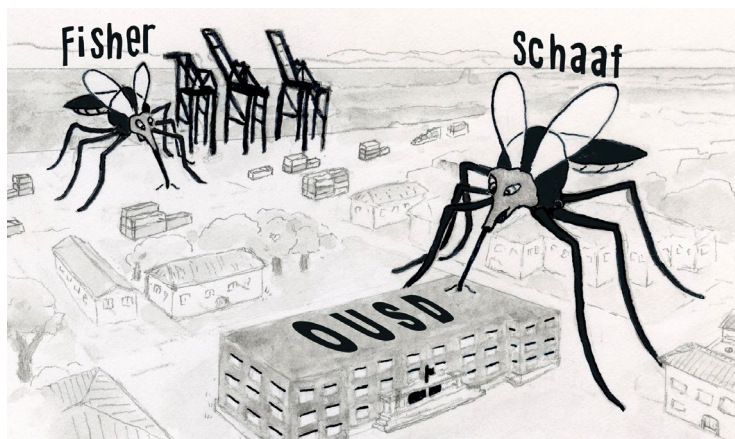


2022 has been a year of inspiring labor and community uprisings in defense of public resources. Workers, students and communities are standing up to the billionaire class, who are ramping up their efforts to privatize public services so that they can increase their profits. As Bay Area unions negotiate new contracts, we must consider not only wage increases and working conditions, but also fighting against privatization and closure of public resources, which are an attack on working class communities of color.

Privatization in education is happening nationwide: the charter industry uses their money to buy school boards and district managers, who then close schools and open charters instead. This has been happening big time in Oakland, especially since 2003. But privatization is not limited to schools. Billionaire John Fisher and Mayor Libby Schaaf are trying to close Oakland's Howard Terminal and replacing it with luxury condos, a shopping complex, and a baseball stadium.



Parasites on Our Public Resources by Terry F.

How can we fight against this? The capitalist billionaires and the politicians in their pockets will not stop destroying public resources unless they lose money. Oakland educators know that even the tiny improvement salary and class sizes we gained in 2019 would not have been possible without the 7-day strike. In fact, most of the job conditions we now take for granted like the weekend off and the 48-hour workweek are a result of workers organizing against the employers, and this includes going on strike.

In 2022, Oakland educators organized sickouts against unsafe learning conditions and a one-day strike against school closures and privatization. On April 29th, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) shut down the Port of Oakland to protest the privatization of Howard Terminal. On the evening of April 29th, parents,

students, and teachers joined together to picket at the Port of Oakland. The longshoremen respected the picket line; together the workers effectively halted commerce at the port for 24 hours total. The strike involved two unions, OEA and ILWU, uniting educators and longshore workers against privatization and gentrification. Additionally, the move to hold a 1-day strike was the result of persistent and decisive leadership from rank-and-file teacher and parent activists. It happened not because of the official leadership's agenda but rather as the result of a bottom-up push from teachers at various school sites who were not willing to wait around for the union bureaucracy to take action against the existential crisis of school closures.

In the summer of 2022, parents, students, and school workers led a community occupation of Parker K-8, to fight against the decision of Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to close the school. In retaliation, the district fired multiple teachers because of their involvement in the resistance. OUSD has also fired education workers for their participation in the 2019 strike, as well as teachers who spoke publicly against OUSD policy. So far, our unions have not organized any response to these retaliatory actions by the district. We cannot take these attacks lying down! We must fight against such retaliation by the bosses, or they and the privatizers who lead them will continue to destroy public education.

