

Dr. Langer's Public Comments to the D200 BOE: 15Nov2012 Meeting

I, Dr. Barbara Langer¹, am a D200 property tax payer. I have several requests.

First, regarding your "strategic-planning survey," would you please extend the "input deadline" from this past Monday, November 12, until the end of the year to enable all D200 residents to respond? If you really want to maximize community input, as you claim, then please give citizens more time to respond, rather than the week or so in November that I got. Such an early deadline after delivering the flier suggests that you have rigged notice of your survey to insure that you *don't* receive community input. Property taxpayers are paying for your survey. Please give us a fair opportunity to evaluate it, comment and respond thoughtfully.

Second, would you please also immediately publish the total number of D200 registered voters who responded by your November 12 deadline?

Third, would you please also immediately publish the complete and unabridged survey online for the public to view without an access code, so that citizens know what this entails *before* they participate?

Now we come to the Property Tax Revolt portion of my remarks.

In regard to Cheryl Witham's November 6 clandestine "Notice of Preliminary Levy,"² I object to this 2.5% property tax increase in the strongest possible terms. Please refer to my attached opinion piece in this week's *Wednesday Journal* for my reasons.³

I request that you please table any and all property tax increases and levies as long as you have cash and investments exceeding the state Minimum Days Cash On Hand. Don't present this levy today or adopt it on December 20.

Your Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Y2012 is now 4.5 months late. Please publish it immediately so the taxpayers can know how much cash and investments you have now.

Please live within your existing means, just as we, your property tax payers, must do. This means: cut the salary of *every* administrator and teacher, all of whom are overpaid; terminate cost of living increases for all employees; and reduce benefits and other D200 costs, many of which, such as paying "futurists," have been frivolous wastes.

If any of the four of you who are up for reelection on April 9 decide to run, ask yourselves how you can win if you present and approve this levy now? Who would vote for you when 80% of River Forest voters just defeated home rule and their Oak Park counterparts are equally outraged about *their* property taxes? For the remaining four of you, consider whether to replace this high school with a higher-performing, lower-cost charter school. Otherwise, voters may replace *you* in 2015. Thank you.

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² http://intranet.oprfhs.org/board-of-education/board_meetings/Finance_Committee/Packets/2012-13/November%206%202012/3.%20Presentation%20of%202012%20Preliminary%20Levy.pdf

³ <http://www.oakpark.com/News/Articles/11-13-2012/Say-no-to-District-200's-new-tax-levy-increase/>