

OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND REFLECT PAID SPONSORSHIP

This is OUR Country

a rural conservative commentary

by *Michael J. Markilinski*

Pascal the Rascal

One of my business mentors in life has always stated that you need to know your competition better than they know you. So let's chat about **Pascal the Rascal**.

Pascal the Rascal has filed suit against me as a school board member. He has ridiculed me, anathematized me, and spread lies about me.

After watching **Pascal the Rascal** do the "flip flop" dance in the back of the Ford City High School Auditorium at an ASD school board meeting, it is no wonder that the people of Leechburg voted him out as Mayor of their fine borough. In a write-in campaign no less. They must hate him.

Now **Pascal the Rascal** represents the Queen of West Hills and a minion.

I have done some investigating of **Pascal the Rascal** and his recent legal past and this is what has turned up. **Pascal the Rascal** was or is the solicitor for the Greater Ford City Community Development Corporation. They are bankrupt, broke, and busted. They are under a Federal Grand Jury investigation for possible misappropriation of Federal funds and for possible bid rigging involving a grant with a company from Mercer Pa.

I wonder how I came about this interesting information. Perhaps somebody slipped something through my screen door.

True representation of your constituents means to take a stand. I have always done that in my life. I may be just a "small country" boy, but I know a load of crap when I see it and smell it!

Pascal the Rascal, you are now treading in my target area. I am thinking that there is a pretty good possibility that a class action suit may be coming your way; I may be representing a specific class of citizens in Federal Court; So Hey! You better check your business liability insurance and also your home owners insurance. Your buddies better too!

News Flash! Does anybody remember a car crash in North Buffalo, with a silly whittle wascal, sporting a stupid whittle smile, slumped on a chair in handcuffs, probably waiting for a blood alcohol test, under a State Police guard? I wonder who had the higher test score. The silly whittle wascal or the drunk from the Dayton Attendance Area?

Know the Competition? You Betchal!
Just think about it!

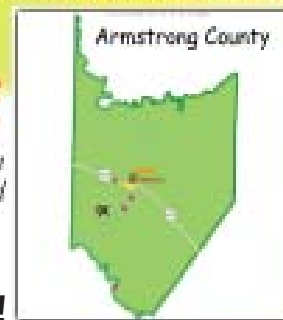
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ASD NEWS TO USE

An Editorial by *Becky Fullerton
and Jennifer Wildyard*



Show Me the Money!

In our last editorial, we stressed urgency in fiscal responsibility of the Armstrong School District and today we would like to show you a large reason why.

In the 2012-2013 school year, there will be a "rate spike" in payments due from all school districts in Pennsylvania, to the Teachers Pension Fund. This is not a new announcement. This is something that the ASD has known about for some time now. A lot of Districts in Pennsylvania have started to prepare for this spike in by cutting corners, consolidating schools, consolidating resources, and even paying more each month toward the obligation so the "hit" in 2012 would not be so hard.

Has ASD done this? The previous board attempted to start to do so with the closing of Elderton High School. The current board reopened the school in their second session. Did they truly have enough time in one week to sit down as a board and discuss things? We know we have seen people ask at meetings if there was a feasibility study, a financial plan, anything to support reopening Elderton High School. The only thing that the board has repeatedly said is "they were elected by people who support community schools". Yet they will not answer questions posed by the community on this subject. Why not?

Is it feasible to the district at large to reopen the school, with many expenses involved, instead of trying to save money as every other district and taxpayer are doing? If you knew that you had a very large expense coming up, wouldn't you start planning ahead and saving everything you possibly could for it? If you had to come up with a \$50,000 payment on a house, would you go spend \$30,000 on a car? If you had an extra \$4,000,000 left from last year's budget cuts would you spend it to reopen a school that will have less students than KJHS has in 7 and 8, will need millions of dollars in renovations AND that will need to be staffed at a tune greater than \$2 million? Common Sense says no.

The rate of the pension payment for 2010-2011 is 8.22%. That is 8.22% of the payroll for all of the district's members in the Pennsylvania Public Schools Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Not just the teachers. In ASD that payroll number is huge. In an article by the PSERS, the estimated "spike" for 2012-2013 is 29.22%. And guess what? That rate will not stay there. The following year, it is set to rise more, to an estimated 32.09%, and the year after that 33.6%, before it does go

down slightly in 2016.

What does the ASD plan to do? We have asked several times, as have MANY other people. The only answers that are received are either "wait until the smoke clears", "we were elected for community schools", "no there is not a preliminary budget". Where is the fiscal responsibility ASD?

Stop spending our money foolishly! You are not playing monopoly with that \$85,000,000 budget! You are playing with people's lives!

Don't be fooled. There WILL be a tax increase, BUT how much is that going to have to be? If our directors were planning ahead and not abusing tax payer's dollars that increase would not have to be as great as it is going to be due to the current direction of the board.

If you are interested in looking at the information regarding the PSERS and have internet access, please go to www.psers.state.pa.us

In our last editorial, we also posed the dare to all of the board members to hold a town hall meeting. In addition, we personally emailed the Directors asking them to take part in such a meeting. A few days later, we received a call. Apparently, the people of Kittanning were reading and asking for such a meeting from their Directors. Their Directors ARE listening and willing to hold a Town Hall meeting for any taxpayer in the ASD attendance area.

On Sunday, March 28th, HERC-ACT is pleased to host the first (of hopefully many more) Town Hall meeting at the Covenant Center at 301 Jefferson Street, Kittanning at 2 PM.

Due to limited seating, an RSVP will be required and we will only allow for a maximum of 4 seats per reservation. You can RSVP to Info@asd-news.com or write to us

Kittanning Paper
114 South Jefferson Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
Attention: ASD News To Use

We want to get the most information to those in attendance, so if you have a question that you would like presented to the Directors, please submit them to the same addresses as the RSVP. The moderators will present the questions to each director.

Until next time, stay informed!!!!