



# Duncan Public Schools

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DPS Families,

This morning Duncan teachers, parents, and students continue to stand their ground at the capitol for education funding. It has been an emotional and labor intensive week for you and our teachers. I spoke with groups of teachers yesterday who are stationed on the capitol grounds, lawmaker's offices, in the rotunda, and walking the line. They want me to send a message back home to you: THANK YOU for your love, encouragement, understanding, and service to them. They are grateful knowing that you understand this fight is for children, not only in Duncan but across the state.

Meeting with a group of our teachers in Rep. McEntire's office yesterday, they teared up telling me how much they miss their students. They said they would rather be back home in their community, but this time in history is too important to sit on the sidelines. Our teachers are leading this effort and they provide much needed inspiration and solidarity to other districts across the state. Teachers receive daily flyers with talking points to move conversation toward an exit plan.

I watched one of our teachers give a briefing to a group of educators from SW Oklahoma. His leadership commanded the room. He was clear, knowledgeable, and determined. Duncan teachers provide notes from the capitol each day, sometimes twice a day, to our staff. Teachers and support staff are also working in the district to feed students and prepare classrooms for when our students return. Many coaches and sponsors continue to meet with students daily in band, vocal music, and sports.

Your emails of support have been helpful. Community support is critical to getting the work done. My office is keeping a tally of the calls we receive. We are averaging 50 support calls to 1 lack of support as to today.

This week the district has served over 200 breakfasts and 350 lunches to students at Woodrow, Emerson, and Mark Twain elementaries. Churches in our community have served over 500 meals and snacks to children. Many churches and businesses are providing transportation, gas cards, and meals to teachers who are working at the capitol each day.

I would like to tell you I know when school will resume. This movement is still very dynamic. We are managing internal communication hour by hour, which makes it difficult to be as clear with the community as we normally would be. I ask for your continued patience and support.

I am meeting with staff today to discuss developing events at the capitol. We will also discuss effects of the funding measures gained this week, days in our current school calendar, meeting testing mandates, and concerns about students and their loss of instructional time. Watch our website and social media pages for updates.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melonie Hau". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Melonie Hau