

# SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 4.27.23

## Take Action!

- Participate in the **disaster pay grievance hearing** with management Monday 5/1 at PEC 1pm. Find out how to participate below.
- Attend the **School Board Candidate Forum** on Sunday 4/30 from 2:30-4:30 at the PAT hall, 345 NE 8th Ave or on [zoom](#). You can RSVP [here](#).
- Join Portland Federation of School Professionals (PFSP) for their **bargaining campaign kick-off** at McDaniel High School on Monday 5/1 at 2735 NE 82nd Ave from 5:30-7:30.
- Attend the **Labor Notes “Troublemakers School,”** Saturday 5/6 from 9 am-4 pm at McDaniel High School, 2735 NE 82nd Ave. The event is open to all and is free for SEIU members. Learn more and register at <https://labornotes.org/pdx>.
- **Next Bargaining session** is Friday 5/19 from 1-5 at PEC. Let the front desk know you are there to observe SEIU bargaining.

## Union Updates

### Upcoming Grievance Hearing

Custodians fighting for disaster pay during the snow days in February have successfully fought for the right to present our grievance directly before management. We will meet with Genevieve Rough and Dan Jung on Monday, May 1 at 1pm at PEC to present our case. Since this is a group grievance, any custodian is welcome to join. The more people attend, the more power we will have! If the meeting interferes with your work hours, you will be excused as long as you notify your supervisor in advance. If you are interested in attending, we ask that you fill out this [registration form](#), so we can coordinate who will be in attendance and who is interested in speaking.

### Bargaining Updates

The bargaining team met with the district on Friday 4/21 for our second bargaining session. We are still in the phase of making initial proposals and so far have not received any proposals or counterproposals from the district. We intend to make proposals related to wages no later than our 4<sup>th</sup> bargaining session. Our next bargaining session with management is scheduled for Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm

Besides making our proposals, we questioned the district on their intention behind pursuing changes to the Custodial Civil Service Law which protects custodial jobs from being outsourced. The district's attorney Chris Duckworth stated, "PPS would prefer to have CCSL go away entirely." Civil Service Law is not going away. With your help and our union's political power we can stop any further changes. Please sign this petition: [I support the Custodial Civil Service Law](#). Frank Leavitt also clarified that the already delayed APPA audit to determine appropriate staffing levels for custodial will likely not happen before the end of this school year.

The following are some summaries of the changes we proposed on Friday:

- Article 2 - Removes the right for the District to hire nutrition services temps, added CCSL language protections (current law) for custodial emergency appointments.

- Article 4 - Deletes entire article. Not necessary. It allows the parties to talk to each other about contract interpretation, which we can do anyways.
- Article 5 - Improves info request process, added state law language regarding steward rights, adds 2 hours of paid time to steward work, adds equipment and supplies to Labor Management Committee topics, increases new employee orientations to 45 min or 1 hour for groups of ten or more.
- Article 6 - Allows SEIU members to honor picket lines/not go to work at any worksite where another PPS union has an active picket line.
- Article 8 - Minor update to include equal employment opportunity commission data (self-reported demographic data) for all new hires.
- Article 11 – Allows employees to grieve termination during probationary periods in cases of discrimination or retaliation. Would shorten the probationary period for nutritional service employees to 90 days. (One year probation for custodians is currently written in CCSL)
- Article 13 - Improves process to remove disciplinary items from personnel records that are 24 months or older.
- Article 18 – Healthcare: Employees no longer eligible for Oregon Health Plan would move to the Oregon bridge plan. If the bridge plan is unavailable, then employees would move onto PPS health insurance. Decreases costs of healthcare premiums for PPS staff on group plans by between about 1 to 2%. Improves insurance committee language.

## **Union Coalition School Board Candidate Forum**

Join us for the first ever Union Coalition School Board Candidate Forum this Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm at the PAT office 345 NE 8th Ave or online. Our coalition of unions representing PPS employees is hosting this forum so members like you can come meet the candidates, find out their plans, and make sure they hear from those of us who do the work to keep the district running. Click here to register: [School Board Candidate Forum](#)

## **Board Meeting**

Nutrition Service worker Chris Walters [spoke](#) on behalf of SEIU at Tuesday's board meeting to share our bargaining petition and to urge the district to address our disaster pay grievance. At the meeting, the district also presented the superintendent's [budget](#) which would cut nearly 90 positions.

## **Local Labor Solidarity**

### **Trimet board meeting**

Members of the community spoke out at the April [Trimet board meeting](#) Wednesday morning to oppose the resolution to increase fares by 30 cents or by 12%. Public comment was unanimously opposed to the fare increase. Those who provided testimony shared how the increase would hurt those most vulnerable the most. People testified about how raising fares would drive down ridership rather than make transit more affordable and accessible, especially when working people are suffering from low wages and high inflation, and when we are all facing accelerating climate change. Many speakers argued that the board should eliminate fares altogether as they make up only a small percentage of

Trimet's revenue and the costs could easily be recovered in other ways that don't burden those most oppressed and exploited.

Citing the number of people who signed up for public comment, board president Linda Simmons shortened public testimony from 3 minutes to just 1 minute per person. On several occasions, she threatened to have people removed for speaking over their allotted time. The next meeting for public comment before the board votes on the resolution will be May 24th.

## **Labor History**

A continuation of the history section from last week, see that edition for the background to this article.

On the evening of May 4th 1886, a few thousand people gathered in Chicago's Haymarket Square in response to a call after police had fired into a crowd of strikers at McCormick Harvester Works. The entire country was in the midst of a general strike brought about by the demand for an eight hour day as well as the growing inequalities and exploitation of workers. The meeting was relatively calm, and as it grew later in the evening the crowd had diminished to just a couple hundred people. A group of 180 police arrived and ordered those assembled to disperse, with the speaker replying that the meeting would soon conclude. A bomb then went off in the middle of the police ranks, killing one. The police then fired into the crowd, killing 4 workers and wounding many others. Seven police died, most likely a result of their own fire.

Without any substantial evidence linking them to the event, police arrested eight prominent anarchist leaders in Chicago. Most of the so-called evidence against the eight consisted of the ideas they had believed in as well as the literature they distributed. Only one had actually been at Haymarket and had been speaking when the bomb went off. The eight were convicted by a jury and sentenced to death, with their appeals denied. Meetings took place around the world, with workers outraged at the brutality and lack of justice with which these men were being treated. A year after the trial, Albert Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer and George Engel were hanged, while Louis Lingg committed suicide in his cell. Some have theorized that the explosive was planted by authorities eager to seek a justification for cracking down on the working class, but to this day it's unknown who threw the bomb.

Although the incident was followed by a wave of repression, it became a fan to the flames of class resentment. Many signed petitions to the new governor of Illinois who ended up pardoning the three remaining prisoners. Yearly, around the US and around the world, various groups honor the memory of the Haymarket martyrs, celebrated as International Workers' Day in many countries around the world. The year 1886 marked one of the greatest labor revolts in US history.

Next week, we will look at some of the other events of the late 1800s following the mass strike of 1886, and how, despite attempts to crush them, workers continued to struggle for a more liberated, joyous and cooperative society.