

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Serving the Communities of Alhambra, Grantfork, Highland, New Douglas, and Pierron

MICHAEL L. SUTTON
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



LYNNE S. NEWTON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - INSTRUCTION
TIMOTHY C. BAIR
BUSINESS MANAGER

September 5, 2008

Dear Parents:

As you are aware, the teachers in the Highland Education Association (the union for the teachers in Highland CUSD No. 5) have voted to strike, filing a notice to strike with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board on September 3, 2008. Accordingly, the first day the teachers may go on strike is Monday, September 15. However, the Board of Education has not received notice from the union that it will strike on September 15. Therefore, the administration and the Board of Education are still optimistic that a contract agreement will be reached before a strike would occur.

Unfortunately, the amount of information that can be provided to you at this time about the potential for this situation to affect the district's ability to avoid any school closures is minimal. The Board of Education has no control over the timing of any potential strike. Additionally, we want to assure you that we will be scheduling one or more bargaining session(s) with the assistance of a federal mediator and cooperation of the Highland Education Association (HEA) to try to avoid such an unfortunate situation. We will continue to strive for a resolution with the HEA.

Additionally, because your children would be affected by a strike, we believe you deserve to be informed about what is in dispute. Therefore, the Board of Education will be preparing a press release to be issued at the early part of next week. The press release will be identifying the key issues of difference between the Board of Education and the HEA. The Board of Education will also be correcting some miscommunication of information regarding district finances.

We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and support through this unfortunate process.

Sincerely,

Board of Education
Highland CUSD No. 5