

Thursday, October 8, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact: Doug Prouty, 301-294-6232

Montgomery Teachers Union Votes Support for Laid off DC Teachers

The Montgomery County Education Association has expressed its support for the 388 school employees, including 229 classroom teachers, who have been laid off six weeks into the school year in the District of Columbia.

Wednesday night, at a meeting of more than 130 teacher delegates from schools across Montgomery County, a motion was approved unanimously which read,

The Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) sends this message of solidarity to the educational staff and other school personnel who have been laid off by the Washington, D.C. public school system.

We applaud the educational staff, parents, and students who are raising their voices in opposition to these layoffs. We add our voice in opposition to the overcrowded classrooms and disrupted instruction caused by these layoffs.

Public education is under attack. Educators and their unions are being singled out as the cause of complex educational problems. Under the guise of budget shortfalls, disputed by DC Council members, experienced educators have been laid off. There are reports of teachers being fired on the spot and marched out of school under police escort, like common criminals.

The need for our unions to protect teachers and public education has never been greater: the working conditions of the educators become the learning conditions of the students.

The old adage, "An injury to one is an injury to all," applies more than ever.

We salute you and we support you.

MCEA President Doug Prouty said, "The way this has been handled is appalling. To hire 900 new teachers, and then allow principals to arbitrarily pick almost 300 experienced teachers to lay off, is irresponsible. If some employees have performance problems, use the evaluation process. But to disrupt student schedules is unconscionable".

The Montgomery County Education Association represents more than 11,500 professional educators in the Montgomery County Public Schools. It is an affiliate of the Maryland State Education Association, the National Education Association, and the Teacher Union Reform Network.

#