

Other options besides millages; stop taking tax money

On Nov. 4 I will be voting no on both the Bedford Public Schools (BPS) sinking fund and the MCCC (lifetime) millages. I am voting no for two very good reasons. First, I am tired of working harder only to have administrators shamelessly protect their jobs and those that don't directly impact the classroom. Secondly, I not only expect efficiency in the use of my tax dollars, but demand it. BPS has used the old fallback position to pass millages (scare tactics) including threatening to layoff teachers, cut transportation, eliminate sports, and raise participation fees. Yet rational cuts are never mentioned.

So what's the answer? It must be understood that the current public schools business model is outdated. Addressing the necessary status quo cuts, BPS must use a two-fold approach. First, BPS must consolidate with other districts in the following areas: superintendents, business offices, transportation, communications, human resources, lastly curriculum departments. Secondly, subcontract janitorial services and community education. Conservative savings are \$1 to \$1.5 million and reluctance to make changes consequently cost taxpayers millions, not to mention negligence of building maintenance. BPS enrollment is down nearly 30 percent with projections indicating further decline. This

absolutely necessitates that no stone be unturned.

Now who hasn't been affected by restructuring or downsizing? BPS' failure to empathize with families in financial hard times is obvious by their arrogance to consistently push millages, their knowledge of 26 percent BPS enrollment receiving free or reduced lunch and their lack of awareness that Social Security recipients are not keeping pace with real inflation. Clearly BPS is out of touch.

Much of the same can be said about the trustees and administration at MCCC. Their wasteful spending and lack of reality is beyond words. The arrogance to push another lifetime millage is the equivalent to the definition of insanity. Currently Monroe County taxpayers are paying a 2.1794 (lifetime) millage. Again, due to their wasteful practices, they want another 1 mill (lifetime). If the new millage passes, the average Bedford taxpayer will pay a combined cost of \$275 to \$600-plus a year.

It's time our public institutions change their way of doing business. Otherwise, change will be the only thing left in our pockets after we pay for unnecessary millages. Please join me by voting no to the status quo on both the BPS and MCCC (lifetime) millages.

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