

Trenton Times (July 9, 2007)

New school means higher taxes

Here we go again! In “Delay likely for vote on school” (July 1), there was an important announcement by the school district’s business administrator, “We can’t build right now because we don’t know if we have the authority to bond more money.”

It is obvious that the Washington Township School Board has unwisely spent taxpayers money, creating the present funding crisis. What we must ask is, Is the school board going to do it again?

The high school cost us \$43 million instead of \$20 million which took us to the max of our ability to borrow. The school board ignored the state Department of Education’s Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act recommendations that created standards to achieve maximum operating efficiencies, energy efficiency and reduction in the overall cost of the program. The state law was designed to “protect the interest of taxpayers who will bear the burden of this obligation.” 18A:7G-1.d Members of the local school board ignored it in favor of their personal preferences and higher taxes.

What the taxpayers need from the school board are facts to verify that indeed a new school is even necessary. Will the school board pledge to follow state recommendations this time rather than its private agendas? If not, taxpayers can expect a huge tax increase. How else can you pay off debts?

Money that goes for extravagant buildings takes away funding for their children’s education. The education of the children should be the focus rather than fancy buildings that are costly to operate?

- WALTER DABROWSKI
Washington Township