

Support “Retirement with Dignity” for Boston School Bus Drivers, USW L. 8751

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We want to thank the Greater Boston Labor Council, IBEW 2222 (Verizon strikers), Boston Teachers Union, Steelworkers International, all the other Locals, Councilors Yancey, Arroyo and Jackson, the Coalition for Equal Quality Education, and scores of progressive and community activists for your unflinching support for our membership. As we prepare for our first strike in 20 years, we are once again appealing for your solidarity. The Boston School Bus Union, USW 8751, is in the midst of our biggest and most serious battle since our founding in the 1970’s. We are fighting to correct an historic injustice—namely the harsh and cruel treatment of our veteran, senior, and disabled drivers. The struggle for “**Retirement with Dignity**” is a fight that we are all waging, whether striving to maintain hard won benefits or gaining pension and retirement justice for the first time. We cannot allow profit hungry corporations and anti-labor politicians to deny economic justice to our members who have worked their entire adult lives creating the wealth and services that make our cities, state and nation run.

The Bus Drivers have served this city for decades providing safe, on time professional transportation to the students. They are your mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles and neighbors; proud members of our community. Since the Union's founding in the 1970's we have taken a stand on every social justice and labor rights issue. **First Student Inc.**, the British transport monopoly, with the aid of their city backers, wants to deny basic economic justice to the workers while reaping mammoth profits. Currently, when a driver retires she/he loses all benefits- Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance. The Company contributes a shamefully miniscule amount into the members’ 401K. As a result, our members do not retire; they work until death or serious illness takes them off the road. Currently, over 175 of us are over 65yrs with some in their 70’s and 80’s! **Joins us in letting First Student, the School Dept., and Mayor Menino know we demand our respect, NOW! We are demanding that retirees remain eligible for benefits including Life, Health, Dental, Vision; a Company match into the 401K; an Appreciation Payment for years of service; and Medicare Enhance (Medigap) insurance.**



Local 8751 joins Verizon strikers Aug 11, 2011

The Labor movement is facing an extremely challenging economic atmosphere where workers are facing cutbacks, layoffs, and wage freezes. Labor has been on the defensive. 41 city unions are without a contract, have faced drastic concessions, and have little or no economics on the table. We are proud to join

the Verizon strikers and others in becoming a factor to change this bleak picture. We refuse to go back or fight just to stand still. For the sake of our families WE DEMAND PROGRESS and WITH STRUGGLE WE ARE ADVANCING! We have come a long way from last spring when we faced 46 cruel and devastating concessions which threatened years of union progress and endangered our livelihoods and job security; the Company offered a zero % economic package. Directly after our standing room only Solidarity Rally on Aug. 25th, the Union went into round the clock negotiations. Significant progress was made - concessions were removed; a guarantee of no reduction in forces (28 new jobs); 5.2% economic package includes some important elements of our retirement package. This resulted in our decision to extend our strike deadline, but there is still a hard fight ahead of us. Now, more than ever, we need your solidarity to bring our campaign for “**Retirement with Dignity**” to the Labor movement and our communities. Endorse online at <http://www.bostonschoolbusunion.org/solidarity82411endorse.html>. Sign the petition demanding First Student, the School Department, and the Mayor respect our union rights and grant Retirement with Dignity now! Circulate petitions, buttons, and stickers. Promote the “**Retirement with Dignity**” campaign and Local 8751’s website online (listserves, websites, and Facebook). And join our picket lines! An Injury to One is and Injury to All! A Victory for One will be a Victory for All!



Rich Rodgers, GBLC address June 25th Solidarity Day picket of 500+ workers, 100% shutdown of First Student’s Summer Bid!

For more information contact USW 8751: <http://www.bostonschoolbusunion.org/>, 617-524-7073

Fill out the pledge and return to Boston School Bus Union, USW 8751, 25 Colgate Road, Roslindale, MA 02131. Or endorse online. I support Retirement with Dignity for Bus Drivers!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____