

SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 11.8.23

Take Action!

- Support teachers on picket lines from 7:45-10:15! Rallies typically starting at noon at various locations, check PAT social media for updates.
- Membership meeting Saturday 11/11 at noon at SEIU (525 NE Oregon St)

Union Updates

Bargaining Update

A brief update from bargaining team member and custodial co-chair Jim D'Arcy: "Hello everyone just so everyone knows SEIU and PFSP both filed separately for mediation on November 3, 2023. So now we have to wait for a mediator, once that happens we can go back to the table." We'll keep everyone updated when we have more information as far as next bargaining dates with mediation.

Local Solidarity

Teachers' Strike Continues

Portland teachers continued picketing at schools and gathering for larger rallies in the afternoons on day five of their strike. They are pushing for safe schools, healthy classrooms, more student support, class size limits, competitive compensation and more. The strike kicked off with a rally last Wednesday at Roosevelt HS where the speakers included National Education Association president Becky Pringle. Then on Thursday, educators, other unionists and community supporters gathered for another rally at the PEC district headquarters. On Friday they met at Lincoln HS before marching downtown to city hall. Monday they held six rallies at different locations around the city, and yesterday there was a massive crowd of teachers, parents, community members, and other activists who assembled before the board meeting to continue to push the district and board to prioritize safe, healthy and equitable schools for students and staff. Speakers inside the meeting drew attention to many problems including the district's ongoing failure to adequately address sexual harassment and how it is handled. Some state lawmakers have now [stated](#) that it's on the district to find the money for the teachers' demands and that they can't use the excuse of lacking the necessary funding.

PFSP Staff File Grievance with PPS

A few days before teachers went on strike Portland Federation of School Professionals (PFSP) members filed a [grievance](#) asserting that the district has asked them to do work that violates their contract because it constitutes work that would normally be performed by workers who are on strike, and also because it is outside of the scope of what they are trained to do. The PFSP is currently on a similar bargaining timeline as our union and have officially requested mediation as of this last Friday.