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Buckheit, James

From: Tmmr870@cs.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 7:29 AM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: article in local Bucks county Courier Times

2008 MAY 29 AM 9:37

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Jim Buckheit,

Your name, position and contact information was listed at the bottom of today's editorial in the Bucks county courier Times...with the suggestion that you were the person to write to comment on the editorial. The theme of the essay was that "school districts shouldn't be allowed to graduate students who can't read, write and do math".

Here in the Morrisville School District this would mean a great portion of the senior class! Locally there has been much conflict here in this district--Morrisville is basically a low-income blue-collar town with many of its residents senior citizens--minorities--many below the poverty line...The town turned down a push by newly-moved in yuppies to build a new high school (the old one can be reasonably repaired)---we already pay the highest school taxes in Bucks County and have the lowest SAT scores. If that new school had been OKed--many old-time residents would have lost their homes--now residents are also threatened by the mortgage crisis.

Recently, the newly-elected school board has tried to cut some of the special education costs--causing another screaming by the "retired" yuppie board.

A member of the town council told me that the real trouble here is that the school administration is at fault here because when students who are even less prepared than those in Morrisville, move into the district (many from Trenton across the Delaware River)---these kids are labelled "Special Education" students rather than students who need tutoring and remedial help...and this, of course, inflates the education budget--special teachers and programs, etc.

I think the state should step in here--possibly taking over the district--because these kids are really going to go nowhere in life---the rich neighboring Pennsbury School district refuses to take them in --even just the high school kids--fearing mostly these kids would bring down their statistics.....and also, the reality is the residents of this town just don't have the money ---

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