

SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 5.31.24

Take Action!

- Join the PPS community unity meeting June 1 from 2-4pm at PAT hall (345 NE 8th Ave)
- [Register](#) to attend the People's Summit Against US-Led War on June 8th from 9-6pm at da Vinci Middle School
- Attend PPS board meeting June 11 at 6pm (501 N Dixon St)
- Join our next membership meeting June 15 at noon at McDaniel High (2735 NE 82nd Ave)
- Submit [interest form](#) for financial support to attend University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center ([LERC](#)) Summer School July 19-21

Union Updates

Inclement Weather “Overpayment” Update

Despite receiving over 100 letters from custodians and supporters, the school board has not shown any concern about the “overpayment” that PPS is trying to take back from custodians who worked during January’s ice storm. This injustice only shows how little PPS actually values the sacrifices of its employees, including those who the district deemed “heroes” for risking their lives to service PPS buildings. Many of these heroes who likely saved the district millions of potential damage due to frozen pipes now “owe” the district several hundred dollars due to an alleged “payroll error” in which they received time and a half pay for working in hazardous conditions. You can watch news coverage of the issue [here](#).

SEIU has demanded to bargain over this repayment effort which means the district must pause taking the money back. SEIU is recommending members purple up June 11th and come to the board meeting. The union’s political team is also trying to schedule a meeting with school board member Julia Brim-Edwards.

Custodial Department Climate Survey

The custodial labor management committee along with stewards and union leaders have pressured HR and the custodial department to offer an anonymous survey about workplace culture that all custodians may choose to submit. The survey will give custodians a chance to evaluate their FOMs and answer questions related to the overall workplace culture in the custodial department. Our new contract affords all represented employees the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on the work environment.

LERC Summer School Opportunity

The AFL-CIO/LERC Summer School conference is for labor union members, staff, and worker advocates. It is held at the University of Oregon campus from July 19-21. Please fill out [this form](#) if you are interested in attending. Registration is \$550 including a shared dorm room and meals. Let us know if you are interested and need financial assistance to be able to attend.

Shout out to PPS Torch Award Winners!

Congrats to Martha Neumann and Jose Mariscal for being chosen as this year's [torch award](#) winners!

Local Solidarity

PPS Community Unity Meeting June 1

All year, workers, students and community members have been organizing to fight for better wages, an end to sexual harassment and retaliation, justice in Palestine, JROTC out of our schools, and more. In light of these ongoing efforts, members of PAT, SEIU, and PFSP are hosting a meeting on June 1 to bring the community together to discuss our shared struggles at PPS. Organizers hope to build solidarity, unite on long term goals, and coordinate around the June 11 board meeting. The people united will never be defeated!

The meeting will be June 1 from 2-4pm at the PAT union hall (345 NE 8th Ave).

PPS Board Votes to Create Pathway for JROTC at PPS

Despite massive public outcry, the PPS Board of Education voted 4-3 on May 7 to permit high schools to institute Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, opening a door to allow the military greater access to students within PPS. Responding to concerns about the high rate of sexual harassment by JROTC instructors, Board Vice Chair Herman Greene brought up [sexual abuse at PPS](#) as if to justify the risk of JROTC. Board Chair Gary Hollands also seemed to justify sexual harassment in JROTC by [stating](#) that “sexual harassment happens in all industries.”

Julia Brim-Edwards, Gary Hollands, Herman Greene, and Eddie Wang all [voted](#) to amend PPS policy to allow JROTC programs at PPS. Patte Sullivan, Michelle DePass, and Andrew Scott voted against, as did the student representative Frankie Silverstein, although her vote does not count. After the vote, audience members began chanting “From Palestine to the Philippines, stop the US war machine!” Gary Hollands then called for a recess and relocated the remainder of the board meeting to a private room.

Reject Militarism Campaign to Host People's Summit During Fleet Week

As the US commits more money to fund wars and war preparations abroad and gears up for the massive Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) military exercises around Hawaii this summer, people around the world are fighting back. In Portland, grassroots organizations are uniting to host a People's Summit Against US-Led War on June 8th to coincide with Fleet Week when the City of Portland invites naval warships to dock along the waterfront in a celebration of US militarism.

The theme of the summit will be "Fight for Health, Housing, and Education! Reject Militarization!" It will include keynote speaker Brandon Lee, a survivor of an assassination attempt for fighting for the rights of indigenous people in the Philippines against resource plunder and militarization of their lands. There will also be a panel discussion and various workshops connecting the struggles of migrants, women, youth, labor, environmental justice, and national liberation movements to the fight against militarism in Portland and around the world. The summit will be held at da Vinci Middle School (2508 NE Everett St) from 9am-6pm on Saturday, June 8. [Register here](#) to attend!

International Solidarity

2024 SEIU International Convention

SEIU held its International Convention in Philadelphia earlier this month. The International Convention happens every 4 years and is an opportunity for delegates from locals across the country to elect new executive board members and vote on resolutions. SEIU 503 also sent a delegation of board members to attend the convention. This year, SEIU's longtime president Mary Kay Henry stepped down and was replaced by the former secretary-treasurer April Verrett.

Vice President Kamala Harris [spoke](#) at the International Convention where she faced protest by some SEIU members over the Biden administration's support of Israel. Local 1021 in California submitted a [resolution](#) strongly opposing military aid to Israel and calling for an end to the occupation of Palestine. The resolution was not adopted, but a separate [resolution](#) submitted by the executive board was passed instead.