

The *Littleton* **EXAMINER**

A News and Ideas Magazine for the People of Littleton



The Littleton Examiner recommends voting YES on Ballot Question 3A.

by Jack Randall

Littleton Public School Board is asking voters to approve an increase in the mill levy that for a home valued at \$250,000 would be \$182.05 each year. If there is a mortgage on your property, the payment of the proposed increase would be about \$15.00 each month.

Real estate brokers who sell homes are asked up front and frequently to see homes in “a good school district” which in the south Denver metro area includes Cherry Creek Schools and Littleton Schools.

If a homeowner has any plans to sell their home, they should vote for a mill levy increase to keep a good school district reputation intact and increase the number of potential buyers for their homes.

A business owner who depends on local customers should vote to keep a good school district bringing in families to spend their money locally.

Littleton Public Schools are good stewards of taxpayer money

The current Superintendent of Schools, Scott Murphy, isn't a teacher who worked his way up through the system. His experience since 1981 is in school finance. That is an uncommon strength for LPS – he is well aware of the cost of education to the taxpayers.

This LPS Board of Education has two members who are accountants, one who is an education specialist working with a firm that analyzes Colorado school finance. Having that many board members who are familiar with dollars has helped LPS keep cost lower than districts whose board of education members are heavily influenced by a teachers union which is an advocate organization for teachers – not for taxpayers.

Many increased costs are due to requirements made by the Colorado Legislature or Federal Government.

The Littleton Education Association (LEA) agreed to no cost of living increase for two consecutive years and agreed to absorb additional increases in health costs. The LEA also agreed to two furlough days, which means less pay for teachers. The LEA was also cooperative during the placement of teachers as a result of school closures two years ago.

Just as happens to real people, LPS administrators did not receive a cost of living increase for two consecutive years, and all administrators were furloughed two days without pay.

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Election Dates:

Ballots Mailed to all Active Voters:
October 12

Election Day:
November 2, 2010

For More Info:

About Ballot Question 3A:
www.tinyurl.com/lpsbudgetinfo

About the Election:
www.arapahoevotes.com

The Littleton Examiner carefully considered this recommendation.



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Post Office Box 777

Littleton, CO 80160-0777

continued

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LPS spent their uncommitted reserves down so only one week of expenses is left.

They closed two schools and rented them to increase income (schools located in a residential area are not worth a lot in a depressed real estate market).

LPS is the only school in the metro area to furlough all employees without pay to save money.

Maybe most astounding of all, they cut twenty-one (yes 21) administrators jobs.

Now for the best news.

The mill levy increase doesn't have to be forever. When the economy improves, the LPS Board will be able to reduce the increase in the mill levy.

For the future

Voters need to keep up to date on the school budgets and communicate with the staff and the members of the LPS Board of Education.

Voters need to watch the Colorado legislators for feel good laws that

increase school costs – and let them know that you don't want that to happen.

Many increased costs are due to requirements made by the Colorado Legislature or Federal Government – the dreaded UNFUNDED MANDATE.

A teacher's union can drive up costs through salary and benefit increases. If the Board of Education keeps the lid on the total pay for all teachers, the union will have to choose between increases on the salary schedules and decreases in the number of teachers.

November 2, 2010 General Election

The election will be conducted on Tuesday, November 2, 2010.

This will be a polling place election.

Early Voting and Mail-in voting will be available.

The voter registration deadline for this election was Monday, October 4, 2010.

Early Voting for this election will began on Monday, October 18, 2010 and will run through Friday, October 29, 2010.

Mail-in ballots were mailed on Tuesday, October 12, 2010

The postage to return mail-in ballots is \$0.61.

If you requested a mail-in ballot and haven't received it, contact the Arapahoe County Clerk at 303-795-4511.