

On Tuesday October 18th, Vote “NO” on a \$39.6 Million School Bond which would raise our taxes on average about \$421 a year*

We’re already paying for many infrastructure items per the \$58.9 Million 2016-17 Budget, which has increased our tax rate by 3.92%, or about \$380 a year*

Dear Neighbor,

It is surprising that the administration of the Mount Pleasant Central School District and the Board of Education have scheduled another Bond vote since, as *The Examiner News* reported on March 25, 2015, the vote on a \$34.9 Million Bond, as well as the votes on two smaller bonds were “**resoundingly defeated**” by the residents of this district.

It is even more surprising that the administration and the Board would attempt to push through an even higher \$39.6 Million Bond after **school district residents just generously approved a hefty increase in the 2016-2017 Budget in March that included funding for infrastructure items.**

The following excerpts from a March 13, 2016 article in *The Examiner News* entitled **Mt. Pleasant’s \$58.9M School Budget Addresses Infrastructure** are important:

<http://www.theexaminernews.com/mt-pleasants-58-9m-school-budget-addresses-infrastructure/>

Mount Pleasant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney last week proposed a \$58.9 million 2016-17 budget carrying a 4.7 percent tax rate increase that **continues to make needed infrastructure improvements throughout the district.**

*An average district homeowner with a house assessed at \$8,300 would have their **school taxes rise \$455** next year. [The lower 3.92% tax rate figure and \$380 estimated increase is taken from the districts online 2016-2017 Approved Budget. The Bond would increase taxes by an estimated \$50.76 per \$1,000 of assessed value.]

In November 2014 and March 2015, school **district residents overwhelmingly defeated multimillion bond issues** to pay for infrastructure improvements, which would have permitted the district to borrow to pay for the work at mainly the middle school and high school. **Starting this academic year, the district has been focusing on paying for capital projects through the annual budget**, Lennon said.

Guiney said there are no plans to replace the high school roof, but **money would be available to continue making repairs to address the leaks.**

Unfortunately, instead of making sure that these repairs are effective with the money they have, the Board and administration are using a video of our children complaining about leaks to influence district residents to vote for a \$39.6 Million Bond. It may be noted that in 2012 a new roof for the Mt. Pleasant Library was paid for by a \$666,000 bond plus \$240,000 in state aid, which totaled less than \$1 Million. Also, the State Comptroller’s 2015 audit estimated that the district would have an unassigned surplus of approximately \$2 million as of June 30, 2015. <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/schools/2015/mountpleasant.pdf>

Just how essential are the items included in this so-called “no-frills bond”? How essential is modifying the entry drive to the Westlake campus, constructing new parking lots, installing sidewalks, creating a bus loop, and replacing the tennis courts? And if the need for new roofs is so urgent, why has the administration and Board budgeted for a new \$135,000/yr position of “Supervisor of Elementary Special Education”? And why, according to the audio recording of the August 24, 2016 Board meeting, is a new fifth grade section being created and a new teacher being hired, especially since enrollment is stable?

Where are all of our school tax dollars going? A look at the district’s online 2016-17 Instructional Budget Overview shows 72.8% going to salaries and benefits. According to the 2016-17 Budget, Superintendent Guiney’s compensation for 2016-17 includes an annual salary of \$270,788 with additional benefits of \$67,466. Other “supervisory and administrative employees receiving \$130,000 or more in salary only” include 14 job titles ranging in annual salary from \$135,000 to \$189,746.

According to http://seethroughny.net/teacher_pay, the median annual salary for teachers in our district is \$114,342, compared to \$99,695 for the Pleasantville School District. The salary data included at <http://rochester.nydatabases.com/database/educator-salaries-new-york> shows about 80 school district employees with salaries between \$120,000 and \$145,000. Since a new contract will be negotiated in 2017, it is hoped that Board members will be prudent in response to union demands. A copy of the current contract which includes salary schedules is available online at <http://mpta.ny.aft.org/files/mptacontract2012-2017.pdf>

Many residents, including families with children in our schools, and seniors on fixed incomes just can’t afford the continued school tax increases—not to mention the additional cost of a \$39.6 Million Bond.

Please Share this information with your neighbors and make copies to distribute.

SAVE YOURSELF AND YOUR NEIGHBORS \$100’s OF DOLLARS A YEAR

VOTE “NO” ON THE SCHOOL BOND