



For Immediate Release

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CPS Workers Call on CEO Martinez to Stop Stalling on Contract Negotiations

CHICAGO, IL – Chicago Public Schools support staff, represented by SEIU Local 73, rallied outside the Board of Education committee meeting demanding CEO Pedro Martinez stop stalling on contract negotiations.

Over 11,000 CPS support staff have worked without a contract since June 2023 and have not received a raise since July 1, 2022, despite record inflation. Local 73 presented its economic proposals in December, and yet CPS CEO Martinez has flatly refused to meet or discuss economics until March.

“Our members are the backbone of operations for the Chicago Public Schools system, and it’s time they are treated as such,” **said Dian Palmer, President of SEIU Local 73.** “They should not have to work multiple jobs just to survive and care for their families. They deserve better! CEO Martinez must do better for these vital workers.”

“We’re here today to ask why CEO Martinez isn’t working to support us? We don’t get paid for holiday breaks making it difficult for us to live and work in Chicago,” **said Citlali Soto, Security Officer at Alcott High School.** “We need to make sure we are creating a safe environment for the students and the staff. That starts with paying workers a fair wage to help fill vacancies and retain valuable staff.”

“When you speak with CPS workers, they’re talking about how they can feed their families and pay their bills,” **said Teisha Milsap, Special Education Classroom Assistant at Chicago Vocational Career Academy.** “They are caught in a cycle of being in the red year-round. We need a fair contract to end that cycle.”

CPS support staff, which include Special Education Classroom Assistants, Custodians, Crossing Guards, Bus Aides, Security Officers, and Parent Workers, are negotiating for a fair contract that meets the needs of workers and communities alike, including:

- Job security with respect for seniority and due process
- Provide student services by respecting staff’s job duties
- Fair pay with COLA and longevity increases
- Equitable pay over breaks
- Clean and safe schools
- City wide orientations and trainings with union access

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 35,000 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. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families.