

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

New Business Items of the 2023 Annual Meeting of Delegates

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1

The MTA will publicly support the fundamental right to reproductive healthcare

MOVED: The MTA will publicly support the fundamental right to reproductive healthcare by:

- adding a page dedicated to resources and information regarding reproductive care to the MTA's webpage
- sharing information with members about their rights and their students' rights via various modes of communication
- incorporating questions regarding support for abortion care when evaluating any candidates for endorsement
- endorsing only candidates who explicitly support reproductive rights, including abortion care

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1

MTA added the following question to its candidate questionnaire:

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH JUSTICE

The MTA supports the fundamental right to reproductive health care, especially the right of abortion care. Massachusetts has some of the strongest reproductive health protections and best health care institutions in the country and, especially in light of the *Dobbs* decision, the MTA strongly believes that every person should have access to the full range of reproductive health care services, including access to safe and legal abortion.

- Agree with MTA position.
- Disagree with MTA position.

MTA also held a workshop at the 2023 MTA Summer Conference titled “Bigger than Dobbs: The Socialist, Feminist Politics of Abortion and Reproductive Justice.”

A webpage on reproductive care and justice is currently in development.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2

Decarbonization Task Force Reauthorization

MOVED: Whereas, the 2022 MTA Annual Meeting approved a Decarbonization Task Force to move the Massachusetts Teachers Association towards decarbonization by 2030, and whereas, the Decarbonization Task Force has submitted its report and recommendations to the membership that include hiring a consultant to provide a detailed plan with budgetary implications and a timeline, and whereas, the Decarbonization Task Force should monitor the development and implementation of detailed timelines,

BE IT RESOLVED: The MTA, in line with the 2021 Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, and the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius, hereby reauthorizes the Decarbonization Task Force for another year.

Voted to approve New Business Item #2: Whereas, the 2022 MTA Annual Meeting approved a Decarbonization Task Force to move the Massachusetts Teachers Association towards decarbonization by 2030,

And whereas, the Decarbonization Task Force has submitted its report and recommendations to the membership that include hiring a consultant to provide a detailed plan with budgetary implications and a timeline,

and whereas, the Decarbonization Task Force should monitor the development and implementation of detailed timelines,

Be it resolved: The MTA, in line with the 2021 Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, and the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius, hereby reauthorizes the Decarbonization Task Force for another year.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2

The Decarbonization Task Force was reauthorized for another year and continues its work. In October of 2023, the Task Force presented a series of recommendations which the Board accepted. Those recommendations are currently being prioritized and implemented.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3

Threat from the Right Booklet

MOVED to approve New Business Item #3 The MTA Task Force Report “Threat from the Right,” which identified the players in the local and national network of anti-worker and anti-public education groups and their funding sources be updated, distributed as in the past. The updated report will be presented at the 2024 MTA Annual Meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3

The updated “Threat from the Right Report” is included in the materials for this year’s Annual Meeting of Delegates.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #4

Curbing Gun Violence

MOVED: The MTA President shall write to his counterparts (other state affiliate presidents) urging them to make a priority in their respective states of enacting common sense gun control legislation, including but not limited to safe storage of firearms, red flag laws, universal background checks, limiting if not banning the purchase of assault rifles, etc. in addition, the MTA through a new NEA business item will urge the NEA to make a priority of asking state affiliates to do the same.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #4

MTA President Max Page wrote to state affiliate presidents. The New Business Item #27 was modified by the Representative Assembly and passed as follows:

The NEA President, officers, and members of the Board of Directors, working with the gun violence cross-center team, shall encourage state affiliates to set up task forces in their states to develop strategies and make a priority of enacting gun safety legislation in their states, including but not limited to:

- *safe storage of firearms*
- *red flag laws*
- *universal background checks*
- *waiting periods*
- *limiting if not banning the purchase of assault rifles, etc.*

To this end, the NEA President, officers, and members of the Board of Directors working with the gun violence cross-center team will encourage and assist, if asked, state affiliates to include in their state candidate questionnaires gun safety legislative questions in order to elect state legislators who will support gun safety legislation. Furthermore, using existing publications, NEA will continue to publicize the importance of electing candidates at the federal and state levels who will pass commonsense gun safety measures.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #5

