April 24, 2020

I would like to state that it has been my pleasure serving as the one of the two MSCA (District 45H) representatives to the MTA Board of Directors for the past seven years. My term expires on June 30, 2020. The seat also expires on June 30, 2020 based on the number of union members in the MSCA. Of note this year:

- MTA had an exciting initiative called Fund Our Future that brought roughly $1 billion to public schools via *The Promise Act*. A similar initiative called *The Cherish Act* for higher education currently appears dead given anticipated, significant cut in the FY 2021 budget on Beacon Hill, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read more about the initiative on MTA’s website:

  [https://massteacher.org/current-initiatives/fund-our-future](https://massteacher.org/current-initiatives/fund-our-future)

- MTA’s legislative priorities this legislative session includes support for students, progressive revenues, fair workplaces, fair and dignified retirement and protecting public employees’ rights. You can read more about these at:

  [https://massteacher.org/current-initiatives/legislative-action](https://massteacher.org/current-initiatives/legislative-action)

- Despite the Supreme Judicial Court’s rejection of the constitutional amendment ballot questions, Legislative efforts on the fair-share amendment that would increase the tax rate on income in excess of $1,000,000 by 4% continue, after the Supreme Judicial Court ruled the ballot question as unconstitutional in 2019.

- We see some fallout for the United States Supreme Court decision in the Janus case. MSCA and MTA have actually seen an increase in former agency fee payers joining the union, but new faculty are not joining the union in numbers we have seen in eth past. The MSCA and chapters will need to do more to inform new faculty of the protections the union provides.

- The Higher Education Leadership Council is hoping to hold a higher education conference next year.

- The MTA Summer Conference will either be held virtually or canceled this August due to the pandemic.

*CJ O’Donnell*  
*MTA Board Member*  
*Region 45H*