

# Readers Speak Up Pro & Con On School Issues

**EDITOR:**  
Are your taxes too high? That's a ridiculous question! And the sensible answer is YES! But the real question is: Do you approve the school millage issue? If the answer to this one is an emphatic NO—read on, please. There are countless swimming pools in back yards—you name the number of bicycles on the lawns—the 10 cents and 25 cents spent in dime stores for trinkets that are broken and discarded in the nearest garbage can.

Think of the money spent on gas to pick up your child from school when it's raining, only to have him go out to play in the rain when he gets home. Why do we do these things? Because swimming is good exercise or just because there's a pool next door and financially your neighbor isn't any better off than you are and he isn't going to have one over on you. Riding bicycles is good too! But John has a bike, so Jane won't live until dinner unless he has one too! The trinkets?

Well, what's a dime or a quarter? After all, didn't you do the dishes to help Mother out? It just so happens this will make her a better homemaker when she grows up. Defend your principles—your child is as good as your neighbor's child. Give him what other children have. It's good for his morale. But where does education come in? Just think about it. Who's benefiting by the odd jobs your child does, or the exercise he's getting?

**YOUR CHILD!**  
Who's benefiting by the millage money? Sure, it's your child—but who is your school? **YOUR CHILD!**

When graduation time comes and applications are made for positions in any line of work, what will your child fill in for education? That he can swim the length of a pool twenty times? That she can do dishes and make beds and perhaps sew a fine seam? Oh, don't misunderstand—these are important things. But—will they know math, be able to read and write—know a language—have some musical ability—because they were taught in a good school system such as the one Livonia now has.

They can't learn on half-day sessions, besides there's that other half day that he just may get into trouble. He's going to miss days of school because it's too nasty to walk—unless the family buys another car for school transportation. Add it up—it's going to amount to more money than the millage is going to take from your pocket.

These are just a couple highlights. What bothers me is to think my children's families are going to suffer because the breadwinner will have to take added classes at night to make up for the education missed because we, who are supposed to be adults, feel we can't afford the burden of more taxes. Our children aren't responsible for being here—we are.

Our children sorely need a good education so they can compete in their world. We are the ones responsible for their education. Let's look beyond our noses and think of our children's future, not those millage dollars

**CLIP 'N SAVE**  
Livonia School Lunch MENU

May 9-13  
MONDAY  
Beef Noodle Soup  
Turkey Salad Sandwich  
Spring Salad Bowl  
Fruit Compote  
Milk

TUESDAY  
\*Submarine Sandwich  
Mashed Potato on Lettuce  
Pasta Salad  
Fruit Whip  
Milk

WEDNESDAY  
Meat Loaf—Brown Gravy  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Carrot Sticks—Bread & Butter  
Boston Cream Pie  
Milk

THURSDAY  
Country Fried Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes—Cream Gravy  
Pineapple Cinnamon Bread & Butter  
Sweetie Grapefruit  
Milk

FRIDAY  
Tuna Salad on Lettuce Cup  
Peach and Cottage Cheese Salad  
Corn Muffin—Butter  
Vanilla Ice Cream  
Milk

\*These foods contain pork.

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that might remain in our pocket. Will we be able to account for those few dollars at income tax time?

Taxes are deductible — odds and ends aren't.

**BERNICE BRIDGES**  
Livonia

## 'Con' With Reason

**Editor:**  
The purpose of this communication is to express my concern with the massive campaign being waged to present one side of the school district's 5 mill proposal and obliterate those considerations that do not favor it. I would like very much to support any necessary increase in school taxes, but the millage proposal publicly appears to include an increasing amount of propaganda.

There are many organizations endorsing the current proposal. The Chamber of Commerce, however, neglects mentioning that cost to its members will tend to be passed along to Livonia residents in higher prices and fees. This newspaper is somewhat less than objective; the issue published before the 9 mill proposition was defeated was editorially increased in its editorial page 4 letters — 3 that were pro-millage written in article, forceful prose and a anti-millage, that reflected more of its author's emotion than reason. Even the school board has been using public facilities to hold "closed" meetings of pro-millage Livonians. These kinds of considerations alone make me wonder why the millage proposal can't stand up to just the normal scrutiny of Livonia's voters.

I am concerned about my children and their futures. I want a fine school system. I want to be competitive throughout the life with children from any part of the country. I recognize that the Livonia school system has to accommodate an 8% to 10% increase in enrollment next year, that the teachers will have a salary scale adjustment, and that there may be some loss in taxable, industrial property.

There are, however, many other considerations that the pro-millage people fail to acknowledge. Some of these are: social security taxes went up sharply this year; the congress seriously is considering an increase in the tax; the parking bond issue means a property tax increase; food prices are rising sharply; those children growing up in the schools keep growing out of clothes; many of us would like to finish furnishing our houses and landscaping our lots; we have charitable and religious financial obligations; and, there has to be something left over for recreation or entertainment to convince us that it all is worthwhile.

