

For Immediate Release

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The press conference livestreamed can be found on the SEIU Local 73 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SEIULocal73/>

On the heels of a seven-day strike,
SEIU Local 73 Reaches Tentative Agreement with Chicago Public Schools

CHICAGO - After nearly 17 months of negotiations and a seven-day strike, SEIU Local 73 President Dian Palmer announced that the bargaining team representing 7,500 Chicago Public Schools support staff reached a tentative agreement with Chicago Public Schools.

“This is a victory for working people in Chicago and shows what is possible when we unite and take action,” said Palmer. “The lowest paid support workers who are the backbone of our schools are going to see raises that mean their families won't have to struggle as hard living in an expensive city where costs keep going up. This tentative agreement provides hope to every fast food worker, every hospital worker, every health care worker who's working hard but struggling to make ends meet.”

The tentative agreement comes after 97% of support staff voted to authorize a strike in June after working without a contract since June 30, 2018. SEIU Local 73 represents Chicago Public Schools special education classroom assistants, security officers, bus aides and custodians. Tired of the disrespect and seeking a path to a better life for their families and better support for students, members went on strike October 17 along with members of the Chicago Teachers Union.

“We walked out together and we'll walk back in together,” said Jeffrey Howard, Executive Vice President of SEIU Local 73, regarding solidarity with CTU.

The tentative agreement must now be ratified by public schools staff represented by SEIU Local 73.

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