

Trenton Times (July 19, 2007)

Improve efficiency for Washington Schools

This is in response to the letter, “The community wants excellent schools” (July 17), which responded to my letter “New school equals higher taxes” (July 9). The writer claimed I asserted that money spend on education is a waste of money. The word “waste” does not appear in what I wrote nor did I say money should not be spent on education.

The writer said “The district developed its high school plan based on community input and educational experts.” Her educational “experts” certainly did not have as much knowledge about school construction and facilities maintenance as the State Department of Education, NJIT and the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority. This was evident from the numerous change orders that were issued when the high school was constructed.

The state only wanted the district to adhere to the “facilities efficiency standards” to achieve maximum operating efficiencies, energy efficiency and reduction in the overall cost of the program. There is absolutely nothing wrong with these goals.

Saying I should become part of the solution admits that there are problems. That is correct! The problems are double-digit taxes, a debt that has crippled our ability to borrow (reference the business administrator’s announcement) and energy inefficiency. This is the legacy of the high school.

Buildings don’t educate; they are inanimate objects that don’t raise scores, prepare students for careers, etc. The writer and her cohorts equate fancy schools with achievement - so, how can one explain that to the Princeton High parents who have a decades old school and high-achieving students?

- WALTER DABROWSKI
Washington Township