Disassociation from Union-Busting Vendors and Businesses MTA Benefits

MOVED: By July 2025, the MTA and MTA Benefits will divest and disassociate from any voluntary affiliation with associations, organizations, and businesses who, as researched and determined by the Board of Directors or subcommittee thereof, actively engage in practices designed to reduce, discourage, or condemn the act of joining a labor union. Furthermore, the MTA will publish a list of these associations, organizations, and businesses organizations on their website and in the MTA Today. Flexibility shall be given for programs in which MTA members are enrolled for which no acceptable alternative is available.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #5

Board volunteers for the subcommittee were sought at the March 2024 Board Meeting. The subcommittee will commence its research in spring of 2024 to determine which vendors and businesses should be avoided.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #6

Disassociation from Union-Busting Vendors and Businesses NEA Benefits

MOVED: That the MTA endorse and advance to the NEA 2023 Representative Assembly the following New Business Item for consideration – *By 2025, the NEA and NEA Benefits will*

divest and disassociate from any voluntary affiliation with associations, organizations, and businesses who, as researched and determined by the Board of Directors or subcommittee thereof, have actively engaged in practices designed to reduce, discourage, or condemn the act of joining a labor union. Furthermore, the NEA will publish a list of these associations, organizations, and businesses organizations on their website and in the NEA Today. Flexibility shall be given for programs in which NEA members are enrolled for which no acceptable alternative is available.

Implementation of AM23 NBI #6:

The Massachusetts Teachers Association State Delegation to the 2023 NEA Representative Assembly submitted the following New Business Item 24 to the Representative Assembly for deliberation and action:

NBI 24:

By 2025, the NEA and NEA Member Benefits will divest and disassociate from any voluntary affiliation with associations, organizations, and businesses who, as determined by the Board of Directors or subcommittee thereof, have willfully engaged in practices designed to reduce, discourage, or condemn the act of joining a labor union. Furthermore, the NEA will publish a list of these associations, organizations, and businesses organizations on their website and in the NEA Today.

Rationale/Background: An injury to one is an injury to all. The largest labor union in the country must denounce and dissociate with Amazon, Bank of America, and other private industries that support or bankroll union-busting activities.

SUBMITTED BY: *Majority vote at regularly called meeting of the state delegation in connection with the Annual Meeting.*

CONTACT: *Kyle Gekopi, Massachusetts*

Relevant Strategic Objective (SO) EO-1 Enterprise Operations (ongoing business operations)

COST IMPLICATIONS (per NEA): This item cannot be accomplished with current staff and resources under the proposed 2023-2024 Modified Strategic Plan and Budget. It would cost an additional \$110,390. However, there will also be breach of contract costs that could potentially run in the millions of dollars.

This NBI was defeated by the NEA Representative Assembly.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #7

MTA Initiate: Legislative Priority- Management Fees on Pension Fund

MOVED: to adopt MTA to write a letter to Massachusetts State Auditor requesting they conduct an independent audit and analysis of the impact of management fees on our pension fund value over the last 10 years in order to ensure a dignified retirement for retired teachers. NYC Public Pensions 2014 audit uncovered that alternative funds, especially private equity, cost their pension \$2.55 billion dollars. (source: [The Impact of Management Fees on Pension Fund Value](#)). According to American Teacher Federation's 2017 study, Mass PRIM our pension fund will save an additional \$1.8 billion five years after adopting 0.9 and 9, \$8 billion after 15 years, and \$30 billion after 30 years, if not for the high-fees for unverified, self-report, and potential fictitious returns of Private Equity. ([How money managers' fees crush state budgets and workers' retirement hopes](#))

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #7

The MTA wrote to the Massachusetts State Auditor requesting they conduct an independent audit and analysis of the impact of management fees on our pension fund value over the last 10 years, in order to ensure a dignified retirement for retired teachers. The auditor responded in writing: “I anticipate being able to initiate a review like this within the coming months, and remain available to discuss this work with you should you wish to share any additional information with me.”

