

Centennial has history of reasonable taxes

Posted: Friday, May 23, 2014 12:15 am

The May 22 letter from Upper Moreland Township's Eileen Chernoski concerning Centennial School District's recent tax increases paints quite an inaccurate picture. As explained in many of our recent board and committee meetings, there are many facts that have been made available. And while school board members would always like to never have a tax increase, the following is what has been made public:

Through last year and for many previous years, Centennial School District had the second lowest actual tax bill out of all the districts in Bucks County. Many people like to ask why their bills have increased so much since they purchased homes here through the 1960s and '70s. The comparison between the cost of living and the district's millage increases shows that Centennial is taxing less in actual dollar amounts than we did in the mid-1970s. And we are operating with less money from federal and state funding. This causes the district to cut many of the additional programs the public would like to see.

Throughout a very extensive series of public meetings by our superintendent and board meetings, it was explained that the new middle school model in total will be cost neutral. And documentation was recently made available at committee showing the bond payment for the district's school building renewal to be less than what it would have been to maintain and operate six aging buildings.

Because of the attractiveness of our reasonable tax rates, housing values have generally quadrupled since the 1970s. Like all non-compensated school board directors, we live and pay taxes here and serve with honor. Personally, I have been a resident for 53 years; my 89-year-old mother and 93-year-old aunt live in the district.

I am proud to be a Warminster resident, and I am proud of what many of my board predecessors have been able to accomplish over the years while keeping Warminster, Southampton and Ivyland one of the most cost-responsible districts in the area.

Steve Adams

Centennial school board director