

SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 3.9.23

Take action!

- Join our membership meeting **Saturday 3/11 at 10 am, at 525 NE Oregon St or on [zoom](#)**
- Portland International Working Women's Day march **Saturday 3/11 at 11 am, at South Hawthorne Waterfront Park**
- Delegation to deliver group disaster pay grievance **Thursday 3/16 at 11 am, at PESC 501 N Dixon St.**

Delegation to Deliver Hazard Pay Grievance

Over 100 members responded to our survey about the impacts of the recent snow days on their work. On Tuesday, stewards Aubz and Gabe filed a group grievance on behalf of all custodians and nutrition service workers. A grievance is a way of protesting a violation of our contract by the district. In this case, we believe the district violated the contract by not paying custodians “disaster pay” for coming to work during a state of emergency. We also argue that NS workers deserve to be paid for the days school was closed due to snow since the contract does not explicitly say they are not paid on snow days.

In addition to filing a grievance, we will hold a rally at the district building on Thursday 3/26 at 11am. We will deliver the grievance to HR in person to express our outrage that the district would try to deny us our rightfully earned pay through loopholes to work around our contract. If you do not work in the mornings, please join us in person to show our strength and unity. If you cannot attend in person, you can send us a selfie to add to a photo petition showing your support for hazard pay and compensation for snow days.

Board Meeting Recap

Over 250 people attended the board meeting this past Tuesday in response to the board threatening to remove the open “public comment” slot. In typical fashion, Board Chair Andrew Scott [interrupted](#) a speaker at the end of her testimony explaining the dangers paraeducators face in PPS schools. Later, Amy Silvia [spoke](#) on behalf of SEIU highlighting the challenges custodians and nutrition service workers face and urging the district to devote more funds to hire and retain workers. Chair Scott again attempted to have the final word by [repeating](#) his unfounded warnings that PPS is facing a budget shortfall this year. Despite his dire predictions, enrollment has not declined as much as forecast, and the state funding for public schools is expected to increase. PPS has the resources it needs to pay its employees a livable wage but is choosing to prioritize investments in administrative and other areas.

International Working Women’s Day is March 8th!

More commonly known as International Women’s Day, the day first took place on February 28th, 1909 in New York by organized workers and suffragettes who sought to fight back against the exploitation and disenfranchisement of working class women. The day is an opportunity to show how the struggle

for women's liberation is intertwined with the fight for workers' rights. Despite having won the right to vote and made gains in access to education, healthcare, and other social services, women, including trans and non-binary folks, still face disproportionate rates of violence, discrimination, and exploitation. Women—and especially women of color—make up the majority of workers in some of the most difficult and underpaid industries such as domestic work, nursing, food service, and factory work. In addition, they are often burdened with the unpaid work of childcare and are in many places denied essential services such as access to abortions while facing high rates of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and criminalization.

Within PPS, areas that are largely staffed by women remain some of the most difficult and underpaid jobs. This includes nutrition service assistants who earn only \$17.25/hr, and are not granted access to health coverage because they are not designated as full time. Educational assistants and secretaries are also extremely underpaid making just \$16.64 and \$18.13 respectively. Such low wages are particularly difficult for single parents as well as those seeking to escape an abusive relationship when the cost of living alone is simply unaffordable.

We hope you can join us at South Hawthorne Waterfront Park at 11am, Saturday 3/11 for a march to recognize International Working Women's Day. In fighting for living wages and better protections for the most overlooked and exploited workers, we improve the rights and working conditions of all workers!

Useful Links

Union instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/seiulocal140/>

Our contract: [SEIU 140 Union Contract](#)

SEIU 140 webpage: <https://seiu503.org/pps/>

Local labor news: <https://nwlaborpress.org/>