

Opinion

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The Free Press

What Do You Think?

The Free Press welcomes letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for confirmation only. We reserve to the right to print only the letters we want, and edit those we print. We look forward to your letters!

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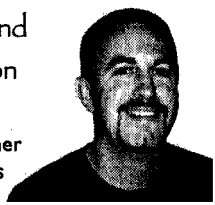
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A Second
Opinion

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J. Barnes



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QCSD Tax Summit to come this year

Dear Editor:

Following up on the letter last week from QCSD director Manuel Alfonso, he is not alone in being denied the opportunity to inform, reform and challenge the poor management of our district. Although Alfonso is a professional auditor, and was elected by the community to represent their interests, Superintendent Lisa Andrejko, and Board President Kelly Van Valkenburgh, refused to allow him to make a presentation to the board, and the residents, regarding teacher salaries and saving taxpayer dollars. They demanded that he wait until June, after the budget is adopted, and after they have cen-

sored his findings. And then do it in private!

As Richland supervisor, and a CPA with a specialty in municipal finance, I too attempted to make a presentation on behalf of the overtaxed residents. I have reviewed QCSD's audit statements, and formulated cost saving ideas that would slow, or even reduce, school taxation and other local taxes. But I, too, was denied the opportunity to present them to the board and the public. Refusing to hear a local supervisor who represents about 40 percent of the district's taxpayers is wrong. Refusing to hear Alfonso is even more so - *he is a school board member!* It just shows how far Andrejko and Van Valkenburgh will go to keep the

public from hearing how badly they are managing our money.

Since our superintendent and board president are completely controlling what the community learns in board meetings, the Richland supervisors have decided to host a public "Tax and Spending Summit" for the six municipalities that comprise QCSD. School District representatives will be welcome, to discuss joint initiatives to save taxpayers dollars. Alfonso, and others knowledgeable in this area, will make presentations - uncensored.

The date will hopefully be in June or July. Representative Clymer plans to attend, and Sen. Wonderling has been invited, because we will touch on state regulation and law. A simple accounting change from

Harrisburg could make financials more transparent, and enable local non-accountants to make better spending decisions. There will be power point presentations, followed by an open discussion and exchange of ideas. At the conclusion, there will be refreshments.

The Summit is intended to be a beginning. If local leaders desire to further pursue the ideas generated there, we will move ahead with more concrete plans. We invite all residents to come and see how open government is practiced - and what Andrejko and Van Valkenburgh have been keeping from you.

Rick Orloff, MBA, CPA
Richland Township