

Open Letter
To the
Maine Township School District #207

Saturday, January 30, 2010

I have just received my "Maine East Call to Action" flyer. Being the good citizen that I am, I decided to take the teachers union up on its call.

Attached is a copy of a four-year teacher and administrator case study for our district. The data was sourced at Champion News.net. They received the data from the Illinois Board of Education. Over the years I've found the Illinois State Board of Education to be an accurate source, as their data is originally sourced from the district itself.

On Monday night this board will feel pressured to give in to union demands for full funding, including higher pay. As you will see, the attached report clearly shows an outrageously high growth rate for teacher and administrator payments since 2005.

I recognize from experience that most teachers and administrators are not business people and that most have never held a long-term full-time job outside of the school system. I also recognize that since coming to District 207, the majority of teachers or administrators have seldom had to worry about where their next paycheck was coming from or whether or not they would have a job tomorrow. District 207 teachers and administrators have good high paying jobs including three months off for vacation.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for most of the people paying their bill. One need only read the paper to see how the present economic realities have affected taxpayers within this district. Further, there are many District 207 taxpayers who rely on Social Security for their income. They cannot afford to pay more.

We cannot afford to pay more!

The Teachers Union is demanding that our representatives on the board dip into the district's "rainy day fund" to achieve their goal. The district is already doing so! One can only imagine, how in just a few additional years of "dipping", there might eventually be no "rainy day fund" dollars for future boards to "dip" into. Of course, the teachers union will tell us that the district can always count on taxpayers to fork up the additional money via a referendum, as neighbor districts have in the past few years.

I urge you to look at the report in its entirety. It is, as one of your own members put it, devastating.

Best regards,

Kenneth Butterly, Taxpayer