



Grand Rapids Education Association

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MEA

Michigan Education Association

August 5, 2008

Hello,

I am writing to ask for your help.

Grand Rapids Public School Teachers have gone one full year without a contract. No other teachers in Kent County have faced this kind of difficulty for several years. Our requests in bargaining are minimal and will not equal area contracts, even if our whole proposal was accepted. There is no end in sight. The District may impose its will upon us, taking away rights and benefits that have been in place for decades.

There is a possibility that we will be forced into a strike. We are doing everything reasonably possible to get a contract and restore normal relations with the District.

We are asking you to honor our picket lines should a strike occur. We are asking you to reject a call to substitute, if a strike occurs. You will be called before the District is notified about the strike. We urge you to accept substituting in other districts or simply not work.

You will receive a telephone call from a GREA member to provide an update and answer any questions you may have.

We value your contribution to the kids and our relationship with you.

Sincerely,

Paul Helder  
President, GREA