

SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 6.30.23

Take Action!

- Attend bargaining during any of the following scheduled bargaining sessions:
 - Wednesday 7/5 from 9-5 at the Prophet Education Center (PEC)/district building (501 N Dixon St.)
 - Friday 7/28 from 9-5 at the union office (525 NE Oregon St.)
 - Thursday 8/3 from 9-5 at PEC
 - Friday 8/4 from 9-5 at the union office
- Next union membership meeting will be Saturday 7/8 at 12pm at the union office (525 NE Oregon St) or on [zoom](#).
- Attend next school board meeting Tuesday 7/11 at the PEC at 6pm

Union Updates

Bargaining Updates

Our current contract is set to expire on June 30th (although the old contract will remain valid until we agree to a new contract.) PPS will probably try to say it is the union's fault that we haven't agreed to a new contract, but in reality it is the district who is refusing to meet our reasonable and necessary demands. Because the district has not prioritized meeting with us and has rejected nearly all of our proposals thus far, we are nowhere near coming to an agreement on a new contract.

In the coming months, it is essential that we put more pressure on the district to agree to our demands for livable wages, safe working conditions, and fair and respectful treatment on the job. Make sure to sign our [bargaining platform petition](#) to show your support for our bargaining demands including a minimum \$25/hr starting wage! If you are not sure whether you've signed, it is okay to sign again; we will make sure everyone's signature is only counted once.

We meet management for another round of bargaining next on July 5th from 9am-5pm at the PEC/district building. Please join us for any or all of bargaining! It makes a huge difference when members show up to support us and demonstrate to the district that we are unified and willing to fight for our rights!

Members recently elected Jennifer Borley to join the bargaining team, with Anya Cruz and Theo McInturf as alternates. Other bargaining team members include Veronica Green, Chris Walters, Amy Silvia, Rae Schuman, Dave Vecsi, Jim D'Arcy, and Gabe Penk.

Know Your Rights: Harassment and Discrimination at Work

PPS is legally mandated to adopt a clear policy to prevent [harassment](#), discrimination, and sexual assault. Despite this, harassment, and particularly sexual harassment is all too common

at PPS. Recently members have been coming forward to expose the harassment they have experienced and how the district has failed to address the issue, even when they know what is going on. It appears that PPS is failing to properly enforce its own policies and is complicit in allowing sexual harassment and other serious violations of worker's rights to continue.

If you are experiencing any form of harassment or discrimination, know you are not alone and that you are always welcome to notify a union steward you trust. (The list of stewards is attached in this week's newsletter email.) A steward can help you document the incident(s) and file a [complaint](#) with HR. Legally, you are protected from any kind of retaliation for filing a complaint, however, PPS is not above retaliation and you should notify your steward if you feel like you are being targeted for speaking up. It is best to document as much as you can, both of the actual incident, as well as anything that happens after you file a complaint. The best way to document an issue is to send an email to your steward detailing as much of the incident as you remember. Another way is to make a voice recording of yourself explaining what happened, being sure to include the date during which you are recording.

In addition to filing a complaint with the district, you can file a [complaint](#) with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) which works to enforce state labor laws and protect workers rights. It is especially important to file a complaint with BOLI if the issue continues and/or if PPS fails to properly investigate and address the initial complaint.

Executive Committee Update

Our Local's executive committee (Amy Silvia, Jim D'Arcy, Roberta Packer, Gabe Penk, and Aubz Headrick) met last Saturday to plan for our next membership meeting and discuss other upcoming events. We agreed to give \$100 to the Providence Nurses strike fund as a gesture of solidarity. We also agreed to draft a resolution in support of the campaign to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, a longtime political prisoner and a celebrated journalist and activist for workers rights and racial justice. Finally, we discussed next steps in our bargaining campaign and plans to speak at the next board meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next membership meeting on Saturday, 7/8 at 12pm at our union hall (525 NE Oregon St.)

Local Solidarity

Teamsters BBQ

With UPS workers gearing up to [potentially strike](#) on August 1st, the Portland Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and Jobs with Justice (JwJ) helped put on a BBQ at Columbia Park last weekend to raise awareness and build support for the Teamsters Union. Several SEIU members were in attendance, as were teachers and many other unions. UPS workers shared how they are demanding higher wages and an end to an unequal 2-tiered wage system. Despite billions in profits, UPS is refusing to meet its workers' demands and the union is willing to go on strike if necessary. Last week, 97% of union members [voted in favor](#) of going on strike.