



USW Local 8751 - District 4
Boston School Bus Drivers' Union
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A message to the French working class—Solidarity across the Atlantic

Dearest Friends,

In honor of International Workers' Day, we the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, send our warmest internationalist greetings to the rising working class of France. We hail the upsurge of public and private sector unions, of unemployed, pensioners, students and immigrants, and of everyone under who is siege by the capitalist exploiters. The unity of working class and oppressed people is what will stop the bosses in their tracks, as they move to undermine your 35-hour work week, pensions, vacations, health benefits – all the things your unions have won in the class struggle.

We are a union of 900-plus school bus drivers in Boston, where school transportation is a privatized operation. We have a 40-year history of fighting to get our members the best wages and benefits and working conditions. But our definition of unionism goes far beyond meeting the needs of our members. We have lived according to the old labor slogan “an injury to one is an injury to all.” That means we extend the hand of solidarity wherever it is needed, whether it is in the neighborhoods we serve or halfway around the world. Local 8751 has successfully fought school cutbacks and was instrumental in saving a vital community post office. We have demonstrated in solidarity with workers everywhere, from the Verizon strike to Haiti to Palestine.

To stay united, we have had to live by another famous slogan: “workers of the world unite.” In fact, we have the workers of the world right inside our local. We are 98 percent people of color, with the largest group of us from Haiti—full of pride in the ancestors’ defeat of the French slave-masters. Others hail from Cape Verde, Latin America, Vietnam and the African-American community. Fighting racism, on and off the job, has defined our history.

Since June 2013 we have worked for one of the worst French capitalist parasites, **Veolia/Transdev**, with which you are familiar. From Day One the company – acting on behalf of the city’s political and financial establishment – set out to break our union. They thought they had succeeded when they framed up four of our elected leaders on phony charges of leading an illegal walkout in October 2013, firing them in November. But they messed with the wrong union! By December of last year, we not only forced Veolia/Transdev to rehire our leaders, we won a great contract for our members.

Unity! Unidad!



Inité! Unidade!

From the Haitian Revolution to the Algerian Revolution to the comparatively small experience of our recent victory, history is replete with examples of the exploited defeating the exploiters. You are writing the next chapter as we speak.

Our hatred of French bosses does not extend to the multinational French working class. The Atlantic Ocean cannot separate our struggles. Eons ago our continents were physically connected, but now there is a much stronger connection – the connection of class solidarity.

Long live the spirit of the Haitian Revolution and the Paris Commune! Victory to our class!

In Solidarity,



Andre Francois, President



Stevan Kirschbaum, Vice President



Steve Gillis, Financial Secretary



Garry Murchison, Grievance Chair