

PITTSFIELD FEDERATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

CAMPAIGN FOR A LIVING WAGE



WHY ARE WE HERE TONIGHT?

We are here because we are tired!

We are tired because during a nation-wide Bus Driver shortage and a time when the PPS cannot hire and retain drivers or monitors - the Administration and the School Committee voted to cut the pay for our senior Drivers and Monitors by \$250 to \$500 a month when they decided to change the Pre-K Programs - without consulting us.

We are tired because during a pandemic our Bus Drivers and Monitors must choose between coming to work sick and not getting a paycheck because they do not have paid Sick Leave - like all other employees who work in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

We are tired of our Cafeteria Workers having to meet ever increasing production levels each day with minimal staffing.

We are tired of our Cafeteria Workers having to pay back the District for their health insurance premiums - after scheduled school vacation periods - because they do not get paid vacation like all other 40-week employees.

We are tired of months of forced overtime for our Custodial Staff because of inadequate staffing.

We are tired of our Paraprofessionals being forced to work in unsafe conditions due to a lack of staffing and an unwillingness of the Administration to apply appropriate corrective discipline to disruptive/threatening students.

We are tired of being told that \$29.9 Million in Federal and State aid cannot be used to adjust and increase our salaries – because it's simply not true.

We are tired of working two and three jobs to support our families because District Administration and the School Committee do not believe that our wages should be high enough for us to support our families!

We are tired of an Administration that refuses to acknowledge how much our families are suffering because they cannot see it from the neighborhoods where they live!

We are tired of being exploited and ignored!

We are here because WeArePittsfield!

We are here because WhatWeDoMatters!

We are here because OurFamiliesMatter!