

Just How Much Is Enough?

Farmington Schools propose to increase property taxes an additional 10%

Dear Taxpayers,

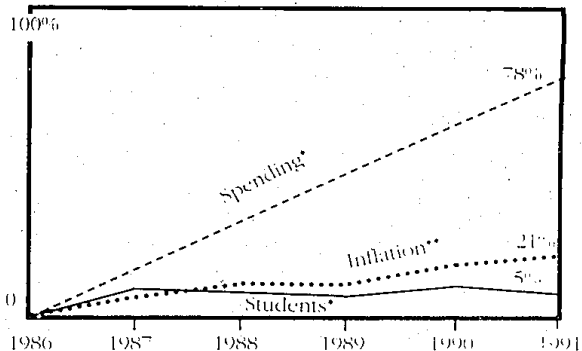
We support quality education, but are very troubled by the excessive spending growth in the Farmington School District. We are concerned when an administration and school board resort to baseless emotional threats of reduced busing, sports, and cultural activities. Particularly in a district where expenditures have increased 78% in the past five years while student enrollment has only increased 5% in the same time period. Property taxes and spending have increased almost four times faster than the rate of inflation. Just how much is enough?

We are also troubled by recent reports in this newspaper that SAT and ACT scores of Farmington students are at or below the state average in a school district that spends almost twice as much per student as the state average. Are we getting our money's worth and just how much is enough?

The facts speak for themselves:

Farmington Public Schools (Stated in millions of dollars, fiscal years ending June 30) Source: audited financial statements and 1991 adopted budget	1986	1991	Change
General Fund Expenditures	\$51.8	\$92.0	+78%
Property Taxes	\$41.3	\$75.2	+82%
Inflation Index	112.1	135.7	+21%
Total Students Enrolled	10,323	10,861	+5%
Surplus Funds (Fund Equity), beginning of fiscal year *\$4.3 reserved for state aid recapture.	\$3.4	\$14.9*	+338%

Spending Outstrips Inflation And Enrollments!



* Source: Farmington Public Schools Financial Reports.

** Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Attention Senior Citizens!

Vote absentee . . .

City officials automatically send absentee ballots to all senior citizens (60 years and older) for general elections. Unfortunately, the school board does not embrace this well-intentioned philosophy for school millage ballot proposals.

Here's what to do to vote absentee:

1. Mail a request to the school board for a ballot to be mailed to your home.
2. Better yet, go to the school board office and vote absentee on the spot.
3. Board office location:
Farmington School Board
Absentee Ballots
32500 Shiawasee (near Farmington Rd.)
Farmington Hills 48336
Ph: 489-3300

At the close of the 1990 fiscal year, total surplus funds in the General Fund alone were \$14.9 million. Regardless of how this surplus is or has been allocated, just how much is enough?

Please keep in mind your assessments will be raised one month from now, increasing your property taxes. This request for an additional over-10% property tax increase is unnecessary and excessive. Many homeowners and business taxpayers are already stretched to the limit. In addition to the substantial assessment increases that have hit businesses and homeowners alike, this is not the time to raise property tax rates for the third time in three years. Thomas Jefferson once said, "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

Be Vigilant! Be Informed! Vote Tuesday, February 5, 1991!

R.H. Headlee
R.H. Headlee,
Chairman and CEO

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