

Proposed Amendments to the MTA Resolutions

Recommended by the Resolutions Committee at meetings on February 13 and 26, 2024

The MTA Board voted on March 23, 2024 to recommend passage by the delegates.

Resolutions Committee members:

Deb Gesualdo, Chair

Conner Bourgoïn

Joanna Gonsalves

Ryan Liacos

Amy Morin

Mary MacDonald, Staff Consultant

Laura Mullen, Staff Assistant

A section of the current resolution that has a line through it is proposed for elimination; a section that is underlined is a proposed addition.

CURRENT A-10 PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Massachusetts Teachers Association opposes the privatization of the institution of public education or any component therein. The MTA opposes any efforts, including public-private partnerships, that undermine institutions of public higher education by diverting funds and/or weakening their democratic autonomy. The MTA stands strongly against the transformation of educational institutions from a public good to profitable commodities. (75, 77, 80, 17)

PROPOSED AMENDED

RESOLUTION A-10 PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Massachusetts Teachers Association opposes the privatization of the institution of public education or any component therein. The MTA recognizes that privatization takes many forms, such as outsourcing Education Support Professionals (ESP) services, auxiliary services and online program management; entering into public-private partnerships for early childhood education, public childcare, early college, and capital construction; filling school/college positions for multiple years with contract employees and temporary agency employees; and heavily relying on management consultants for school/college operations.

The MTA specifically opposes private-sector contracts and partnerships if it determines that such contracts have a negative impact on public education or reduce or eliminate the number of staff providing or could be providing that educational service. The MTA opposes any efforts, ~~including public-private partnerships,~~ that undermine institutions of public education by diverting funds

and/or weakening their democratic autonomy. The MTA stands strongly against the transformation of educational institutions from a public good to profitable commodities and believes anti-privatization legislation is needed. (75, 77, 80, 17, 24)

CURRENT C-6 HEALTHY AND SAFE SCHOOLS

The Massachusetts Teachers Association believes that staff and students deserve to be in a healthy and safe learning environment. The MTA believes that measures should be taken to guarantee that physical conditions of buildings are maintained so as to conform to the highest possible standards for health and safety, in full compliance with all building codes and safety regulations of the state.

The MTA recommends that contract bargaining language require formation of Health and Safety Committees composed of school personnel, parents and school committee members and that they have regularly scheduled meetings designated to improve the health and safety of the school environment.

The MTA further urges that school committees provide for safe usage, proper storage and transfer and disposal of all toxic and/or hazardous substances used in school buildings and on school grounds.

The MTA strongly supports the enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) on behalf of all employees in the public sector.

The MTA believes that all educational facilities must be safe from all environmental and chemical hazards, including lead from water pipe systems within schools, inadequate ventilation and climate control, particulate pollution, mold and sick-building syndrome.

The MTA urges that dangerous asbestos be removed immediately from the schools and that the Commonwealth provide funds for its removal and other related expenses.

The MTA also strongly supports the state's school immunization requirements. These requirements exist to protect students, staff and members of the wider community from serious diseases that can be prevented by vaccines (75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 85, 88, 01, 03, 07, 19)

PROPOSED AMENDED RESOLUTION C-6 HEALTHY AND SAFE SCHOOLS

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The MTA urges that school committees and boards of trustees must improve school mechanical ventilation systems to assure that school spaces' air quality is sufficient to diminish as much as

possible the risk of airborne infections from indoor pathogens from any source (viral, bacterial and molds), and bring them in line with best practices and current scientific recommendations. This would require mechanical ventilation systems (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning, HVAC), which must be mechanically driven from Air Handling Units (AHU) that provide a supply of clean outside air. At least five Air Changes per Hour (5 ACH) must be achieved in each school space. The outside air could be complemented by recycled air filtered through at least MERV 13 rated filters to achieve the minimum 5 ACH. Appropriate exhaust flows out of each school space must be balanced with the supply air into the rooms. Portable HEPA Ventilation units could also be provided to complement and maximize air cleansing.

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The MTA also strongly supports the state's school immunization requirements. These requirements exist to protect students, staff and members of the wider community from serious diseases that can be prevented by vaccines. (75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 85, 88, 01, 03, 07, 19, 24)

CURRENT C-7 SCHOOL FACILITIES: DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND FUNCTION

The Massachusetts Teachers Association believes that school facilities must be conducive to teaching and learning. The physical environment must allow for a variety of needs, including the number of students, physical characteristics of students, changes in teaching methods, presentation of instruction, and an increased use of school facilities. The MTA also believes that all school facilities must be well constructed, safe, energy-efficient, aesthetically pleasing, accessible, functional and adaptable to persons with disabilities.

The MTA supports ecologically conservative facility designs including heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

The MTA believes that the community, parents/guardians and education employees should play an advisory role in designing these facilities.

The MTA also believes that stable and sufficient funding must be provided for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the school facility.

These principles should apply equally to preK-12 schools and buildings used by public higher education institutions. (11, 21)

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The MTA also believes that stable and sufficient funding must be provided for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the school facility.

The MTA believes that one of the most effective means to prevent the risk of airborne infections to students and educators (viral, bacterial and molds) is a well-designed mechanical ventilation system that is in line with best practices and current scientific recommendations. This would require a system that provides for at least 5 Air Changes per Hour (5 ACH) based on outside clean air. Well-tempered outdoor supply air should be designed-in for every school indoor space. Temperature and relative humidity extremes should be avoided – by design – in new schools while conforming with at least 5 ACH ventilation rates as a design criterion as described in MTA Resolution C-6 Healthy and Safe Schools.

These principles should apply equally to preK-12 schools and buildings used by public higher education institutions. (11, 21, 24)

CURRENT F-11 RIGHT TO STRIKE

The Massachusetts Teachers Association reaffirms its position that educational personnel should have the legal right to strike. The MTA condemns the jailing of its members and the imposition of fines for strike-related activities. The MTA also strongly encourages all of its members to support their colleagues who have been forced to strike in order to improve educational conditions. (79, 85, 09)

**PROPOSED AMENDED
RESOLUTION F-11 RIGHT TO STRIKE**

The Massachusetts Teachers Association reaffirms its position that all PreK - Higher Education public school workers ~~educational personnel~~ should have the legal right to strike. The MTA condemns the jailing of its members and the imposition of coercive fines and arbitrary restitution for strike-related activities. The MTA also strongly encourages all of its members to support their colleagues who have been forced by the extreme stalling tactics and unwillingness of their employers to bargain in good faith to strike in order to improve ~~educational~~ working and learning conditions. (79, 85, 09, 24)