

April 18, 2018

Times Herald Record  
40 Mulberry Street  
Middletown, NY 10940  
Attention: Mr. Barry Lewis, Executive Editor

Dear Mr. Lewis,

As the President of the Tuxedo Union Free School District Board of Education, I am compelled to respond to the article written by Richard Bayne about our district that appeared in your paper Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>.

First and foremost, the Tuxedo Union Free School District is not “beleaguered”. In the most recent assessments, our elementary students had the highest Math and ELA scores in Orange County. Our high school seniors have recently been accepted to some of the top colleges and universities in the country. Does our district face challenges? Yes. Are we working together to meet those challenges head on? Absolutely. But beleaguered we are not.

Second, there is no doubt that George F. Baker High School will be open for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. My comments regarding community sentiment with respect to our high school were quoted out of context.

A community member asked if we would apply additional unallocated reserve funds to reduce the current year tax levy. I indicated that as Board Members, it is our responsibility to think prospectively and know that we will be able to fund not only our current year expenditures, but expenditures for years to come. I further indicated that to use non-recurring revenue to fund recurring expenditures would be fiscally irresponsible, and particularly so in light of mixed sentiment within the community.

Finally, the quoted number of employees within our district is just flat out wrong. Our district currently employs 93 individuals (not including substitute workers or contract service providers), 35 of whom are part-time. In addition, the district plans on continuing the long-standing tradition of employing high school students as part-time summer workers to help prepare our buildings for the upcoming school year.

I encourage all members of the Tuxedo community to participate in the process and come out and learn first-hand some of the great things that are happening in our schools!

Sincerely,

Allyson Arber  
Board President, TUFSD

