

Help Stop the 10% Pay Cut

Robert Bobb, Emergency Financial Manager of the Detroit Public Schools, received an \$81,000 raise. The same day he declared impasse in bargaining and unilaterally implemented a 10 percent wage cut and other concessions on the Detroit Association of Educational Employees, AFT 4168.

The average DAEOE member earns about \$25,000 a year. Robert Bobb's \$81,000 raise is more than three times as large as the DAEOE member average salary.

We ask that you show your support for the school secretaries and support staff by sending a personal letter to the Free Press or News expressing your disbelief that Bobb would treat DPS employees so poorly while he is treated so well. That Bobb needs to bargain with DAEOE and reach a mutually acceptable agreement with employees that he calls "essential," and that he must be true to his commitment to labor/management cooperation.

All Letters to the Editor must include your full name, full home address, and day and evening telephone numbers.

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Points to make in your letter to the editor:

1. Detroit Association of Educational Office Employees (DAEOE) members live in the city of Detroit, their children and grand children attend Detroit Public Schools. The average salary of a DAEOE member is \$25,000. This puts the average DAEOE members only 15 percent above the poverty level for a family of four and below the poverty level for a family of five.
2. Robert Bobb, DPS Emergency Financial Manager, received a raise of \$81,000; his raise is more than three times as large as the DAEOE member average salary.
3. Robert Bobb states that school secretaries and other office workers are essential. He expressed to DAEOE his commitment to joint labor/management cooperation.
4. Yet, on March 2, he informed DAEOE that the District is unilaterally imposing a 10 percent wage cut and unilaterally requiring employees to pay 10 percent of their health care premium in addition to paying more for prescription drugs and other health care services. Unilaterally imposing, although both parties are at the bargaining table.
5. These cuts are being made although the District, by their own admission, has failed to provide DAEOE with accurate data necessary for the union to make informed and constructive proposals at the bargaining table.
6. Robert Bobb needs to prove his calling DAEOE member essential and his commitment to labor management cooperation is not just empty rhetoric. DPS must bargain in good faith. Provide accurate data. Not unilaterally implement such a cut in wages.