

Trenton Times (July 25, 2007)

School funding lawsuit gets an ‘F’ for foolish

As a resident of Washington Township for 20 years and an individual with an education degree and some teaching experience, I realize the importance of education and would not use the word “incompetent” to refer to people serving on the school board (see letter, “Baffling incompetence with our school finances,” July 11). I’m sure they are fairly intelligent individuals.

However, it does seem to me a little foolish to sue New Jersey for enforcing a state funding formula that, while possibly unfair, is certainly within the state purview. Based on newspaper reports that the township school board chose the most expensive architectural plan to build the high school (since when do expensive walls and internal structures make kids smarter?) and has budgeted unnecessary items such as part-time Italian language instructors and Junior ROTC, one can see why the voters rejected the last school budget (see Letter, “Improve efficiency for Washington schools,” July 19).

The reason it is foolish to sue the state for additional funding is that the issue appears to be a spending problem – driven by less-than-cost-effective budgeting considerations – not a funding problem.

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