



SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL

Educate. Empower.

Resolution in Support of the Chicago Teachers' Strike

Whereas, for the first time in 25 years, the members of the Chicago Teachers Union are on strike; and

Whereas, no one wants to strike, and no one strikes without cause, but in this instance, a strike comes on the heels of numerous steps that left CTU members feeling disrespected, not the least of which was the district's unilateral decision to strip teachers and paraprofessionals of an agreed-upon 4 percent raise; and

Whereas, the strike comes only after long and intense negotiations failed to lead to an agreement that would give CTU members the tools they need to help all their students succeed; and

Whereas, the American Federation of Teachers and its members across the country stand firmly with the CTU, and will support its members in their efforts to secure a fair contract that will enable them to give their students the best opportunities; and

Whereas, CTU members—the women and men who spend every day with Chicago's children—want to have their voice and experience respected and valued, and want to be treated as equal partners in making sure every student in Chicago succeeds. That has been the CTU's guiding philosophy throughout these negotiations, and it remains so on the picket lines; and

Whereas, the CTU is the AFT's Local No. 1. The AFT was founded in Chicago nearly 100 years ago by teachers determined to have a voice in the quality of their workplace and the quality of the instruction provided to their students; and

Whereas, the members of the CTU are prepared to stay on the picket lines although they would rather be on the job, in the classroom educating their students; and

Whereas, the CTU is standing up for the children of Chicago and for all public employees and unions in this time of budget cutting and union busting; and

Whereas, CTU president Karen Lewis made clear that the CTU is prepared to continue negotiations during the strike and Mayor Rahm Emanuel echoed that statement on behalf of the district,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the Chicago Teachers Union in its fight to negotiate a contract that addresses all of these issues with the Chicago Board of Education, and

Therefore Be It Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the strike of the Chicago Teachers' Union and urges its affiliates to send letters of support and contributions to the CTU solidarity fund in order to demonstrate their support.

Submitted by Dennis Kelly, UESF 61, and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on September 10, 2012.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

OPEIU3 AFL-CIO 11

Executive Director

Tim Paulson

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