



March 30, 2018,

Dear Parents,

As we are certain you are aware, these past few weeks have been a historic time in our state for public education. For far too long school districts in Oklahoma have felt the brunt of inadequate funding as well as disregard for teacher and support personnel salaries. It was only a matter of time before education reached its breaking point. That time has come.

Our most important asset, our children, are the ones who ultimately suffer. Our students have watched as their classrooms have gotten bigger. Our students have watched their teachers leave Oklahoma for better pay. Our students have watched their curriculum choices dwindle to only a few options. We all have watched this public education funding crisis unfold to where we are now.

Despite the efforts at the state capital this week, it is the opinion of many here that the signed legislation, while appreciated as a step in the right direction, still does not provide enough support for public education. With that knowledge, we surveyed our educators to help us better understand their intentions about the walk-out. The response to that survey revealed more than 77 percent of our teachers and support staff would participate.

During our school board meeting on March 12, Superintendent Rob Armstrong was granted the authority to suspend schools if it was determined the safety of our students and the fiscal integrity of the district would be compromised.

As a result of the survey, and with the authorization from the school board, **Sapulpa Public Schools will be closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 2 - 4**, for our educators to descend on the capitol in Oklahoma City and petition the legislature for adequate funding for public education. We will survey staff each day. If it is proven that we can provide a productive, safe, and secure learning environment for our students, school may be called back to session early. If not, classes will resume Thursday, April 5.

We have worked with leaders in our community to compile a list of resources for you and your children during this time. That list, which includes child-care and feeding locations, is on our website, www.sapulpaps.org. Please take a moment to review it. Meanwhile, please continue to check our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter as it is there that new information and updates will be posted.

Thank you for your support of Sapulpa Public Schools teachers, support staff, and most of all, our students.

Rob Armstrong
Superintendent, Sapulpa Public Schools