

SEIU Local 140 Newsletter

Take Action

- Attend upcoming info session to learn about our new tentative agreement
- Saturday 2/3, Noon-1:30pm at Grant HS (This will take the place of our regular membership meeting on the second Saturday)
- [Register](#) for “Philippine Labor Fights Back” webinar Sunday 2/4 at 4pm
- [Practice picket](#) for higher ed workers at PSU Urban Plaza, 1819 SW 5th Ave, Thursday 2/8 at noon.

Union Updates

Ratification Process

Our tentative agreement is up for a vote among all SEIU 140 members. It needs over 50% of the vote to pass. If membership votes to ratify the contract, it will then go to a vote by the school board. Assuming they pass it, the new contract will go into effect. If it is officially ratified before February 15th, we will likely see at least a portion of our retro pay on our paycheck at the end of February.

Voting for the TA closes Sunday, February 2nd. If you have not received a link to vote via email, you can reach out to Joe Cartino at cartinoj@seiu503.org. You must be a dues paying member to vote, but it is not too late to [sign up](#) if you would like to be a member and vote. We hope you will also join us in person at Grant HS on Saturday, February 3rd at 12 noon to learn more about the TA and celebrate the work we have done together to reach this TA. There will also be the option to vote via paper ballot on Saturday if you prefer. See this [recent news coverage](#) about our TA featuring NS Lead Chris Walters!

Local Solidarity

PFSP Practice Picket and TA

On Sunday January 27th PFSP, alongside union partners including SEIU, hosted a [practice picket](#) and rally. This event served to draw attention and support for the PFSP bargaining platform as they continued to endure a drawn out bargaining process much like our own. The rally featured speakers from PFSP, as well as solidarity statements from PAT, DCU, and community members, as well as two speakers from SEIU. The sidewalks in front of the currently under construction Benson High School were packed with supporters chanting and waving signs.

The event location was chosen as a nod to the construction workers working there during the PAT strike who refused to cross the picket line and joined striking teachers this last fall. Solidarity was very much the theme of the event. The event concluded with a brief march to the nearby bridge over the freeway where supporters carried large banners, and practiced strike chants.

While PFSP proved loud and clear they are prepared for a potential strike, the threat alone seemed to prove effective. The following day PPS and PFSP were able to reach a new tentative agreement, and union leadership

seems significantly more optimistic about the chances of this much improved agreement passing union vote, unlike their first two TA's which were voted down by members. Connecting with and supporting our fellow PPS union coalition members is a hugely rewarding process and strengthens us all, and we look forward to an ever improving relationship with our union siblings.

Albina Vision Trust

A local nonprofit called [Albina Vision Trust](#) (AVT) is pressing forward with a proposal to purchase the land currently occupied by the Portland Public Schools district headquarters. At the January 23rd board meeting, they proposed forming a “public-private partnership” to “facilitate the District’s acquisition of a high-quality, downtown office building in exchange for the transferred ownership of the PEC to AVT.” AVT is a private entity which aims to redevelop the lower Albina district which was historically the home of the majority of Black Portlanders. In contrast to decades of displacement through “urban renewal” projects and gentrification, AVT claims their development efforts will “heal rather than harm.”

AVT is seeking support from PPS unions in their efforts to purchase the district headquarters in order to build 1,000 units of housing. Some of the main figures behind AVT include Rukaiyah Adams, former Chief Investment Officer for Meyer Memorial Trust and current CEO of the 1803 Fund, an investment fund which recently secured a \$400 million donation from Nike co-founder Phil Knight. The AVT board also includes former NW Natural CEO Gregg Kantor, former health insurance executive Michael Alexander, and real estate developer Tom Cody. Union members hope to meet with members of AVT soon to learn more about their intention and better understand how their plan may or may not serve students and workers at PPS.

International Solidarity

Rally to Demand Multnomah County Support a Ceasefire in Gaza

SEIU members joined a broad coalition of organizations and individuals at the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners meeting on Thursday to demand they pass a [resolution](#) calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The proposed resolution recognizes that the US sends billions of our tax dollars to Israel that could otherwise be used to provide health, safety, housing, social and educational services in our communities. Supporters of the resolution packed the board room chanting “free Gaza now” and “ceasefire now.” After moving [public testimony](#), commissioners had an opportunity to respond. Only Lori Steggman initially appeared to support the resolution, but she was prevented from sharing her full remarks until over 2 hours later at the end of the agenda. Steggman suggested bringing a ceasefire resolution to the next board meeting. Chair Jessica Vega Pederson and commissioner Jesse Beason voiced support for a ceasefire while commissioners Julia Brim-Edwards and Sharon Meieran remained largely silent on the question of a ceasefire.