



WEBBERS FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 26, 2018

Dear Webbers Falls Schools Patrons,

Oklahoma public schools have experienced the largest funding cuts to education over the past ten years. Class sizes grow, programs are cut, textbooks are tattered, and support staff are cut to bare minimum. Teachers are either leaving the profession or leaving to take teaching positions in other states who pay much better wages than Oklahoma. Young people do not enter into education at the college level. Therefore, there are few graduates that enter the profession. In the 2017-2018 school year, emergency certifications have been granted to over 1,900 individuals. This is the reality that Webbers Falls students and the students across the state of Oklahoma are facing.

The legislature had the opportunity to remedy this situation in 2017 in not only the regular legislative session but also in a special legislative session and failed. They have failed to properly fund public education. Therefore, they have failed our students.

Schools across the state of Oklahoma recently received notice that our funds have been cut once again. Since 2009, Oklahoma schools have lost over \$400 per student each year! This is unacceptable!

It is unfortunate that teachers and support staff across the state of Oklahoma have been pushed beyond their limit. It is also unfortunate that they have to take this stand against the Oklahoma state legislature. However, it is important that they take this stand for our children – our future. It is the desire of teachers, support staff, and administrators that the state legislature provides a suitable bill that will address teacher raises, support raises, and more funding for operational costs for all Oklahoma PUBLIC schools before the April 2nd deadline.

The Board of Education and administration support our teachers and staff. If the legislature does not provide a suitable solution, Webbers Falls School will suspend school. As mentioned earlier, we hope that this will be resolved before April 2nd. If it is not, we hope it will be resolved quickly after teachers, support staff, and students walk out beginning April 2nd for proper funding of Oklahoma schools.

Webbers Falls Schools will be suspended beginning April 2, 2018, if the legislature does not vote and pass a measure for the necessary funding to support a quality education for our students. However, some activities will occur which are listed:

- Indian Capital Technology Center will still run the bus for ICTC students each day during the suspension.
- Concurrent classes will continue during the school suspension.
- **Juniors** will still take the **ACT** on April 3, 2018, at 9:00 am in the cafeteria.
- Athletics will continue as scheduled.

If no acceptable action is taken by the legislature by Thursday, March 29, 2018, an all call will go out to you on Thursday via our alert system. You will also receive a call the day before school will be called back into session.

We ask you, our patrons, to support our staff in this endeavor. We also ask you to contact state legislators imploring them to support public education by providing proper funding (and new revenue sources) that will enable Oklahoma schools to find and keep the best and brightest teachers for our children.

Below, you will find a list of legislators' names, email addresses, and telephone numbers that serve different areas of our district. You may also locate them and track the way they vote, on the following website, <http://www.oklegislature.gov>.

Senator Roger Thompson, thompson@oksenate.gov, 405-521-5588

Senator Mark Allen, allen@oksenate.gov, 405-521-5576

Representative George Faught, george.faught@okhouse.gov, 405-557-7310

Representative Ed Cannaday, Ed.cannaday@okhouse.gov, 405-557-7375

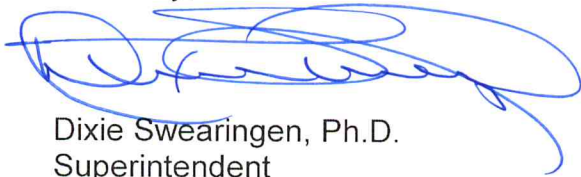
Representative Avery Frix, avery.frix@okhouse.gov, 405-557-7302

Representative John Bennett, john.bennett@okhouse.gov, 405-557-7315

Teachers and support staff have been standing in the gap for the children of the state of Oklahoma and for the children of Webbers Falls Schools. It is time for all Oklahomans and all community members in the Webbers Falls School district to stand in the gap for public schools. Together we will make a difference for the children of Webbers Falls and Oklahoma.

Together We Can!

Sincerely,



Dixie Swearingen, Ph.D.
Superintendent

WARRIOR PRIDE!!!