If the 5 mill proposal (requested for 10 years) represented the total remaining need of the district, the sacrifice would be a lot easier to make. It is only good for 1 year, however, as the passage merely puts off the day when the problem must be faced. The school board will have to come back next year for more money to accommodate the further increase in enrollment, plus some amount to make up for the maintenance and repairs now being deferred. Perhaps the teachers will ask for an additional increase. Will next year's proposal be as low as 5 mills? The school budget for 1966-67 has been characterized as "bare bones." In fact, it is not. As the tax base of the Livonia school district has shifted over time, so that an increasing load has been placed on home owners, the school board has made only minor changes in the education program. While this is a valiant effort from an educational point of view, it is very unrealistic as an analysis of the district's ability and willingness to pay. Defeat of the 9 mill proposal in January should have convinced the board of the need for an "agonizing reappraisal" rather than tokenism. Preservation of such items as an intern program, certain secretarial positions, and driver education, is not the most compelling of arguments.

Although I have every confidence in the school administration, I am concerned about a board that has levelled its big weapon on emotionalism rather than accept the will of the

class facilities will also be limited, so use.

If Livonia wants to prosper and grow, education is the only thing that will make for a better community.

**JAN DRISCOLL**  
Livonia

## Answer to Teachers

How can you teachers expect to enjoy the same economic security as most skilled labor and white collar workers do and only work nine months out of the year for it?

How much do you think most white collar workers earn an hour? I think \$4 is pretty good. For a 40 hour week that would amount to \$160. For one month that would be \$640 and for nine months \$5,760. You said your salary is \$6,000, that's \$240 more, so accept that for two weeks vacation with pay.

You said you earn \$6,000 a year but don't forget you only work nine months for that amount. You said you work extra hours correcting papers and doing various other services. Well, you should, you're being paid for it. You teach six hours a day. If you were paid only for that six hours, you would be getting only \$120 per week or \$5,200 per year which still isn't bad.

I read in last week's Livonian that if the 5 mill vote goes through the starting salary for teachers will go from \$5,350 to \$5,600 per year, not bad for nine months work. I think \$5,400 would be plenty, that's \$600 per

month. If you figure you are getting paid for only six hours work, that's \$5 per hour. As a starting salary, that's more than any white collar worker I've heard of.

I agree whole heartedly with Joe West whose letter appeared just below yours. Put children on half days. Give them four hours of honest teaching. Eliminate the lunch hour entirely. My son won't eat the school's food and the meat sandwich I give him isn't very tasty four hours after its been out of the refrigerator. I sometimes wonder how safe it is to eat it.

Well, I'm sorry we just can't afford any more taxes. We want to live as well as the teachers do. We want to keep our home too. The teachers will have to get a summer job and keep working with the rest of us. The women teachers who have husbands to support them, can well afford to take the summer off.

**TYPICAL TAXPAYER**  
Livonia

## Student's Plea

**Editor:**  
I'm a sophomore in high school and I'm very interested in my education and welfare of the community. It is my opinion if the five mill increase is defeated in the coming election, my chances to get into a good college are limited because of important items cut from our next year schedule.

If there is a cut in the school day, myself like many other students will be requested to drop an elective class. Our special equipment and some

voters. This is a board that held its silence about the Superintendent's raise (as reported in the Livonian) but has been most vocal when it "needs" the electors to vote in taxes. This is a board with at least two members who said publicly they didn't understand why the \$9 million bond issue failed in January. Is it possible that in its zeal for education the board has stopped being representative of the people?

The above comments are not intended to be objective, but they may offset some of the bias in the material put out by the propaganda machine supporting the millage. Hopefully, the votes cast on May 9 will reflect an understanding of the choice, not some irrational fear of the possible consequences of voting "NO."

**DAVID M. STEVENS**  
Livonia

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### REPORT OF CONDITION OF THE Livonia National Bank OF LIVONIA

In the State of Michigan, at the close of business on April 5, 1966 published in response to call made by comptroller of the currency, under Section 5211, U. S. revised statutes

#### ASSETS

Cash, balances with other banks, and cash items in process of collection	\$ 3,668,792.91
United States Government obligations, direct and guaranteed	4,152,252.90
Loans and discounts	18,199,422.23
Fixed assets	556,716.83
Other assets	202,788.90
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>26,777,973.77</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	7,916,393.53
Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	13,320,568.42
Deposits of United States Government	194,791.67
Deposits of States and political subdivisions	2,697,934.85
Deposits of commercial banks	4,798.18
Certified and officers' checks, etc.	581,771.94
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$24,716,258.59</b>
(a) Total demand deposits	\$10,951,196.97
(b) Total time and savings deposits	\$13,765,061.62
Other liabilities	1,042,195.09
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>25,758,453.68</b>

#### CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Common stock—total par value	500,000.00
No. shares authorized, 50,000	
No. shares outstanding, 50,000	
Surplus	410,000.00
Undivided profits	109,220.09
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>1,019,220.09</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>26,777,973.77</b>

#### MEMORANDA

I, W. Gerald Kiekbusch, Vice President & Cashier, of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this report of condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

W. Gerald Kiekbusch

We, the undersigned directors attest the correctness of this report of condition and declare that it has been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief is true and correct.

Elvin D. Dougherty  
Leonard Broque  
William W. Brashers  
Directors