

February 20, 2017

Dear Parent/Community Member:

Pinckneyville District #50 Board of Education regrets to announce that an agreement has not been reached with regard to a new teacher contract. The Pinckneyville Elementary Education Association has filed an official 10-day notice of "Intent to Strike."

Accordingly, a teacher's strike is possible as early as March 2, 2017. The teachers are not compelled to strike on that date, nor have they set a specific strike date, to our knowledge. The Board of Education will continue to bargain in good faith and attempt to reach an agreement. However the Association's decision to file an "Intent to Strike" notice compels the Board to advise the District #50 community of the following:

- 1) In the event that the Pinckneyville Elementary Education Association calls for a strike, Parents/Guardians will be notified through an announcement via School Messenger, the Districts automated phone messaging system.
- 2) All classes, educational services, lessons, extracurricular activities, including contest, and practices will cease in all District #50 facilities during the strike. There will be no volunteer coaching or teaching.
- 3) District #50 parents who have a child receiving services from Tri-County Special Education Co-Op will experience no change in the delivery of those services.
- 4) District #50 will not reopen for students until the strike has ended.
- 5) All building events, and the use of buildings by outside groups, will be temporarily cancelled during the duration of any teachers strike.
- 6) The District will announce, via School Messenger the District's phone messaging system, the specific time and date when the schools will be reopened.

The teachers are not required to strike, and it is our sincere hope that they do not go on strike. It is the sincere desire of the Board of Education, the entire administrative staff that the current impasse in the teacher negotiations can be resolved and that the students' educational program will not be disrupted. No one on the Board of Education or administration wants to see a teacher strike and we would be disappointed if it came to that. The Board feels that our final offer is as far as we can reasonably, realistically go, and still maintain the well-rounded quality education we offer students in our school district and maintain fiscal responsibility. The last Board offer included 100% Board paid Platinum Insurance with a smaller raise.

In our view the real issue is the long-term financial stability of Pinckneyville District #50, and how that is connected to providing our students the best education possible. Our General State Aid which is our main source of revenue has been cut \$1,036,821 over the past five years. Given our district's declining enrollment, decreasing revenues, overall financial situation, and the trend of getting less and less from the State of Illinois, we believe that any higher numbers on salary or benefits would likely result in staff reductions, larger class size and possibly having to eliminate programs. We are 100% quite confident our offer is very fair when compared to teacher salaries in other area Districts of similar size and all schools regardless of size throughout the region. In the end it comes down to what is in the best long term for our students and community. We firmly believe that our offer is fair and we encourage the Pinckneyville Elementary Education Association to accept it.

Pinckneyville District #50
Board of Education