

# Speak Out Now at Highland

## Important Questions

Two weeks ago, a small group of union officers and other workers turned out to an AHS meeting of the Board of Trustees to support probationary workers who were terminated. Data is piling up on the amount and race of workers who are being terminated right before they finish their probationary period. It doesn't look good.

Why are so many workers being fired right before they have job security? Why are they mostly Black? We can't allow this to be hidden from us. And more importantly we need to remember the old union motto, "an injury to one is an injury to all!"

## What Future Do Our Kids Have?

In the wake of the latest mass school shooting in Florida, people have started to think more about the lives that young people have today. The lack of access to mental health resources and health care in general are widely known. But the deteriorating world our kids are inheriting takes others forms too.

For example, schools throughout Oakland have been forced to burden \$9 million in budget cuts. At some schools this has meant no more funding for buses to take kids on field trips. In one of the wealthiest regions of the world how is this possible?! The students in Florida are encouraging us to take a stand, and as they do we should think about all the things our kids are expected to live with or without.

## The Sweatshop Lab

You would think a lab at a hospital would be well taken care of with staff and resources to ensure everything runs A - OK. Think again. Just like every where else at AHS, the lab is grossly understaffed and overworked! Not only that but management seems to like cutting corners and figuring out ways to avoid providing **needed** education to lab workers. How can this be right?

## W. V.A. Teachers Show Us The Way!

Public school workers of West Virginia have brought to life what's been missing from American politics for far too long, the strike! 20,000 teachers and 13,000 school workers in all 55 counties will enter their 8th day of a strike as of this writing.

What's more? The spirited and militant energy of the workers is spreading. 1,000 plus telecommunication workers in W. V.A. have gone on strike too. In Oklahoma, teachers are now talking about going out the first week of April!

The teachers and service workers of W. V.A. are striking for **higher pay** and a **fully** funded health care plan. W. V.A. teachers are one of the lowest paid in the country, making about \$45,000 a year. And the school districts want to cut back on funding for their healthcare benefits, meaning higher monthly premiums for everyone. Across the country we can all relate! We're all facing the same thing.

The strike was supposed to end last Thursday, that is according to the Governor and billionaire coal tycoon Jim Justice and the Union officials. They agreed to only part of the demand for a salary raise but no word on fully funding the health care plan. Then told everyone to go back to work. The workers response? The strike continues!

The tide may be changing in America. From what we are seeing from the students in Florida and the school workers in West Virginia, people are saying enough! This is what gives us hope, this is what can show the working class a way forward. Here's to the West Virginia school workers and here's to our future!

