

LETTERS TO CHAGRIN SOLON SUN

Solon school officials have residents falling for their levy scam

When reading the "this is not a threat, but a reality" propaganda coming from Solon school board personnel, it brings to mind an old favorite movie of mine, "The Music Man."

Oh, we got trouble, right here in Solon City. In the movie a conniving con man named Professor Henry Hill scams an entire town by offering to equip and train a boy's marching band, preying on the fear of the city by threatening the town with horrifying stories of future moral decay. He convinces many of his potential customers the new pool table just placed in the billiard parlor could mean "trouble in River City."

I'm genuinely surprised so many highly educated people in Solon are actually falling for this scam, particularly since the trend has been going in the opposite direction with so many other cities. Everyone has caught on to this fear by intimidation propaganda

tactic except for the residents of Solon. I can only assume that is so because of the masterful job of preying on people's fears being done by the Solon school board.

If the levy fails the school system will not become Cleveland City Schools. They will just have to become better at managing their budget, as all of us as well as all other companies have done in the past few years. They are just protecting their own grossly overpaid, gravy train jobs. The student population has decreased considerably and is expected to continue to do so in the future years, so how can you justify asking for more money? Prime example is the Postal Service. Less mail = cutbacks in services.

Notice the school board's cutbacks consist of lower paying jobs, not the big earners. Superintendent makes \$150,000+, assistant superintendents \$120,000+, principals \$100,000+, (three assist-

ant principals, are you kidding me) head custodian \$80,000+, head of bus garage \$100,000+, (who also recently retired with full benefits and was rehired at the same salary), a PR person, TV specialists, hall monitors, lunch monitors, psychologists, consultants, etc., etc.

Keep in mind these are all technically part-time jobs as they enjoy every summer off. Beginning to get the picture? These are not teaching related positions, they're positions that were created in the past, before the financial crisis wreaked havoc on our country and forced everyone to do more with less. Everyone except for the Solon school board that is. We no longer have that luxury.

I would guess that a vast percentage of these high earners do not even live in Solon, so why do they care how much property taxes we pay? This should be a mandatory requirement for all upper management/high earners.

Just after the superintendent announced he was putting a levy on the upcoming ballot just weeks after announcing the school system had seen a significant drop in enrollment, I wrote a letter to the editor that basically asked "is this a joke?" doesn't anyone else see the arrogance of this? It's on par with the Wa-

ter Company stating they're raising our rates because we're using less water.

In the weeks following the publication of that letter I received no fewer than a half-dozen letters thanking me for standing up for what so many other people are thinking. Many of them have children currently attending Solon Schools and told me when they have casually questioned the need for additional money they were ridiculed and ostracized by other members of the PTA, School Board, etc.

All of them stated if this keeps up, they will be forced to move from Solon. I can put myself in that same situation as well as many of my neighbors who I have recently spoken to. None of us will be missed by the Solon school board.

Wake up people, don't continue to fall for these scare tactics. Make them actually earn their vastly overpaid salaries by being creative and finding ways to do more with less, just like most of us have been forced to do. And if you are naive enough to fall for this scam, don't be surprised when that first property tax bill comes in the mail and you start to worry about how your going to pay it. You'll have only yourself to blame.

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Solon