

SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 9.26.22

As we continue to fight for COVID leave and start preparing for bargaining in February, now is the time to keep building connections within our union. Check in with your coworkers to hear what issues are important to them. If you have a concern or grievance, make sure to reach out to your union representatives or shop stewards. Anyone who wants can also be a member of the contract action team (CAT) and help by making phone calls to get to know our union members and make sure everyone's voice is heard. If you are looking for ways to get more involved or have questions about the CAT team, please reach out to me at gabepenkg@gmail.com.

Warmly,
Gabe

Board meeting

The majority of public comment focused on the proposed (and now adopted) name change of Robert Blanchard Education Service Center to Dr. Matthew Prophet Education Service Center. Several teachers shared testimony about staffing changes and the effects it has on students. PAT president Angela Bonilla also shared concerns about district staffing issues as well as again addressing the need for reinstating [COVID pay](#) for all employees.

Cleveland Picket

SEIU members picketed for COVID pay at the Cleveland back-to-school night last Wednesday. Members passed out flyers to parents and families to keep them informed of the district's policies and how it is affecting staff and students. Our coalition of unions continues to pressure the district for 5 days of paid leave any time an employee tests positive for COVID without having to first use sick leave or other personal leave. News coverage of the picket forced the district to respond to our demands stating that COVID leave "is no longer necessary or feasible to support our employees." You can read more about the picket and the district's response in this [article](#).

Our union executive team and the PPS union coalition will be meeting soon to discuss next steps in this campaign. In the meantime, you are encouraged to pass out flyers at upcoming back-to-school nights and make sure you and your building staff have signed this [petition](#). If you are working during a back-to-school night, you can take one of your breaks to stand outside and pass out the attached flyer and let parents know about the importance of all staff having paid COVID leave in order to create a safe and healthy learning environment for their children.

Next Steps

- Sign and share the [petition](#) for COVID leave
- Next membership meeting Saturday 10/8
- Next board meeting Tuesday 10/11 at 6pm

