which would terminate the MTI seniority system, as well as making all contracts 30 days in length a violation of 118.22(2). Other unauthorized changes include unilaterally defining hazard pay, the school calendar, and rating teachers on the subjective status of employee effectiveness.

Nicki Vander Meulen stated that "Monday should be a day of celebration as police are finally removed from our schools. But that joy is tinged with sadness as we are giving rights to some while taking away rights from our teachers and staff by destroying what little union rights that they have left. I stand with MTI and I refuse to vote on unilateral handbook changes, and I encourage my fellow board members to vote no as well. For MMSD to make a change to teachers contracts during a global pandemic is unconscionable and possibly illegal under the Wisconsin State Statutes. I urge the administration to table these handbook changes and meet with MTI in good faith."