



Local 634, School Cafeteria Employees & Noontime Aides

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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Cafeteria Workers Rally; School District Contract Expires

Local 634 will deliver majority pledge to School District

September 30, 2009 — The School District's contract with 2,300 cafeteria workers and noontime aides expires today, September 30. At 4pm, Local 634 Unite Here, the union that has represented these workers since 1977, plans a rally and delegation to deliver a statement signed by a majority of workers to the Philadelphia School District. The statement calls for a fair contract with Local 634

Local 634 began negotiations in May with the School District. However, further progress in negotiations was barred after July because the SEIU Philadelphia Joint Board filed a petition to raid Unite Here and try to take over Local 634. An election between Local 634 Unite Here and the Philadelphia Joint Board is set: Ballots are mailed on October 5, and will be counted on October 27. The election will take place despite the fact that Local 634 has been part of Unite Here for over 30 years.

Local 634's members are fighting back against this attack. Over 300 people attended a membership meeting and rally on Saturday, September 12. In the two weeks since then, a majority of Local 634 members have signed a unity statement that will be delivered to the Philadelphia School District.

"We are proud of the work that we do. We take care of our children in the schools and we are worth it. Our members are outraged that SEIU is preventing us from settling our contract, but we are going to win this vote and win a great contract," said Doris Smith, President of Local 634.

"Today, we should be celebrating our new contract, not fighting off another union," said Shirley Robinson, a Noon Time Aide at Henry Lea Middle School and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 634.

"So long as we have breath within us, we will not stop fighting to keep our local and to secure a strong contract. SEIU needs to get out of our way so we can persuade the School District to pay us what we're worth!" said Antoine Anderson, a food service worker at F.S. Edmonds Elementary School.

Local 634 represents 2,300 cafeteria workers (who serve food) and noon time aides (who monitor cafeterias) in the Philadelphia School District. Local 634 has been affiliated with HERE since 1977, and with UNITE HERE since 2004.

BACKGROUND:

On **March 6**, Local 634 voted to stay with Unite Here and leave the Phila. Joint Board (now with SEIU).

On **March 18**, the School District approved a 1-year contract with Local 634, Unite Here, expiring 9/30/09.

On **May 28**, Local 634 and School District held first all-day bargaining session.

On **June 17**, over two-thirds of Local 634's members submitted a petition of support for Unite Here to SRC.

On **July 9**, SEIU's Philadelphia Joint Board filed for a labor board election.

On **September 12**, over 300 people attended Local 634 membership meeting and rally.

On **September 30**, the Local 634 contract with School District expires.

The PLRB will mail out ballots on October 5, and results will be tabulated on October 27.

More background materials are available at www.local634.org