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Thursday, April 12, 2018

Dear Miami Public School Parents and Community Members.

I am writing to inform you that Miami Public Schools **will be back in session on Friday, April 13th**. Please do not take this as a sign that our educators have given up, as that is far from the truth. They have tirelessly advocated for a fully funded education that all our students deserve and will continue our work to insure education remains a high priority in our state. We learned several important takeaways throughout this process: (a) we live in a great community that cares deeply for its school children, and we are so thankful for that; (b) our staff is amazing and holds deep convictions for making our kids' lives better; (c) our state legislature still has much work ahead of them to address funding issues in education.

We want to assure the community that advocacy does not stop when school resumes and as educators "walked out" to fight for kids they will gladly "walk back in" to serve them and continue with the same intensity used in their pursuit to provide a better future for all kids under our care. We ask that the community stay engaged and help champion the message that we must invest in our kids!

Many have asked, what did we accomplish over the past two weeks? Well, quite simply in these past two weeks we have accomplished more for public education than in the last 28 years. Here is the financial impact for MPS:

- Teacher pay raise - \$6,100 average
- Support pay raise - \$1,250
- Flex Benefit Increase – to offset costs of FICA, Social Security, etc.
- Textbook monies - \$100,000 for MPS
- Restored revenue that was cut this fiscal year - \$50,000 for MPS
- Total new revenue predicted for MPS = \$1,140,000

Our staff looks forward to welcoming our students back tomorrow and to finishing the school year strong! There will be a few adjustments made to the school calendar and the release times at all school sites. Regular school hours will be in place for Friday, April 13th. However, beginning Monday, April 16th an additional 25 minutes will be added to each school day. Also, school will now be in session on the following days: April 27th, May 4th, 11th, 17th, and 18th. You will receive specific information on updated start/release times from your student's school site(s) and we will post the updated school calendar on Tuesday afternoon, April 17th.

Thank you for your understanding and valued support of our efforts to provide the best for the students of Miami.

Together in Education,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Hogan".

Jeremy Hogan
Superintendent
Miami Public School