OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

How Oklahoma Teachers can Address the Problems Faced by a General Lack of Support for Public Education
“We don’t have TIME for that!”

“I can’t teach my students to read, when they come to school HUNGRY!”

“No one cares enough to help us!”

“My students are too concerned with where their next MEAL is coming from; they can’t focus on doing their homework!”

“Legislators are so out of touch with the reality of our situation, it’s not even funny!”

“We can’t afford that!”

“People don’t even understand what all teachers do!”
THE “MOP” AS A SYMBOL OF EDUCATION CHALLENGES IN OKLAHOMA

- A mop is DIRTY. It’s infested with germs, dirt, and muck.

- But a mop can also help CLEAN things if used correctly.

- Problems associated with public education in Oklahoma are DIRTY.

- By taking advantage of possible solutions, we can help “CLEAN UP” Oklahoma education!
OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES

**M**

Money Matters:
- No classroom budgets
- Outdated technology
- Outdated textbooks
- Decreased budgets
- Cuts to extra curriculars
- No money for “extras”
- Confusion about LOTTERY
- TEACHER PAY

**O**

Outsider Opinions:
- Don’t understand teachers’ jobs
- Don’t understand the TRUE hours we work
- Think our pay reflects the “short” hours and summers off
- “Us vs. Them” mentality
- Unaware of TRUE struggles
- Negative news stories

**P**

Parental Problems:
- Incarceration
- Little money for food
- Little money for clothing
- Instability in home
- Single parents w/little help
- No money for SUPPLIES
- Inability to provide cultural experiences
HOW DO WE ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES???
MONEY MATTERS: WAYS TO ADDRESS

Quick & Easy
• Local “Wants and Needs” Facebook Page
• Personal Social Media
• Local Businesses
• PTA
• Feed the Children Teacher Store

Moderate Effort
• DonorsChoose.org
• District Foundation Grant
• Reflex Math grant

Complex
• Corporate Grants
  • OG&E grant
  • Devon Science Giants Grant
OUTSIDER OPINIONS:
WAYS TO ADDRESS

Quick & Easy
• Personal Social Media posts

Moderate Effort
• Invite Legislators to sites

Complex
• Building Communication Reps
PARENTAL “PROBLEMS”:
WAYS TO ADDRESS

Quick & Easy
- Various drives for student needs.
- Backpacks for Kids (already in place, look to expand)

Moderate Effort
- Utilizing community resources and agencies.

Complex
- Writing Grants for student needs
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

MONEY MATTERS
- Make-and-take grant-writing PD
- Funding idea flyer
- Create a link to our district website for teacher funding resources

OUTSIDER OPINIONS
- Building Communication Reps:
  - OK with HR?
  - 1 per school
  - 1 event per month
  - Positive stories

PARENTAL PROBLEMS
- Time for a “Parent Town Hall” at each regular board meeting
- Consolidated school event calendar for district admin or website
DISTRICT LEADERS:

Stand WITH us!

Fight FOR us!

WIN with us!

Academics Excellence

Gazette-Mail

Teachers Win

Strike is Over
Questions?
WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR GROUP?

• Virtual Meetings on our own time once per month?
• Half day PD once per quarter...district provided sub?
• Email group to contact for advice and assistance
THANK YOU!