

Press ADV for Friday October 18, 2019

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Press Availability with Striking CPS Staff Workers Starting at 6:00 AM, Jones College Prep

“Chronically Underpaid”: Over half of CPS Staff make less than \$35,630

MORE THAN 7,500 SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS, CUSTODIANS, BUS AIDES, AND SECURITY OFFICERS TO STRIKE FOR SECOND DAY

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF STRIKE WITH TEACHERS

When and Where:

Friday, October 18, 2019

6:00 A.M. Press Availability. Jones College Prep. 700 S. State St.

6:30 A.M. Press Conference. Jones College Prep. 700 S. State St.

Who:

Special education classroom assistants, custodians, bus aides, security officer with SEIU Local 73 Dian Palmer, President of SEIU Local 73

What: Press Availability & Press Conference

CPS staff on strike and officers with SEIU Local 73 will be available for interviews starting at 6 AM.

Background on CPS Support Staff:

More than 7,500 Chicago Public School staff with SEIU Local 73, including special education classroom assistants, bus aides, custodians, and security officers, from over 500 public schools across Chicago joined teachers on strike Thursday for the first time in history. Public school staff have been working without a contract since June 30th, 2018.

Mayor Lightfoot publicly stated that Chicago Public School staff with SEIU Local 73 are ‘chronically underpaid.’ Most CPS staff are low-wage workers who live paycheck to paycheck, with many working second or third jobs to make ends meet. Over half of CPS staff make less than \$35,360.

CPS workers are demanding clean and safe schools and the proper resources for special education students. For that to happen, these issues need to be addressed: SECAs need to stop being pulled into random assignments so their special education students can receive the care and instruction they deserves; CPS needs to end giving millions of dollars to Sodexo and Aramark while custodians are struggling for resources and bus aides are being forced to work multiple jobs in between shifts to make ends meet.

While Mayor Lightfoot and the city have continuously claimed that the district is too cash-strapped to meet the contract demands of Chicago Public School staff, the Chicago Public School board has continued to pour millions into private contractors Sodexo and Aramark for facilities management and custodial services. Since 2014, CPS has given Sodexo \$244,350,538 and Aramark \$443,745,483, despite [multiple reports and audits that have found that these companies are leaving schools dirty](#). The hundreds of millions of dollars spent on these companies can be better spent elsewhere in the schools. Workers propose that custodians are directly supervised by the school board.

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 29,000 workers, primarily in public service and publicly funded positions in school districts, municipalities, social service agencies, and many other job classifications in Illinois and Indiana. SEIU Local 73 represents 7,500 Chicago Public School staff and more than 2,500 Chicago Park District Workers. For more information please visit the SEIU LOCAL 73 website at www.seiu73.org