But we cannot wait for union leaders to act – they take the path of least resistance. Without pressure from the majority of workers themselves, things will just get worse. We must get involved and organize together across unions, work classifications, and sectors. **Join SLAP!**

SEIU 1021 Stands Against Privatization

SEIU 1021 is the union local that represents the majority of workers maintaining facilities at the Port of Oakland as well as classified workers in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). SEIU 1021 members have expressed strong objections to the proposal to build a baseball stadium at the Howard Terminal. Every day they see the terminal full of containers. Port workers know that the space at the Howard terminal is needed for excess containers and to protect the health and safety of the West Oakland community by keeping trucks from idling parked on residential streets. They also know that a baseball stadium in Jack London will create a transportation nightmare as there is no direct access to the freeway and traffic will be forced to go through the city streets. And SEIU members who live in West Oakland are clear that

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the addition of 3,000 luxury condominiums will lead to the displacement of the long standing working-class Residents.

SEIU 1021 port workers brought their concerns to the Alameda County Committee on Political Education (COPE) and asked their fellow members to officially oppose the Howard terminal stadium proposal.

COPE agreed and spoke up about the City's plan leading to Oakland taxpayers being responsible for funding the infrastructure required to support the 3,000 luxury condos included in the stadium proposal. The COPE committee members not only voted unanimously to oppose the terminal, they voted to have SEIU 1021 join SLAP and stand in solidarity with community members, educators, students, and other unions and their members in the fight against the privatization of our schools and public land.

Privatization in Higher Education

Over the last ten years, City College of San Francisco (CCSF) has been downsized, as its administrators try to convert it from a community college to a junior college devoted to job training and preparing students to transfer to a four-year college. As usual, cuts and privatization go hand in hand. The bookstore has been turned over to a private for-profit company; the student parking lot was sold at a big discount to a private developer to build expensive housing; and the college adopted Canvas, an expensive online learning platform, which is owned by a private equity firm.

Hundreds of classes were cut in the fall term, reducing the educational opportunities of working class students. As a result, some 30 full-time tenured faculty lost their jobs. In the last three years, more than 400 job insecure underpaid part-time faculty have lost work. CCSF faculty started this term without a contract, since it expired in July, and contract negotiations have not even begun.

When the union leaders go into bargaining with the administration they lack information on the budget and what the administration is doing, so they are so



SEIU and OEA solidarity, April 2022

unprepared to bargain that very little is agreed upon, and no real progress is made. Instead of involving union members in a meaningful way, the union bureaucrats collaborate with the administration, settling for crumbs.

For more information, see www.ccsfheat.org.

OUSD Retaliations Against Educators

On February 9, 2022, OUSD issued a statement that it “would not retaliate against any OUSD employee involved in protesting school closures.” Yet the District has done exactly that against OUSD educators opposed school closures last spring and over the summer. It terminated Paloma Collier, Craig Gordon, and June Nelson, who supported the Parker Liberation, and has taken disciplinary action against Denise Huffstutler, the Parker teacher who was most publicly outspoken against its closure.

Parker Liberation activists and educators have organized two press conferences to expose these District actions, but OEA's top leadership did not attend them. After OEA's Representative Council passed its first of two resolutions committing the union to strongly oppose OUSD's retaliation, OEA officials sent a letter to the District protesting its attack on anti-school closure activists. So far, however, Gordon is the only one of the four targeted teachers getting the union's legal support.

Standing up for teacher-activists means standing up for the students they serve. Let's not stop at letter writing, and organize a strong resistance to OUSD's retaliation. To get involved: no-retaliation-ousd@googlegroups.com

Get Rid of FCMAT!

On September 21, education activists disrupted the quarterly meeting for the Board of Directors of the Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team (FCMAT). FCMAT is an unelected body of superintendents from around California who impose austerity regimes on school districts accused of risking fiscal insolvency. FCMAT then recommends closing schools, which is usually done in majority Black and Brown districts like Inglewood and Oakland.

The activists demanded a vote on an additional public comment session. This allowed them to read a letter to Gov. Newsom on the record, demanding to free school districts from FCMAT's control. Organizations participating in this action included Parent Voices Oakland, Inglewood Rising, Oakland Progressive Alliance, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), Real Moms of Magnolia Street, and SLAP. The activists will meet with FCMAT CEO Michael Fine and will keep the pressure on Gov. Newsom to remove school districts from FCMAT's enforced austerity.