

Rejecting school budgets raises taxes

The upcoming school budget votes will define the true commitment of communities to the survival and viability of their school systems. In Scotia-Glenville, the outlook for passage of a sound and responsible budget is a cause for concern.

The Scotia-Glenville school board has written a budget that takes into account the current financial difficulties of the state and town as well as the needs of the district and its students. The budget could always include more funding and support, but given the current climate, the board has done a reasonable job.

However, despite the efforts of the school board, the superintendent, and Scotia-Glenville teachers and administrators, the feeling is that the town/village will not support a tax increase to cover the needs of the school district.

Many people claim victory in defeating school budgets because they feel spending is kept in check. However, by defeating sound budgets, those who claim victory are actually causing taxes to increase. The tax base decreases because fewer people move into the district, the state mandated funding for schools

does not decrease, therefore fewer people are asked to pay more in school taxes.

Residents may be able to save money in the short term, but in the long term, property values will decrease due to the condition and climate of the school system, thus costing homeowners even more. Property values are higher in districts with strong community support.

School budgets that are consistently defeated or consistently in jeopardy of being defeated are not attractive and only create a transient community with little pride in their schools.

Scotia-Glenville finds itself at a crossroads: either support a responsible budget during an economic decline and show pride and commitment for their schools, or send a clear message to the Capital Region and prospective buyers that Scotia-Glenville does not wholeheartedly support their school district.

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