

STAY OUT to defeat the Snyder Plan and win our demands

Rally Tuesday at the Fisher Building, 10:00am, 3011 W. Grand Blvd.

Meeting at 12 noon at 8850 Woodward Ave., St. Matthew's & St. Joseph's Episcopal Church

- **NO to the Snyder Plan to dismantle DPS! Rhodes and Snyder must go!**
- **End all Emergency Management and restore democracy to the people of Detroit!**
- **Restore full authority to the elected Detroit School Board!**
- **Cancel the debt and fully fund DPS to provide equal quality public education to Detroit youth!**
- **No payless paydays!**
- **Recruit and retain the best teachers for the students of Detroit. In order to do this, DPS must restore the 10% cut, unfreeze the steps, and pay Detroit teachers equally to our peers in the suburbs**
- **Provide all resources, books, supplies, lower class sizes**
- **No layoffs, no school closings**
- **Declare a Federal Emergency for funds to remove all lead pipes, test all schools, provide medical test and treatment to all students**

Sickout, walkout, and stay out to defeat the Snyder Plan and to save DPS!

On Sunday, May 1st, a special meeting of the DFT decided to call for a city-wide teacher's sickout starting the next day. That sickout started powerfully on Monday—it must continue in strength on Tuesday and beyond. Tuesday morning, teachers are to skip work and rally at 10:00am at the Fisher Building. The rally is being called in opposition to Emergency Manager (EM) Steven Rhodes' latest declaration that all teachers will cease to receive paychecks on June 30, 2016 and that DPS will not hold any summer school programs this summer. Rhodes' latest over the top threats against Detroit teachers and students is aimed at forcing teachers to finally end their opposition to Governor Snyder's massively unpopular plan to destroy DPS. In the weeks running up to our Easter vacation, EM Rhodes, with the help of his most important allies and agents within the DFT, Ivy Bailey and Randi Weingarten, parlayed Republican fears of further teachers' actions to get the legislature to pass an emergency bill giving teachers a tiny sum of money that only provided for a few weeks of our wages in exchange for a set of concessions that weakened the DFT and continued the policy of degrading DPS. The pre-Easter choreography of EM Rhodes and his crucial allies Bailey and Weingarten that successfully got Michigan Republicans to pass a part of the Snyder plan served as a dress rehearsal for what they now seek, gaining passage of the rest of the Snyder plan.

Snyder's plan seeks to convert DPS into two school districts, one of which hands over all of Detroit's tax and millage funds to the banks to pay back the enormous debt created by the state take over regimes. The second district would consist of a reduced number of DPS schools, which will be turned into unregulated failing charter schools. The right of Detroit to elect an empowered School Board will be put off indefinitely. Snyder's longstanding plan to destroy public education in Detroit would succeed.

EM Rhodes and his most avid allies, Bailey and Weingarten, are rightly afraid that Rhodes' latest arro-

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NOW / BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY (EON/BAMN) [2016.05.02]

A Caucus Fighting for Civil Rights and Public Education in the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers
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gant threats will galvanize teachers' actions sufficiently to convince Republican legislators that they have good reason to fear the mass mobilizations of Detroit teachers and students, especially in light of the emerging scandal of Rhodes' and Snyder's knowledge of and refusal to take even the most modest measures to address the scandal of lead- and copper-poisoned water in DPS schools. Our job is to defeat the cynical and completely destructive plan of EM Rhodes, Bailey and Weingarten to exploit the anger, militancy and will to fight of Detroit teachers and students to push through the Snyder plan. Our first task is to make clear to the world that our sickout tomorrow is to defeat the Snyder plan and to win the restoration of the democratic rights of the people of Detroit, a necessary prerequisite to winning our struggle to save DPS. Our main slogans at tomorrow's action must be *Sick Out, Walk Out and Stay out to defeat the Snyder Plan to destroy DPS!* and *Snyder and Rhodes out of Detroit—Restore the Democratic Rights of the People of Detroit Now!*

Detroit backs our struggle. Everyone understands why we are refusing to work for free and how important it is for union workers to never make such a concession. Students who need summer school classes to finish high school or to matriculate to the next grade and the parents of thousands of special needs and other vulnerable students who need year round school programs to survive, know that fighting against EM Rhodes' plans to close all DPS summer programs, will join and actively support our strike action transforming it from being a union protest into a citywide mass civil rights action to save DPS and our city. We can defeat EM Rhodes, end the disastrous state takeover of DPS, and force Gov. Snyder to end his dictatorship over Detroit and restore the democratic rights of the people of Detroit.

Teachers have been successfully opposing the Snyder plan for more than a year, because we have understood that if passed the Snyder plan would cause the death of DPS and the DFT. The Snyder plan would continue to give all power over Detroit schools to Snyder and his appointees. Detroiters will have no control over our schools or our city. Our elected School Board has no power. We will continue to be deprived of our basic democratic rights. Gov. Snyder, who has approached the Flint water crisis with callous racist indifference, will do nothing to address the lead-poisoned drinking water threatening permanent brain damage to Detroit school students. Grosse Point residents, who have the power to elect their school board and local officials, have been able to take action to get the lead and copper pipes removed from their schools, because they have the power to take action. Detroiters living under Snyder's New Jim Crow have no power to get the emergency action needed to stop the poisoning of our children, because we lack the basic democratic

rights we need to implement the essential measures to save our children from further harm. We can win the power to gain the state and federal resources we desperately need to save our children from brain damage and to save our jobs, our dignity, and our public school system, and to control our city's destiny. However, we will squander that power if we allow Ivy Bailey and the AFT administrators to control and contain our struggle. Following the leadership of our elected union President Steve Conn, BAMN, and the Strike to Win Committee, we can take the independent actions we began last winter to new heights. When we go out we must stay out. Teachers who were not even told by Ivy Bailey that we were taking action on Monday, May 2, will join our struggle if those of us who go out are really fighting to win.

We need every teacher in Detroit to sickout on Tuesday, every student in every school to walk out on Tuesday—the children's crusade which was essential to breaking the back of the old Jim Crow in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, should be our inspiration—and we need to stay out until our demands are met. Ivy Bailey's plan for teachers to return to work on Tuesday will prevent our strike from gaining the momentum and power needed to win. We have no problem with the idea of scaring Lansing into submitting to the will of the people of Detroit. To win our demands we need to show Rhodes and Snyder that the teachers are not bluffing, we are striking to win. The school year is almost over. We need to win a decisive victory now and break the crumbling stranglehold of Snyder and his appointees over our lives and our city's futures.

We can defeat the Detroit-haters in Lansing and save our schools and our community. Today, in the wake of the Flint and Detroit water crises, Gov. Snyder is the most unpopular and weakest Governor in modern Michigan history. His own party has deserted him. It would be ridiculous for the DFT to prop up his political corpse and help him get his essentially dead plan through the state legislature. The power of, by, and for the black, Latino and working people of Detroit holds the only real possibility of solving our fundamental problems. We must and can win.