

## Give county tax break; vote no on Bedford sinking fund

Well, here we go again. Just months after a stern rebuke by the electorate over their ill-conceived bond issue, Bedford Public Schools petulantly returns with an extension of a sinking fund that ends in November and never should have been necessary in the first place. It's almost like they're mocking us and saying, "We aren't concerned about the failure of the bond issue. We'll just get the sinking fund extended and then next year go for another bond issue... and more taxes. Besides, if you extend the sinking fund, your taxes won't go up."

What a sales pitch, huh! If this entitlement mindset gives you a "sinking" feeling about the "stinking" fund and what lies ahead, then you'll know what to do on Nov. 4.

You see, folks, the real problems unfortunately

are the superintendent and the school board. They just don't get it! They refuse to accept their responsibility to maintain our buildings in a manner consistent with the budget priority it deserves. Instead they want to dump that responsibility onto taxpayers...apparently forever. But taxpayers have already paid for building maintenance once. Why should they pay for it again?

Sadly, many board members keep squawking about not having enough money to maintain the buildings. Well, that simply isn't true. Many of us have reviewed their whopping \$38 million budget and there are numerous ways to cut expenses and free up ample funds not only for annual maintenance, but also for reserves to pay for big ticket items. It's all

about budgeting priorities and spending choices. There seems to be plenty of money for salaries, great benefits, pensions and cushy union jobs, but the buildings, which house our children, get squat. It's beyond fiscally irresponsible. It's downright disgraceful!

So, when you go to the polls on Nov. 4, think clearly about the choices you have. You can choose to reward irresponsible behavior by voting "Yes" and such behavior will undoubtedly continue. Or, you can vote "No," give yourself a tax cut, and send another strong message to the board like you did in May. It seems like a no-brainer to me!

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