

## SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 12.15.22

### Membership meeting recap

This past Saturday we had our monthly membership meeting. One of the first things we talked about was the bomb threats of the past week and how the district inappropriately expected custodians to sweep the buildings for suspicious objects. Although these are rare occurrences, it's yet another example of how the district expects custodians to take on extra roles which are not included in our job description without adequate preparation or compensation.

We then moved on to hearing from folks who were at the rally at PESC last week which was part of our ongoing COVID leave campaign. The district locked us out and refused to let us speak with HR. See last week's newsletter for a more detailed report on this action. Some members who had been to other protests at district headquarters in the past were surprised at the district's hostility toward the group. As a part of the follow up from this action we agreed to ask Frank to send the pictures he took of us. We will also respond to an email which Joe received from Genevieve Rough several days after our rally. The following is the text from Genevieve's email:

"It came to my attention that some SEIU members were at the PEC today to advocate for covid leave for all staff and asked unannounced to speak with central office leadership. We are supportive of SEIU's right to meet, however, it benefits both parties if central office leadership are aware these demonstrations will be taking place. I am requesting that in the future you let someone on the Employee and Labor Relations team know, or Frank and Whitney, so that we are better prepared."

A member shared that their FOM told them it was "problematic" that they were in the union in regards to why they haven't been chosen for a head position. This is a clear case of retaliation for union involvement which is prohibited by labor law and should be contested. We also discussed the importance of collecting statements and testimony about abuses by management in order to file group grievances. If you think you are experiencing retaliation or unfair labor practices, make sure to document the incident in writing and get in touch with a shop steward.

We heard an update that only about 90 members have filled out the bargaining survey so far. Make sure to fill out the bargaining [survey](#) if you haven't done so already! It's not too long and gives you a chance to have a voice in what the union prioritizes during bargaining even if you can't make it to the meetings or other actions.

Next we discussed nominations for positions on the nutrition service and custodial labor management committees. [Nominations](#) for the LMC started this week. There will also be nominations for the custodial representative at large position starting January 16. There is a steward training opportunity coming up on 12/17, and even if you're not sure that you want to become a steward this is a good chance to learn more about your rights as a union member and assist other members with their struggles and concerns. For more details see "Upcoming

actions” below. We also discussed creating more of a social media presence, see “Social media committee” below.

### **Social media committee**

At the membership meeting we discussed starting a public-facing social media page for our union. This could be a place to share our demands of the district and to help spread awareness of the conditions in our workplaces and our union campaigns and actions. If you are interested in being on a committee to help launch this project, reach out to Gabe at [gabepenk@gmail.com](mailto:gabepenk@gmail.com).

### **Board meeting**

Public comment at this week’s board meeting discussed district climate policy, inequities in after-school care, racist disciplinary action, and more. You can listen to public comments from the board meeting [here](#).

### **Nutrition services event**

On Tuesday, NS management hosted a winter “team building” event. We made sure SEIU had a presence there with members purpling up and an SEIU table with t-shirts and information about our union. Lots of members scanned a QR code that directly took them to the bargaining survey. Co-chair Amy Silvia handed Whitney our petition demanding Covid leave. Whitney was surprised that it was brought to her at this event but it definitely got management’s attention!

### **Upcoming actions**

- Steward training Saturday 12/17 from noon-5, contact Joe Cartino at [cartinoj@seiu503.org](mailto:cartinoj@seiu503.org) if you are interested
- [Nominate](#) yourself or people you think might be interested for the Labor Management Committee vacancy
- PPS budget info session, Thursday 1/5 at Roosevelt HS 5-6:30pm