



October 4, 2020

To our GJPS families,

The last few weeks have been emotional for all of us, and we know you have many questions about the potential of a teacher strike. In the coming week we will meet with the union bargaining team several times to offer a compromise proposal in which teachers live stream to a greatly reduced number of students.

We have listened to the union bargaining team, but thus far we have received no written proposals from them in over 70 hours of negotiations. We hope they will be open to this proposed compromise and work with us toward a solution.

Even within the compromise, live streaming is critically important. To eliminate live streaming for middle school and high school students would result in sweeping changes to teacher assignments and schedules of the vast majority of our students, as well as the loss of 40-50 courses currently offered. **Our compromise proposal keeps teacher and student schedules intact and preserves course offerings for all students in grades 6-12.**

We believe providing education with Gahanna teachers and a Gahanna-designed curriculum is best for our students, whether they have chosen the hybrid or distance learning model. Online third-party providers for distance learners simply cannot deliver the kind of instruction offered by our Gahanna teachers.

We want to correct some misunderstandings about where we are today:

- Teachers are working under a contract. Their prior contract remains in place while a new contract is negotiated.
- Teachers have been offered both a reasonable raise and an extension of current healthcare benefits as part of our negotiations.
- We have been discussing learning models with teachers and curriculum leaders since summer, including with a task force that included 70 teachers.
- The task force recommendations comprised the majority of the learning model plans.
- Our schools are fully stocked with PPE, and we have health and safety protocols approved by Franklin County Public Health.

We want our students back in classrooms October 13, and we believe most of you do as well. If the teachers union decides not to compromise with GJPS on this revised learning model, and instead makes the choice to strike, a return on that date is impossible.

We remain fully committed to continuing to negotiate with their bargaining team. We want what is best for our teachers, students, families and our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Barrett
Superintendent
Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools