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# Westville Public School

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*Statement on the funding crisis and how it has affected Westville Public Schools.*

*I've been asked several questions on what the funding crisis has done to our school over the past several weeks. I've been researching and finally have my facts and thoughts on what has happened in the past 9 years. I'm finishing my ninth year as Superintendent and I have learned a lot about the process of school funding. We have had cuts year after year since I took over in July of 2009.*

*Here are a few facts about the teacher raise that was just signed into law. The average salary went up approximately \$6,100. So now a teacher with a Bachelors degree with 25 years' experience will make \$50,049 at Westville Pubic Schools. That same teacher with 25 years' experience will make \$64,457 at Springdale Public Schools in Arkansas. A teacher with 4 years' experience would make \$50, 081 at Springdale, \$32 more than a 25 year veteran.*

*But the teachers are not walking because of that issue! They are walking because the Oklahoma Legislature and Governor has disrespected public education for over 10 years. The funding for schools has been taken away even when we had oil at \$100 a barrel. They cut taxes when we already had them in place so that it would take a historical effort to get the money back. They signed into law and gave us our text book money of \$33 million and another \$17 million they took away this year back. It was a slap in the face. They couldn't even let that go without cutting taxes before everything settled. They thought the raise would quiet the teachers. It didn't and it shouldn't have. They want funding for their classrooms and support personnel that make the school work and help the students achieve even greater success. They want core government services funded. Roads, healthcare and corrections and the list goes on and on. They have failed to fund our government. They've had enough. So they walked.*

*Let's take a look at the numbers for Westville Public Schools. A student is worth \$360 less than they were 10 years ago. Schools are paid on the Weighted Average Daily Membership or WADM from the State Aid formula. The formula balances out and takes into account the amount of local revenue that each school receives and makes it fair across the state. Certain grade levels are worth more than others and etc. Our last*

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*count at Westville we had 1151 students. Our WADM for that number of students is 1957.79. Compared to 2009 numbers we have left \$704,804 on the table because of these cuts. That does not include the cuts to text books, Alt Ed, Reading sufficiency and Professional Development just to name a few. They have stripped down the historic HB 1017 from 1990 and we've had to increase class sizes and suspended some the mandates that helped education all of these years.*

*That is what our teachers our walking against. It has been 9 years of utter disrespect and gashes to our state from the people that they are elected to serve. It's public service. It's not for corporations and big industry to make millions and billions of dollars and not have to pay taxes to fund our state. This historic walkout is about the next generations of Oklahomans which are in our classrooms today.*

*In closing I want to say that I am very proud of our teachers for taking on the challenge to make our state great. They have been criticized locally and state wide but they are taking a stand for what is right and just.*

*I want our people to understand why our teachers are walking. It's not about the raise.*

*I am extremely proud or our teachers and am humbled to be their superintendent.*

Thank you,



Terry Heustis  
Superintendent