

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OAPSE/AFSCME LOCAL 4 FILES MOTION IN TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS TO HALT THE USE OF SCABS AT CLAYMONT CITY SCHOOLS; UNION ASKS COURT TO ORDER CITY OF UHRICHVILLE AND VILLAGE OF DENNISON TO ENFORCE ORDINANCES BANNING THE USE OF REPLACEMENT WORKERS DURING STRIKES

The union for striking workers at Claymont City Schools is going to court to stop the school board from hiring replacement workers, or scabs, to do their jobs. OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4 represents more than 34,000 workers, including those at Claymont City Schools, who are members of Local 390.

The union has filed a complaint for a Writ of Mandamus in Tuscarawas County Court of Common Pleas to compel the City of Uhrichsville and the Village of Dennison to enforce separate ordinances which prohibit the hiring of replacement workers. Claymont school buildings are located in Uhrichsville and Dennison.

As part of the union's case filing, the union is seeking a peremptory writ of mandamus. Judge Edward O'Farrell has scheduled the union's requested relief for a hearing on Friday, April 5, at 1:30 p.m.

"We are asking that the court direct the responsible elected officials to enforce Ordinance No. 1043 in Uhrichsville and Ordinance No. 1906 in Dennison. And we are asking that the court order the Claymont City School District Board of Education to stop hiring scabs to replace members of Local 390," said Tom Drabick, OAPSE Director of Legal Services.

The school board and its law firm hired Huffmaster, an out-of-state strike-breaking firm, to recruit and contract with workers to replace the striking members of Local 390.

Local 390 President Jim Maxwell said hiring scab workers not only violates the law under the local ordinances, but it also undermines the health of the long-term relationship between union members and the board and superintendent.

"Local 390 members live in this community and we care about the students and families at Claymont City Schools. We are only on strike because we worked for two years without a contract and could not get the board to meet us halfway. This strike is about basic fairness and about standing up for ourselves. We provide critical services to the students at Claymont Schools, and we should have the decent wages and benefits that reflect our hard work and dedication," said Jim Maxwell, president of Local 390.