

October 21, 2019
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Deivid Rojas, deividrojas88@gmail.com, 305-975-8527

6:00 p.m. TODAY: SEIU bargaining update
SEIU Local 73, 300 S. Ashland Ave, Chicago, Suite 400

SEIU Local 73 to provide update on negotiations and respond to Mayor Lighfoot's false claims about bargaining.

Chicago Public Schools staff have been fighting for a fair contract for a year and a half. SEIU Local 73 members have been continuously marginalized and neglected by the Mayor and the City during negotiations. CPS has only negotiated four times with SEIU Local 73 since the beginning of September.

CHICAGO-SEIU Local 73 officers and rank and file bargaining team will hold an update on the status of bargaining **at 6:00 p.m. TODAY, Monday, at SEIU Local 73, 300 S. Ashland Ave.** Fourth Floor. Suite 400, Chicago

The press conference will be livestreamed to the [SEIU LOCAL 73's Facebook page](#).

Today was the first official bargaining date between SEIU Local 73 and the Chicago Board of Education since last Wednesday. Despite some discussions between SEIU officers and the Board, management has not made any substantial changes to their proposals. The city's current proposal does not create good jobs in the schools' halls or a pathway out of poverty or give students, especially special education students, the schools they deserve. Public school staff have been working without a contract since June 30, 2018.

CPS support staff remain resolute in their contract demands. **The current sticking points include:** pay increases for staff that create a pathway out of poverty pay and make-up raises that were taken away by CPS in the past, improved pay for special education classroom assistants (SECAs) that reflects their work and responsibilities, enforcement of SECAs' duties and responsibilities so they are not pulled away from their special education students, an end to using Sodexo and Aramark to manage the work of custodians, and addressing the lack of benefits such as paid days during Christmas break.

Chicago Public Schools employs some of the lowest-paid workers in the city. Mayor Lori Lightfoot herself stated that SEIU Local 73 school support staff are "[chronically underpaid](#)." Most are low-wage workers living paycheck to paycheck, with many -- especially bus aides -- working second or third jobs to make ends meet. Over half of CPS support staff make less than \$35,360.

###

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. For more information please visit the SEIU LOCAL 73 website at www.seiu73.org