If you are not already a member, you can fill out the form and post it to us....alternatively you can join online at: www.unison.org.uk/join

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CHARTWELLS WORKER IN READING SCHOOLS

Autumn Edition—November 2010

READING SCHOOLS CHARTWELLS WORKERS





YOUR FELLOW WORKERS SPEAK AT LABOUR PARTY MEETING

Workers from schools around Reading spoke to a packed audience of councillors, activists and trade unionists highlighting why it is important Chartwells listen to us and improve our terms and conditions.

"Speaking for the first-time was nerve racking, but I feel so passionate about the issues, that I spoke to a room full of people," said Linda Miles from Caversham Park, who is also a UNISON



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The meeting was an opportunity for workers to tell their stories behind the contract and the day to day challenges that they face. Not surprisingly, respect and sick pay were two of the big issues and the lack of understanding of the work that you do.

Cllr Jo Lovelock said. "It is clear that these dedicated women and men who work so hard to provide good food in schools for Reading children should be accorded the same employment rights as other public sector workers. The Labour Group will be supporting the inclusion of the Workforce Code as the Council goes out to procure a new contract for school meals over the coming year."

STOP PRESS—WORKING IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOUR CHILDREN

Remember when you could not work in the same school where a member of your family was a pupil? Well that has now changed. The policy was torn-up and now there are no restrictions. One more issue bites the dust...ioin our committee today!

Your leaders talk about why it is important to join UNISON at this crucial time...



"I love my job and the kids are amazing...I am a Mum and I want to be respected for the work that I do. I know that we all work hard for the kids, but who is working hard for us. UNISON has really helped me in my job and I would hope everyone joins us in making Chartwells work hard for us," Linda Miles, Caversham Park



"I joined UNISON as I wanted to be respected by Chartwells and not fobbed off all the time. Being part of the union helps, as I made a few phone calls about not getting snow pay and the union helped us out. It is not fair we are treated differently than other staff in the school," Mandy Jacobs, All Saints Infants



"I hate having to send my staff home as I know they are not going to get paid. Why is it that everyone else in the school gets sick pay and we don't? But I get most upset by the lack of respect for me and my workers. That is why I joined the union," Rosie Tourkler, Alfred Sutton



"I often have to work longer hours just to get the stocktaking and paper work done and I don't get paid for them or even a thank you. Sound familiar? We are not asking for much, just enough paid time to do the jobs we love properly. It's not too much to ask!" Emma Rogers, Redlands Primary



"We are one staff member down and I feel like I am not appreciated for the work I do. It is so hard to keep on going when you are not thanked for the work you put in. I stay, because I love my job. I should not be forced to feel like this, when we are part of the school family," Angela Blanchard, Geoffrey Field Primary



"I've noticed a difference since I joined the union and I want to make a difference so that when new people join the company, they don't feel like we do now. I would encourage everyone to join UNISON as we are standing together for our rights," Susan Gibril, Alfred Sutton



"I've had some fun since I joined the union, never thought that would happen. But I like the way we are valued and listened to and that we are the union. Noone can get us sick pay, but ourselves and since I have been a member it has shown me how much I can offer and give to make things better. Join now!" Susan Gurling, Cranbury

Through our hard work, real progress is being made. Remember way back in February when we all raised issues like snow pay, cutlery and health and safety; well the company are taking our concerns more seriously. Why are they doing that? Well because the majority of us workers are now members of UNISON; because we have leaders from our own ranks who are prepared to stand-up for

Negotiations start in November for the new catering contract...

people who work in the school kitchens now and for those who are yet to be employed. The contract with Chartwells will end in August 2012 and the process for a new contract will begin in November 2010. Reading Borough Council have invited UNISON onto the procurement board.

Colin McIntosh, Head of Business Support & School Meals said, "The next contract of school meals will be formally launched on November 8th 2010 at an event for interested parties. I hope that over the past few years, I have demonstrated a commitment to the well-being and conditions for staff employed by the contractor in our schools, even though I cannot directly change issues or terms and conditions as I am not your employer, I want to assure all staff that it is due to your commitment, passion and enthusiasm for this service that remains a paramount focus of any new procurement. I will be holding open evening sessions or sessions directly after services shortly to hear your views and thoughts on the new contract and what I need to be considering from your perspective and will be keeping an open dialogue of progress with you all leading to your optional attendance at the final interview stage. This is a lengthy process, running from November 2010 to April 2012 and I want you to be assured that I will keep you aware of progress and am happy to engage with Unison to have a transparent procurement process and ensure that all staff are treated fairly, respected and valued as I try to do with each of you."

New website gets off to a flying start...

If you have not had chance to see it yet, go to http://rscw.weebly.com for the latest news on our campaign. Packed full of the real issues and latest news, be the first to read about what is going on in Reading schools.



Workers meet with Colin McIntosh from the council on 2nd November

Colin McIntosh invited workers from the contract to speak to him about their experiences working for Chartwells and to talk to us about the new procurement process. A lively meeting discussed everything from trolleys and steam ovens to the details of what a new contract would look like. At the end of the meeting there was a sense of what coming together can mean as real progress is being made. Out of the issues discussed earlier this year, some have now

been resolved due to us all coming together for each other. For more on this event, visit http://rscw.weebly.com.