

Bedford Schools millage request just another example of poor spending

On May 6, a vote will be held in Bedford Township that, if passed, will put the taxpayers in debt for \$70 million for 30 years. The school board has decided to spend \$15,000 for this special election. Why put out \$15,000 for a special election when they could have held this vote along with the August primary and the cost would have been minimal?

The superintendent talks about the age of our schools and how it is cheaper to tear down than to update. I questioned how Whiteford, Ida, Summerfield, Deerfield and Blissfield have buildings that were built at about the same time as ours and they are still using them every day. Those districts had not torn any down nor let any sit empty and collapse, as Bedford did with the 35-year-old high school on Douglas Rd.

I have lived in Bedford since 1959, and I remember how an irresponsible school administration spent the township into oblivion, buying acres of farmland and building schools we did not need. In the

Letters are welcome

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'70s, people were fleeing Bedford due to high property taxes. Bedford Schools still owns 306 acres of land that is tax-exempt.

I remember when the administration was in the old high school, located at Monroe and Secor Rds. They said that building was not suitable for human habitat and spent taxpayer money to relocate to their present location on Sterns Rd. It seems that private businesses do not have a problem with that building; businesses and a restaurant are still there.

I would support a short-term levy to re-roof or do maintenance, but I will not support a \$70 million venture that will put my kids and grandkids in debt for 30 years, especially when large portions of this levy will go for remodeling the administration building, putting AstroTurf on the football field, over \$1 million to tear down three of our schools and spending almost \$18 million to build a new elementary school. The administration claims that this levy will only amount to about \$180 a year in additional taxes on the average home, but they fail to mention the yearly tax increases that are almost automatic due to reassessment of properties and special assessments for ditch-cleaning, lighting, etc.

Instead of tearing down our schools, why not make one of them a trade school for kids who cannot afford to, or don't want to, go to college.

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