



PAWHUSKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Janet Neufeld, Superintendent

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I'd like to affirm and share my gratitude for the educators in our school district who have been working hard this past several weeks to make a difference for the children of our community and the children of Oklahoma. As we've witnessed the relentless tenacity and nature of our faculty, staff, and children driving to Oklahoma City every day to share and witness the many stories of the hardships and inequities that we've endured during the years of restricted and reduced funding.

Our testimony includes board meetings, local meetings, and surveys that have been shared about teachers using a large amount of their personal time and resources to supply the classroom with materials that engage and inspire our students. We realize there were many emotions that filtered through our community regarding the work stoppage. But overwhelmingly, we heard our community voice their support of our educators in advocating for more funding and supporting the work stoppage.

While we are back in session, there are some important reminders as we work towards establishing the normalcy of student and staff schedules. With the extended day, we understand this will take an adjustment and we appreciate your understanding. The work stoppage isn't over. There are many important ideals that must be carried forward. And most importantly, a chance to discern and challenge those who have placed less of a priority on education in Oklahoma. We will have many important elections coming up and this is where the "people speak" and carry the banner for supporting education friendly advocates in our legislature.

In moving forward, let's keep in mind the important things we must not lose track of as a result of the hard work and many emotions of the past several weeks.

- Advocating for teacher salaries and education funding is not over. This must carry forward in our communications to our legislature and in our community.
- Students "come first" when we increase education funding. This means increased curriculum and opportunities for students to be career and college ready.
- With an increase in support of education dollars, this means highly qualified teachers in every classroom, reducing teacher turnover and recruiting and maintaining staff to remain in our communities. In addition, we must insist on a

long term plan for the support, resources, and finances to increase the standing of Oklahomans nationwide in student learning and achievement.

We would love to hear your thoughts as well. Recently we posted a “shout out” link on our FB that is connected to our website. We would like to receive your positive feedback and a shout out to our educators, staff, and administrators, parent volunteers, coaches, and the many individuals that make every day a good day for kids.

Let’s make sure we continue to share our voices and spread our Pawhuska pride and continue to increase the opportunities in the lives of the students we serve.

Regards,
Dr. Janet Neufeld