

## LREA PRESS RELEASE

10-25-2019

Educators join parents, community leaders to chart best course for LRSD and its students

Little Rock Education Association members, including teachers and public school support staff, recently joined with parents, local leaders, and other community stakeholders to discuss the future of the Little Rock School District (LRSD) and a shared vision for the quality public education our students deserve. We agreed on four specific goals moving forward. They include the following:

- #OneLRSD supports implementing community schools with support services like nutritious meal programs, health care, and after school programs for those students who need these services.
- LREA has a record of standing up for students for more than 65-years. #OneLRSD supports returning bargaining authority to LREA so it can continue what its members love to do—stand up for Little Rock students and the communities where they serve.
- #OneLRSD supports a wage increase for bus drivers, cafeteria workers, nurses, instructional aides, and other public school support staff to ensure they are best equipped to make decisions to ensure students' safety, well-being, and academic success.
- A democratically elected school board with full decision-making authority is the best way to ensure that all students receive the best possible public education and that their needs and interests are well served. #OneLRSD supports a democratically elected school board with full decision-making authority as soon as possible.

The following statement can be attributed to Teresa Knapp Gordon, a veteran educator with more than 22 years of experience and President of the Little Rock Education Association (LREA):

"The teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, instructional aides, and other dedicated educators who comprise the LREA are passionate about serving students. Our students, and their educational well-being, will be at the center of any planned action we take in the future to ensure that all kids, regardless of their zip code, have access to a quality public education.

"During the school day, our educators want to be in the classroom. We don't like spending time away from students. However, we will do what is necessary to ensure that all students receive the one-on-one attention they deserve, inviting classrooms, and a well-rounded curriculum. These things are crucial to prepare all kids to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world."