

We, the District 15 Concerned Parents, would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak tonight.

We are a group of parents who feel very strongly that the teacher's contract needs to reflect the community they serve. We believe that any proposal that is out of sync with current economic reality that would place our district in financial peril is unacceptable. We believe that our District's quality image can be maintained and improved with fiscally responsible spending.

We urge the District and the CTC to continue negotiating in good faith but we also urge the CTC to take into consideration the real-world economy and be realistic and reasonable in the upcoming negotiation session on October 13. We continue to value transparency and are disappointed in the latest decision that was made to exclude us again. We have a vested interest in this process through our children and we are the very public whose tax dollars fund this district and pay those salaries and benefits. We too are stakeholders in District 15.

We do not support raises that are out of sync with this community or other benefits that will put our budget back into the red.

A strike is in no one's best interest. It is a drastic step which will have ramifications in our district for years to come. If the CTC does choose to walk off their jobs and leave the children behind, we will advocate for them to return to the classroom and the bargaining table. While a strike will be difficult for all of us, we will encourage both parties to remain calm and continue to work towards a contract that will support the boards' mission to provide the highest quality education while maintaining a financially sound future. We ask the Board of Ed to please stand firm in its decisions to offer a package that will keep the district fiscally responsible and to not cave in to the inevitable pressure that a strike will cause.

We ask you, for the sake of our children, to be fair.
Thank you.