



Brande Grieder <griederb@hbschools.org>

Re: A school board member writing on Mayor Mark Desire's Facebook page?

1 message

Greg Hobaugh <hobaughg@hbschools.org>
To: Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org>
Bcc: griederb@hbschools.org

Tue, Oct 9, 2018 at 1:49 PM

I can add it to Monday's meeting.

I could not find the FaceBook post.

Greg

On Sat, Oct 6, 2018 at 8:58 PM Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org> wrote:

Karyn G is asking why you don't have this as official correspondence? I did not receive it as my email had a typo but since it was sent to all - should it be????

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Karyn Gove** <kgove@hbschools.org>
Date: Sat, Oct 6, 2018 at 6:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: A school board member writing on Mayor Mark Desire's Facebook page?
To: Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Valerie Jordan <valeriejordan@centurylink.net>
Date: Fri, Oct 5, 2018 at 12:52 PM
Subject: A school board member writing on Mayor Mark Desire's Facebook page?
To: <csharkey@hbschools.org>, <kgove@hbschools.org>, <rimhoff@hbschools.org>, A Schwartz <aschwartz@hbschools.org>, <mestrada@hbschools.org>, <edelgado@hbschools.org>, <jpgarner@hbschools.org>
CC: G Hobaugh <ghobaugh@hbsdboe.org>

Dear High Bridge School Board:

Have you given Mr. Imhoff the authority to speak up for the rest of you on the school board?
Please open the attachment.

After being on the school board for so long, Mr. Imhoff has to know that federal and state funding for public schools is mainly driven by student enrollment. According to this webpage, the High Bridge student enrollment currently sits at 376 students: <http://www.hbschools.org/hbs/School%20Board/2018-19%20Budget%20Information/18-19%20User%20Friendly%20Budget.pdf?1538750347> Back in the early 1990's, the student enrollment in your school district sat at 550 students which drove the discussion to build a larger school building for 660 students where the current elementary school building now sits. Thank goodness that didn't happen! But as enrollment dropped, so did federal and state funding to your school district.

A good article to read since Mayor Desire is standing there with Governor Murphy is this one: <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/governor-phil-murphy-signs-historic-legislation-modernize-equitably-distribute-school-funding-new-jersey/> Assuming the article is correct, it appears the High Bridge School District will still be subject to the 2 percent cap requirement. But it could also mean that, as the borough's assessed value drops, your school district could see more state aid citing this quote from the article: *"State aid will now be distributed according to*

each district's property tax wealth, its ability to pay, enrollment changes, and the special needs of its schoolchildren." But losing wealth in any given community is not a good thing to be faced with, either.

The assessed value of High Bridge in 2010 was \$ 377,081,000 under Mayor Desire's leadership: https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/lpt/county_equalized/2010/HunterdonFinalEQ.pdf The assessed value of High Bridge, as of today under Mayor Mark Desire's leadership, is only \$ 329,281,000: https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/lpt/county_equalized/2018/2018Hunterdon.pdf How do you gain back \$ 47,800,000 in assessed value after Mayor Desire (after eight years) is responsible for losing it for you?

Also, according to this webpage, in school year 2017-2018, your school district lost \$ 158,494 in extraordinary state aid (account 3131): <http://www.hbschools.org/hbs/School%20Board/2018-19%20Budget%20Information/18-19%20User%20Friendly%20Budget.pdf?1538750347> I don't know whether this new law will have any effect on this particular account since this account deals with the number of special needs children in your school district. It looks to me like you lost this extraordinary aid because of one special needs child moving out of your school district. As to the rest of the accounts under "Revenues from State Sources," they appear to have remained flat. These accounts may increase to a small degree, but by how much under this new law signed by Governor Murphy, is anyone's guess at this point. Total state aid for school year 2017-2018 in your school district was \$ 1,580,424 after the lose of the extraordinary aid in school year 2016-2017. Again, how much you gain in the coming years for additional state aid will be based on a strict funding formula.

Then there is this:

2017 High Bridge tax rate was \$ 3.854 <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/lpt/gtr/Hunterdon17.pdf>

2018 High Bridge tax rate now \$ 3.963 <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/taxboard/Tax%20Rate%20breakdown.pdf>

In my research of tax assessments in your borough, *Mr. Imhoff saw his own 2018 assessment drop by \$ 29,400:* http://tax1.co.monmouth.nj.us/cgi-bin/m4.cgi?district=1014&I02=101400039_1100825_____M (I nearly fell off my chair when I saw that large decrease granted to Mr. Imhoff by the borough's tax assessor.) His 2017 property taxes were \$ 7,812.06. His 2018 property taxes based on the 2018 tax rate of \$ 3.963 are now \$ 6,867.88. Translation: *a drop in his property taxes of \$ 944.18 from 2017.* On the contrary, *Mr. Schwartz saw his 2018 tax assessment increase by \$ 14,200.* His 2017 property taxes were \$ 10,039.07. His 2018 property taxes based on a 2018 tax rate of \$ 3.963 are now \$ 10,886.36. Translation: *an increase in his property taxes of \$ 847.29.*

Now, would the rest of you go check out your own assessments and see whether you were granted such a generous drop in your own assessments. All of you, other than one other board member, have seen your assessments increase under the current administration, especially Mr. Schwartz. In my opinion, *Mr. Imhoff should not be applauding Mayor Desire seeing Mayor Desire has decreased property values there, and burdened you (all) with over \$ 11,446,242.09 in municipal debt:* <https://highbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2017-Annual-Debt-Statement.pdf>

To Superintendent Hobaugh, would you kindly direct Mr. Imhoff to take his silly comment down off of Mayor Mark Desire's page. Thank you!

For what it's worth...

10/9/2018

High Bridge School District Mail - Re: A school board member writing on Mayor Mark Desire's Facebook page?

Valerie Jordan

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Cindy Sharkey
High Bridge School Board

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Gregory Hobaugh, Ed.D.
Elementary Principal/ Superintendent