



City of Broken Arrow

Request for Action

File #: 18-384, Version: 1

**Broken Arrow City Council
Meeting of: 03-20-2018**

**To: Mayor and City Council
From: Office of the City Attorney**

Title: Consideration, discussion, and possible action regarding an expression of support for Oklahoma Public School teachers, including their efforts to convince the State Legislature to provide funding for teacher pay raises and funding for public schools

Background:

The Broken Arrow City Council views our teachers as one of the most important workforces within the State. For nearly 18 months, Broken Arrow City officials, along with officials from the BAPS School District, and surrounding Tulsa Region Cities, Chamber, and School Districts, have urged the Oklahoma State Legislature to address the issues facing public education. Primarily wage increases for teachers and support staff and a long-term solution to funding public education.

The public schools are an integral part of the State's economic development. Failure to fund the public schools will continue to result in harm to the State's economic condition, as well as its economic development goals.

Because of the State's Legislature failure to reach a consensus and take the necessary public policy measures to address this matter, on April 2, 2018, Oklahoma Public School teachers are considering participating in a walk-out to bring into focus the legitimacy of their concerns over school funding.

Statistically, Oklahoma public school teachers receive the lowest pay in the nation and public schools are seriously underfunded. They have been requesting a raise in salary and additional funding for public schools for several years, but have remained unsuccessful.

The Broken Arrow City Council fully supports public school teachers. The Council recognizes that provision of additional funding for public schools are critical to the advancement of the State of Oklahoma.

This item is placed on the Agenda for Council discussion and possible direction, including direction for placement of a Resolution supporting public education for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Cost: None

Prepared By: Beth Anne Childs, City Attorney

Reviewed By: Assistant City Manager-Administration

Approved By: Michael L. Spurgeon, City Manager

Attachments: **None**

Recommendation:

As directed by Council.