

Headlines

To The Editor:

Once again Colton School is continuously on the front page of the paper... Who are they going to blame now? The recent headlines have been a clear reflection of the actions taken directly by the board and the School Superintendent.

Big tax increase? The student/teacher ratio is approximately one teacher for every seven students, yet there have been no cuts in teacher or administrative staff. Again, the cuts are in operations, transportation, building maintenance and support staff. Has anyone questioned how many taxpayer dollars have been spent in legal fees in the last two years due to the actions of the administration and the board? The board abolished a competent Transportation Supervisor, who oversaw Buildings and Grounds without additional pay for four years through a capital project, and replaced this individual with someone who can't legally move a bus, doesn't have the qualifications that the school paid for in the position they abolished and who is the first and only woman in NYS to obtain the Director of Facilities Certificate. Did anyone check why the new incumbent was let go from Corning? Jeff Bristol déjà vu? I guess we will find out once the legal Civil Service Section 75, filed against the school and its board last week, gets resolved. Now we have two lawsuits from an incompetent Superintendent, Business Manager/Personnel Officer and School Board. Rumor has it two of the current school board members aren't running for election. Is it because of the lawsuits against them personally for their actions, or because one of them really doesn't live in the district? Maybe it's like the history of the district,

once your kid gets out, you're off the board.

Lacrosse, let's talk about how it's going to cost less money than Baseball... Do people realize that the school is paying SUNY Potsdam for use of their fields for practice and games? The number rumored is \$50 per session. And that free equipment that never materialized? One parent said it cost almost \$700 to outfit their child for lacrosse. But don't worry, some parent expenses were "reduced." The school is now providing transportation for scrimmages and games because it is at Potsdam, an option which has not been provided any other sport in the school.

More state aid from 100 percent assessment? Colton school gets less than 40 percent state aid, a change in the manner of Colton assessment would most likely provide even less state aid and more burden on the taxpayer. As for Pierrepont paying more in school taxes, there are more Pierrepont students in the district than Colton students, yet Colton pays roughly 90 percent of the school taxes.

Bregg, a proud member of the \$2 million dollar club for his \$105,000+ salary for one little building and less than 300 students, and a Business Manager who almost makes as much - this is over two percent of our school budget, without including fringe benefits.

Don't worry, taxes are going to continue to rise. The capital project was a disaster due to the negligence of the Clerk of the Works and the board, expect more costs there. Families are already planning on moving their kids to other districts. The marketing plan isn't working, wonder why?

William Mousaw,
a Colton and Pierrepont
Taxpayer