

Feb. 8, 2018
NW18-005

To: Northwest Council Members
From: Michael Shea (NW VP), Joel Funfar (SPEEA Secretary), Daniel Peters (D-1), Evan Wipf (B-10)
Subject: **NEW BUSINESS: NW – SPEEA/IFPTE Local 2001 Support To Picket With Teamsters Local 174 (Seattle School Bus Drivers) During Duration of Their Strike Against First Student (Employer)**

Background

The Seattle school bus drivers of Teamsters Local 174 have been in ongoing negotiations with First Student over healthcare and retirement benefits since last summer. They participated in a one-day Unfair Labor Practice strike on November 29 after their employer unilaterally implemented an inferior healthcare plan that had not been negotiated with the Teamsters. This strike received a great deal of support from the Seattle community. Since then, First Student has not resolved any of the Unfair Labor Practices they had previously committed, including the unilateral implementation of the substandard healthcare plan.

Since Thursday morning, February 1, Teamsters Local 174 school bus drivers at First Student in Seattle have been on Unfair Labor Practice strike. The strike by the group of 400 First Student school bus drivers will likely impact all yellow bus service to the Seattle School District and will last until a deal is reached with First Student.

As engineers and technical employees, SPEEA places great value on education as the pathway for future STEM students to join us in our profession. We support students. We support teachers. We support education. Now we must support the trained and skilled drivers who we count on to safely transport our children to their places of education.

The drivers of Local 174 ask nothing more than a statement of support from SPEEA, our voluntary support at their picket sites whenever possible, and to “Like” their Facebook page.

Links

<https://www.facebook.com/TeamstersLocal174/>

<http://teamsters174.net/first-student-school-bus-drivers-for-seattle-school-district-will-be-on-unfair-labor-practice-strike-february-1/>

MOTION

It is moved that: THE SPEEA NORTHWEST COUNCIL STANDS IN SOLIDARITY with the school bus drivers of Teamsters Local 174 and SUPPORTS the picketing of First Student until a fair and reasonable deal is reached.
