

Statement from Tim Mackey, Business Manager, Construction & General Laborers' Local 563 commending Edina School District for taking swift action to stop use of unsafe child labor

On behalf of the members of Construction and General Laborers' Local 563, I want to thank Edina School Superintendent Dressen and his team for their quick and thoughtful response to the report our union provided on the use of unsafe child labor at the Cornelia Elementary School construction site.

It's a sad fact that some contractors are willing to cut corners to make an extra buck, even if it means allowing children to be placed in harm's way. The best way to protect the public from unscrupulous contractors is for construction owners to make clear that they will hold contractors working on their projects to the highest legal and ethical standards.

When our union informed Superintendent Dressen that an apparent 13 or 14 year-old was performing dangerous work on the project, the incident was immediately investigated and action taken, both to protect the child in question, and to let contractors know that the Edina School District does not condone the use of unsafe child labor.

Based on the actions that have been taken and our communications with the district, we have every confidence that Superintendent Dressen and his staff will take the steps necessary to ensure that its contractors perform work in a responsible manner, and that an incident like this never happens again.

We want to commend the Edina School District for the way it has handled this situation: if every school district did the same, Minnesota would be a safer place for kids and construction workers alike.