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #8

Require MASS PRIM to adopt and implement safeguards and policy guidelines

NBI #8 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #9

MTA Commission a Research Committee RE: Public Pension

NBI #9 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #10

MTA Newsletters to raise awareness of public pensions

NBI #10 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #11

(MTA Initiative: Legislative Priority) Gun Violence

NBI #11 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #12

MTA submit a request to Mass PRIM

NBI #12 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #13

Divestment of Massachusetts pension funds - Reporting

Moved: Whereas Last year the MTA Convention passed NBI #1, which called for the divestment of Massachusetts pension funds directly involved in fossil fuel extraction, and indirectly in banking, financial services, and other businesses that profit from them; and

Whereas: The MTA, as directed by NBI #1, called upon state pension funds (those included in the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) managed by the Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board), to be divested of all fossil fuel holdings; and

Whereas: NBI #1 also requested that the two educator representatives to the PRIM Board (both MTA retired members) report periodically to the MTA Executive Board on the state of fossil fuel divestment; and

Whereas: This has not occurred; Therefore, be it resolved: This year’s MTA Convention shall request that the two educator representatives to the PRIM Board (both MTA retired members) report periodically to the MTA Executive Board on the state of fossil fuel divestment with a report made to next year’s MTA convention.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #13

Robert Brousseau and Dennis Naughton, elected representatives on the Pension Reserves

Investment Management (PRIM) Board, gave a presentation to the MTA Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, December 9, 2023. Going forward, the Board will request a report from PRIM representatives annually and ask that progress of fossil fuel divestment be reported.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #14

Oppose Legislative Mandates for Early Literacy Curriculum and Instruction

MOVED: The MTA will oppose current ([Bill S.263](#) and [Bill H.579](#)) and future legislation that mandates districts to adopt DESE-approved literacy curriculum, report literacy screening data to DESE, or implement unfunded intervention programs. Government Relations will monitor current and future bills that meet this criteria, lobby against them, and inform and engage members in lobbying efforts.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #14

The MTA Center for Education Policy and Practice convened a team of reading specialists and other members, including the authors of this NBI. Those members produced a set of policy recommendations that was shared with state policymakers. Many of those recommendations are reflected in the governor's Literacy Launch initiative. That team of members and MTA leadership are working with the MTA Government Relations team to advocate against legislation that mandates districts to adopt DESE-approved literacy curriculum, report literacy screening data to DESE or implement unfunded intervention programs.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #15

Education to Reduce Food Waste

NBI #15 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #16

MTA Endorse Rent Control

MOVED: The MTA will endorse rent control and the maintenance & development of public housing, including current bills (April 2023) and future bills or ballot measures that further these goals.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #16

The MTA Government Relations Committee endorsed [S.1299/H.2103](#), *An Act enabling cities and towns to stabilize rents and protect tenants*, [H.3744](#) - *An Act petition for a special law authorizing the city of Boston to implement rent stabilization and tenant evictions protections*, and [S.872/H.1304](#) - *An Act enabling local options for tenant protections*.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #17

Statewide Minimum Wage for All MTA Members

NBI #17 was rejected.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #18

Strong Campaign for Public Sector Right to Strike Without Restrictions

Ruled out of order.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #19

Resolution of Solidarity with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

NBI #19 was rejected.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #20

Option for Annual Meeting Delegates to Go Green

NBI #20 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #21

Support UPS Teamsters

NBI #21 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #22

Fair Share of the Fair Share

NBI #22 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #23

Oppose An Act Relative to Parental Rights in Education

NBI #23 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #26

Resolution of Solidarity with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

NBI #26 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #27

MTA Gender Neutral

NBI #27 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #28

Wellness Contract Language

NBI #28 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #29

Educator & Student Safety

NBI #29 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM23 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #30

Improving School/College/University Ventilation Systems

NBI #30 was not addressed due to loss of quorum.

AM21 NEW BUSINESS ITEM #03

Name Change Task Force

Final report is enclosed under separate report.