

Comments From The Public At the GenevaTaxFACTS Meeting of June 4, 2012

1. How can we hold the superintendent and school board, who got us into this mess, accountable?
2. Why can't Geneva teachers take a wage freeze like St. Charles administration and teaching staff did for 2 years?
3. Why not a 7-7-7 plan?
4. Instead of attacking salaries of teachers & support staff, why not reduce spending. As a 25-year resident of Geneva, I've seen playground equipment replaced every 2-3 years. Schools torn down & rebuilt. Why not postpone these unnecessary expenses so that we can reach the 5-5-5 goals?
5. How many substitute teachers are on the sub list? How many more want to be added? How many people apply for apply for FTE positions? Use the supply & demand to your advantage. Push down salaries don't base salaries on local comparisons.
6. Why do we transport students? All students that live within walking distance shouldn't be bused. Reduce the number of buses.
7. Close at least one grade school. The audited financials show that you could actually close two schools and still cover the numbers.
8. Have teachers & administration pay 25-30% of their own medical benefits. Pay 80% of the family cost.
9. Use part of the reserves to reduce debt and lower the amount paid in interest.
10. GenevaTaxFACTS, thank you for all of your work to help Geneva citizens understand the issues
11. For the guy from For The Good of Illinois (Bruno) - Just a comment, not all school administrators don't work hard. I worked 60-70 hours a week for 12 years and I'm a conservative. Please avoid blanket statements.
12. Keep knocking down the debt using the reserves.
13. What is the ratio of unused space in the schools? Enrollment vs. capacity in each school.
14. Teacher salaries are too high. Teachers I know were in the \$90,000 plus range at the elementary & high school level.
15. Board members are SUPPOSED to represent the taxpayers NOT collude with the administration. Some districts have responsible boards and honest superintendents. Here in Geneva we do not.
16. We have lived here 20 yrs. and I do not want to leave my home. It is a quaint, unique town and I love it. My husband says we cannot afford the taxes on a fixed income. Soon the town will be the home of the teachers and the wealthy, because they can afford to be here and no one else. My husband who is a CPA says someone needs to go thru the budget, line per line and start an austerity program, not tomorrow, but today.
17. Great site, wish we had something like this for Saint Charles.
18. I attended last night's meeting at the Baptist Church and am glad to become a supporter of your group without any malice toward the local schools or administration. I would like to work toward getting a law passed in Kane County that requires all taxing districts to be required to include the debt service for any new referendum including a cap on the interest rate.
19. I commend Bob McQuillan on the outstanding meeting June 4 that I attended. Keep up the great work!
20. All of our taxing bodies are maxing out the most tax they can collect.
21. I'm sick and tired of increasing education costs for Geneva. I love the city but won't continue to live here if something isn't done. It's time for action!
22. I strongly support your mission. I have two young children who will attend school in SD302.
23. One of the new schools should be made inactive or offered to small tech firms to use as Lake Forest did when their demographics changed and one of the high schools was not needed.