**Victory in Fight for $15**

**Praise for St. Louis Public Schools and Union Leadership in ‘Fight for $15’**

**On December 14, 2021, in a closed session, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis voted unanimously to approve a recommendation from the administration to accelerate its plans to raise the District’s minimum wage to $15 per hour effective Monday, January 3, 2022.  The raise will be on the January 21, paycheck.**

**The District presently pays $13 an hour, which exceeds the State’s requirement of $11.15. District leaders had planned to gradually reach a minimum of wage $15 per hour by January of 2023.  However, in light of current local and national staffing challenges the administration believes it is prudent to speed up the process for these essential workers who continue to serve students and staff so well during these challenging times.**

**As this decision will impact members of American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 420 and Laborers International Union of N. America (LIUNA) Local 42, we have come to terms with leaders of both unions who support this change.  This increase will not impact District plans to provide additional raises in July of 2023.**

**“This is what leadership looks like.” said union president Ray Cummings, “We collectively won the fight for $15. We are very pleased that the elected school board and district management could reach agreement with AFT St. Louis, Local 420 to expedite reaching $15 for St. Louis Public Schools base hourly wages.”**

**“With the current inflation rate hovering slightly over 6% this is an important step forward for SLPS employees, their families and the community,” Cummings added, “District employees have been heroes during this pandemic and this is a positive recognition of their sacrifice.”**

****

In Solidarity,

**Ray Cummings,**

**President of AFT Local 420**