



DATE: August 7, 2018  
TO: Media  
FROM: Robert T. Guillen, Superintendent  
RE: Banning Teachers Association (BTA) Work Stoppage/Strike

The teachers union chose to launch a strike just as we are welcoming children back to school, and I find it disheartening that they would deliberately try to disrupt our schools. As Superintendent, I do not deny the union, or any employee, their right to disagree with me, but I do believe this approach to problem solving is nothing short of unprofessional. There are more productive ways to settle adult disagreements, rather than trying to hold hostage the education of hundreds of students.

At the heart of the union's concern is the fact that at the beginning of the last school year, the District added instructional minutes at Nicolet Middle School, where the students were receiving nearly one hour less of instruction compared to Banning High School. Our children deserve our best, and they deserve a full day of instruction. I am immensely proud of our strong administrative team, who pulled together to ensure that we have substitute teachers here to greet our students, and I am grateful to our dedicated support staff in the areas of transportation, food service and office support, who are on hand to do their jobs and welcome all children back to school.