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## Statement from Superintendent Dr. Nick Migliorino 4/13

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Nicholas Migliorino &lt;nickm@norman.k12.ok.us&gt;

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To: Certified &lt;nps.certified@norman.k12.ok.us&gt;, Support &lt;nps.support@norman.k12.ok.us&gt;

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Staff,

I understand many of you are frustrated with the end of the walkout, but I want to remind you that your efforts have ignited the entire state in support of public education. You were a catalyst for real and meaningful change and your advocacy has generated hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue for public education. People from around the state, including dozens of teachers, are filing to run for office in record numbers.

Our fight for adequate funding for public education is not ending. We are working together to create an advocacy plan that will provide opportunities for groups of up to 164 educators per day to continue visiting the Capitol on a rolling schedule. We will provide association leave that can be used for the purpose of advocating as a member of these delegations.

With that said, I want to impress upon you the importance of returning to school Monday. Prior to the work stoppage, I assured you that while our educators led efforts at the Capitol, I would help ensure we did not lose our community's support. The Norman community has been overwhelmingly supportive of our educators, but it has become clear that they are in favor of returning to school as normal on Monday and continuing our advocacy together in a more targeted way.

As our students return it is essential that we provide safe, orderly and productive learning environments. Teacher absences outside the provided advocacy structure greatly impede our ability to do so. Additionally, any absences outside the association leave we are providing will require us to reduce the numbers of teachers we are able to accommodate in our delegations and could prevent us from sending them at all.

We have been among the most supportive districts throughout this process, and are offering our continued support within an organized framework that has a clearly stated strategy and goals. Any additional absences or disruptions will be seen by our community as retaliatory and will negatively impact our students and parents. This absolutely sends the wrong message and is the opposite of what the District has been communicating for the past nine days.

We are providing association leave expressly for the purpose of preventing teachers and staff from misusing leave and inviting avoidable criticism from the community. Neither I, nor the Norman Board of Education, advocate or support misuse of leave or any actions that cause willful harm to our students. Such conduct cannot be condoned as it runs counter to the mission and values of our district. **Those who have already submitted absences for Monday, under the false impression that would be supported, should take steps to reverse those actions.**

Many of our sites will begin state testing Wednesday in order to meet revised state timelines and we are working on updated schedules now. We are moving forward with plans to add 30 minutes to each school day for the remainder of the year, which will require an additional three days be added to the academic

calendar. This schedule is the best way to meet our state requirements while not disrupting the integrity of our instructional time. We are working to finalize this schedule with a memorandum of understanding between PEN and the District.

We are in this profession because our hearts are in the classroom. I know you have missed your students and are excited to see them return. I know you will be welcoming and gracious as our students readjust and settle back into their daily routines. Thank you again for all that you do.

Sincerely,

**Nick Migliorino, Ph.D**  
**Superintendent**

