

Harrah Public Schools

"DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS"
BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
20670 WALKER
HARRAH, OKLAHOMA 73045

Monday, April 2, 2018

Harrah Community,

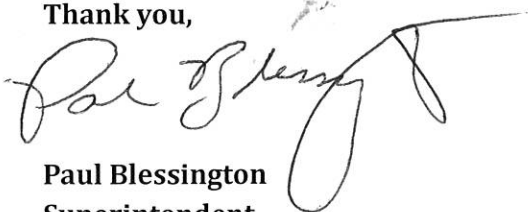
I'm sure you're aware of the difficult decisions the education community has had to deal with this last week. We have certainly had to wrestle with those decisions here in our community. It's fair to say almost everyone in education agrees that, while a significant first step, the recent revenue added to the education budget is not enough to offset a decade of cuts and return the system to an appropriate level. Our most recent survey indicates that a majority of our faculty has chosen to continue to carry their message to the Capitol on Tuesday and beyond.

Last week, the district decided to cancel school to allow teachers, parents, and patrons the opportunity to voice their concerns at the state capitol. All of us want the same thing: a good education for our students. In that, we continue to be unified. However, I realize that continued action at the Capitol carries a significant threat of losing the support of many in the state. There are also many that would never remove their support, and I hope with their help, we can overcome those challenges.

After considerable reflection and conversations with thoughtful board of education members, I have decided to change our position. We will remain closed for Tuesday and evaluate on a daily basis after. I apologize for the late changes, but this is a situation that presents new challenges almost hourly. Also, I am not turning my back on those that feel we should return to class on Tuesday. We can make those days up, but we can't get back an opportunity lost. While school is not in session, we will be feeding breakfast and lunch at CRE to all students free of charge and the ACT will continue for all Juniors that would like to participate at the high school.

I will be sending out calls each day making parents aware of the latest developments. Students can miss up 6 days before additional instructional days must be made up. Missed instruction beyond this will either be made up by using (April 14 & May 4) and/or increasing the minutes of future instructional days, and/or adding additional days at the end of the current instructional calendar. As always, I appreciate your continued support in these challenging times.

Thank you,



Paul Blessington
Superintendent
Harrah Public Schools

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